



WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, July 28, 2023

(Edlizon Gamez/Getty Images)

Dear {{FirstName or 'WOLA Supporter'}},

As you may recall, on June 27, 2023 it was announced that the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) would resume his investigation on crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Venezuela since 2014. Following an investigation in fits and starts and a government sponsored disinformation campaign, WOLA published [Combating Disinformation: Venezuela's Case Before the International Criminal Court](#), a series of questions and answers to shine a light on this complex process. For more details, take a look at our [report](#).

This week, WOLA signed a joint statement and a press release advocating for the Biden administration's continued [assistance](#) and [support](#) in fully implementing Colombia's 2016 Peace Accord and moving negotiations between the ELN and the Colombian government forward.

Additionally, Senior Fellow, Coletta Youngers, published an [article](#) about the need for better alternatives to imprisonment for women in the Americas.

In other news, a new wave of protests took place in Lima, Peru last week as Peruvians urged the Boluarte government and Congress to offer solutions to the ongoing democratic and humanitarian crisis. At WOLA, we remain committed to monitoring the situation in Peru as we join the international community in [urging](#) the government to respect the country's citizens' right to protest.

All this and more in this week's WOLA Weekly.

Best,



Laura Dib
Director for Venezuela

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 🇻🇪 On June 27, 2023, it was announced that the International Criminal Court (ICC) would resume its investigation on alleged crimes against humanity that occurred in Venezuela dating back to February 2014. Due to the ongoing process of this investigation, WOLA published a [Q&A](#) and an in-depth [report](#).

- 🇺🇸 As we continue to monitor the situation in Peru, WOLA joins international human rights organizations in [urging](#) the Peruvian state to respect the right to peaceful protest.
- 🇨🇴 This week, WOLA signed on to a [joint statement](#) with the Latin America Working Group in an effort to encourage U.S. policymakers to continue its support in advancing peace in Colombia.
- 🇺🇸 Additionally, WOLA [joined](#) U.S. civil society organizations in expressing support for U.S. assistance in implementing peace in Colombia while also encouraging the Biden Administration to strengthen their support and diplomacy efforts.
- 📖 WOLA's Senior Fellow, Coletta Youngers, published an [article](#) highlighting the need for more humane alternatives to imprisonment for women in the Americas, following a recent [CIDH report](#).



Last week, WOLA's Central America program met with [U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary Roig](#) to discuss our efforts in advancing human rights, justice, security, and transparency in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



STAND WITH US IN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE | WEBINAR
ABUSES AT THE U.S.- MEXICAN BORDER:
 HOW TO ADDRESS FAILURES AND PROTECT RIGHTS
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 | 2p.m.-3p.m. EDT | REGISTER TO ATTEND

While documenting the problem at the border and showing "failure points" to accountability, **WOLA** and the **Kino Border Initiative (KBI)** host a virtual discussion on the launch of their new report that offers more than 40 recommendations for more effective complaints, investigations, discipline, oversight, and cultural change.

Featured Speakers:



Adam Isacson
 Director for Defense Oversight, WOLA



Joanna Williams
 Executive Director, Kino Border Initiative



Zoe Martens
 Advocacy Coordinator, Kino Border Initiative



REGISTER TO ATTEND

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

COLOMBIA
 ACUERDO DE PAZ

LUIS GILBERTO MURILLO EMBAJADOR DE COLOMBIA ANTE LOS EEUU. UNA CONVERSACIÓN RESPECTO A LO QUE ACONTECE EN EL CONGRESO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS FRENTE A COLOMBIA

LISA HAUGAARD LUIS GILBERTO MURILLO URRUTIA GIMENA SÁNCHEZ

OFUNSHI Y SUS INVITADOS
 Shaman/Babalawo Defensor de DDHH

FECHA MIERCOLES 27 Julio de 2023 **HORA** 3:30 PM Colombia/ Minnesota central EEUU 4:30 PM Washington D.C ESTE

On July 27, WOLA's Director for the Andes, Gimena Sánchez, joins a new episode of [Colombia Acuerdo Paz](#) to talk with U.S. Colombian Ambassador, Luis Gilberto Murillo, about recent U.S. congressional discussions on Colombia.

WEEKLY BORDER UPDATE



Weekly U.S.-Mexico Border Update

WOLA Border Oversight

Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas | Monitoring Conduct and Accountability in U.S. Border Law Enforcement

In April 2022, WOLA launched its one-of-a-kind [Border Oversight Database](#), which documents hundreds of reports of human rights violations and abuses against migrants and asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border.

WOLA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY



50 Years Fighting for Human Rights Across the Americas

SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATE WOLA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

WOLA is turning 50! We will host our 50th Anniversary Human Rights Awards and Benefit Gala on:

May 9, 2024
The Hamilton Hotel
Washington, DC

Mark your calendars to honor human rights champions from WOLA's past, present and future.

Join us as a Gala sponsor. Partner level sponsors and above will also be invited to an intimate reception on **September 21, 2023 at the Mexican Cultural Institute** to commemorate fifty years since the Chilean coup that led to the founding of WOLA.

The September 2023 reception and the May 2024 Gala will be part of a series of events over the next year to mark WOLA's 50 years of fighting for human rights across the Americas.

www.wola.org/wola-50th-anniversary

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY](#)

WOLA IN THE NEWS

"All human beings deserve the opportunity to defend themselves in court. How can they do this effectively in group trials? How can lawyers and public defenders do their work this way?"

– *The Guardian*, [El Salvador clears way for mass trials as crackdown on gangs ramps up](#)



Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
President



Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico

As a result of the GIEI announcing its end to its work on the Ayotzinapa case, Stephanie states, "Unfortunately, the GIEI is leaving not because there is truth and justice for the families, but because it does not have the conditions to advance further." *This tweet is in Spanish.*

[Read More Here](#)

"Since 2021, the city of Eagle Pass, along the banks of Rio Grande and just a few hours from San Antonio, has been a prime crossing point for people seeking to turn themselves in to U.S. authorities and ask for asylum, as is their legal right. [...] On Sept. 1 last year, 13 migrants [drowned](#) there. Earlier in 2022, authorities had [recovered](#) 12 bodies from the river in a single day."

– *MSNBC, [Texas' plan to make crossing the Rio Grande more dangerous is inhumane](#)*
This is an op-ed written by Adam Isacson.



Adam Isacson
Director for Defense Oversight

JOB OPENING

📌 WOLA is looking for its next **Finance and Operations Coordinator**, to make WOLA run smoothly and efficiently for all employees. We are passionate about our work and strive to make our organization a healthy and safe space for all to work and feel appreciated. Learn more [here](#).



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