

WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, August 25, 2023

(Kaveh Kazemi/Getty Images)

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

As you may have seen in the press, coca leaf prices have plummeted, creating a humanitarian crisis in some of the poorest, most neglected corners of Colombia. What we are not hearing about so much is how this represents a window of opportunity for the Colombian government to improve the lives of marginalized communities controlled by armed groups.

That is why I wrote this report: [Crisis and Opportunity: Unraveling Colombia's Collapsing Coca Markets](#) in the hope that both Colombian and U.S. authorities will work together to consolidate peace in the country.

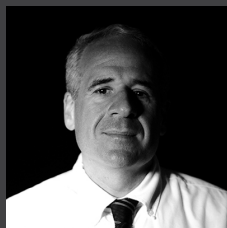
We hope you enjoy the read. Feel free to share widely.

Also on Colombia, my colleague Gimena Sánchez Garzoli, WOLA's Director for the Andes, will be moderating [a WOLA panel on August 29](#) about gendered attacks on human rights leaders. Don't miss it!

In other news this week, anti-corruption candidate Bernardo Arévalo won the presidential elections in Guatemala. But worryingly, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal has yet to confirm the results. WOLA's Central America Director, Ana María Méndez Dardón, has been keeping a watchful eye on the situation from Guatemala City.

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

Best,

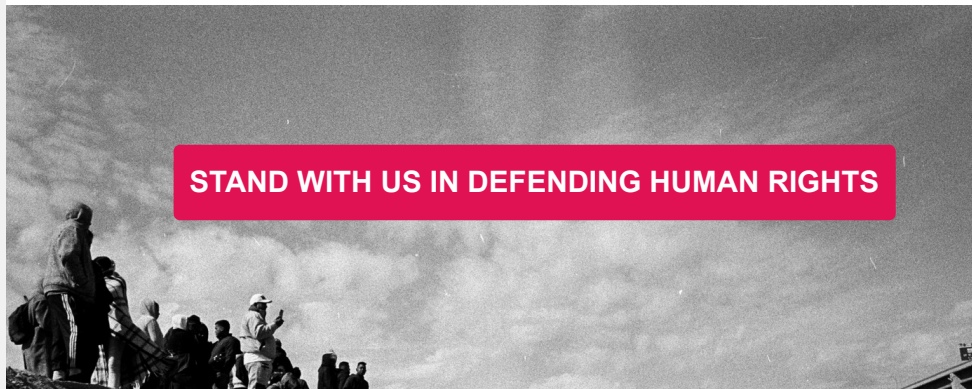


Adam Isacson
Director for Defense Oversight

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 🌿 As coca plant prices plummet, an acute humanitarian crisis offers a chance for Colombia to fill civilian government vacuums in territories where insecurity, armed groups, and now hunger are all too common. Learn more [here](#).
- 🇨🇴 As the presence of illegal armed actors in Chocó persists, an imminent humanitarian tragedy looms over the civilian population. WOLA [joins](#) international civil society in demanding immediate responses from corresponding authorities.

- 🇪🇨 This week, WOLA [joined](#) the civil society organizations of the Minga Suroccidente de Juventudes Urbanas in rejecting the murder of the musician and social leader Lisandro Vallecilla Riascos and urge the Colombian government to protect the lives of cultural and social leaders in Colombia. *This statement is in Spanish.*
- 🇬🇹 Following the Guatemalan elections last Sunday August 20, WOLA [urges](#) the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to confirm the results in an effort to restore the rule of law and access to justice.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Panel Discussion

GENDERED THREATS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS IN COLOMBIA

AUGUST 29TH
2:00-3:00PM EDT
ZOOM



Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

[REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)



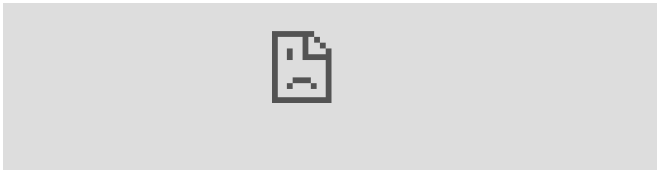
Ciudad de México



30 y 31 de Agosto 2023

[LEARN MORE](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



In a recent episode of *Derechos Humanos Pa Vos*, WOLA President, Carolina Jiménez, speaks about the urgent need to monitor and protect migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. *This podcast is in Spanish.*

[LISTEN TO THE PODCAST](#)

WEEKLY BORDER UPDATE



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 IN THE NEWS



Ana María Méndez Dardón
Director for Central America

"The country that Arévalo will be receiving is very complex. It will have a transitional government because the changes in poverty, economic, social and cultural rights in Guatemala are structural issues that, in four years, no government can change [...] However, Arévalo could lay the foundations."

– Reuters, [Arévalo gana presidencia de Guatemala por amplio margen, promete fin a "tanta corrupción"](#)

"At the cost of democracy. That is a cost that society should not been paying. As we know, from the beginning, President Bukele has been a very good communicator- he uses social media constantly- but now he uses his social media to attack critics and criticism..."

– Nexus, [World's Hardest President drops murders by 92% - has 90% approval!](#)



Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
President



Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico

"The president views the military as honest and not corrupt, whereas he presents civilian forces and institutions as being corrupt and rotten. And, of course, this is a false dichotomy."

– Newsweek, [Is Mexico's military becoming too powerful?](#)

AMBASSADOR FRANCISCO ALTSCHUL



Erratum: Correction Regarding Photo Caption in Last Week's Newsletter

In our newsletter from last week, an unfortunate error occurred in the photo caption accompanying Francisco Altschul's obituary. The caption should read as follows: *Ambassador Altschul with Melinda Delashmutt Altschul (left) and Cristina Eguizábal at the 2011 WOLA Human Rights Award Ceremony and Benefit Gala.*

We deeply regret this oversight and any confusion it may have caused. Please take a moment to view the complete obituary [here](#). Sincere apologies.

WOLA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

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



50 Years Fighting for Human Rights Across the Americas

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

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