

# WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, August 4, 2023

(Sergio Borbolla/WOLA)

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

After years of documenting abuses by law enforcement agents at the U.S.-Mexico border, this week WOLA is proud to launch an in-depth [report](#) that I co-wrote with Zoe Martens from the Kino Border Initiative, a long-standing WOLA partner based in Nogales, Arizona.

The launch [webinar](#) for *Abuses at the U.S.- Mexico Border: How To Address Failures and Protect Rights* was attended by over 100 people and can be watched [here](#).

Also, the report attracted quite a bit of media attention, with dozens of articles published in English, Spanish and French, from Canada to Paraguay. We even got as far as Pakistan.

The report documents a shocking pattern of human rights violations against migrants that regularly go unpunished. These include the misuse of lethal force, intimidation, sexual harassment, and falsifying documents.

In these very polarized times, we offer over 40 recommendations in the belief that the United States can have a well-governed border where migrants and asylum seekers are also treated humanely.

We hope you will take the time to read it and forward it to others who may be interested. Please note there are condensed versions in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

WOLA is confident that with your support change is possible.

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

Best,




**Adam Isacson**

Director for Defense Oversight

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**Abuses at the U.S.- Mexico Border:  
How To Address Failures and Protect Rights**

 This week, WOLA and our partner organization, KINO Border Initiative, published an extensive report on persistent human rights violations occurring at the U.S.-Mexico border with little to no accountability for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. The report mentions hundreds of cases and shares over 40 recommendations for more effective complaints, investigations, discipline, oversight, and cultural change.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



## PRESS HITS

95% de las quejas contra agentes fronterizos no se investiga ni recibe sanción de autoridades de EU

Si quieres agua, hay en tu país": informe revela palizas y negación de asistencia médica a migrantes por parte de autoridades de EE. UU.

Human rights abuses from U.S. border agents rampant: report

Informe revela abusos de elementos de la patrulla fronteriza de EU

Terrible human rights abuses at US border revealed

Policia de Texas separa familias en la frontera

Informe revela abusos de elementos de la patrulla fronteriza de EU

En EE.UU. violan derechos de migrantes con impunidad

"Violencia sistemática," "crueldad" y "discriminación": informe denuncia abusos contra migrantes en la frontera

US border agents persistently commit human rights abuses without accountability, report reveals

ONG denuncian preocupantes abusos de la patrulla fronteriza

ONG denuncia "abusos" contra migrantes por parte de agentes de patrulla fronteriza

Informe de onegés denuncia abusos de patrullas migratorias en frontera de México con Estados Unidos

Autoridades en EU violan derechos de migrantes con impunidad: informe

Palizas y negación de atención médica: el informe que detalla que autoridades en EEUU violan los derechos de migrantes

THE HILL: Report paints picture of rampant human rights abuses from US border agents







Patrulla Fronteriza de EU es denunciada por ONG por cometer abusos contra migrantes en la frontera con México

Las autoridades en EEUU violan los derechos de los migrantes con impunidad, según informe

Report Reveals Widespread Human Rights Abuses by Border Patrol Agents

US border agents habitually abuse human rights, report reveals

Wola y Kino Border Initiative: Estados Unidos viola los derechos de los migrantes con su impunidad

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["US border agents habitually abuse human rights, report reveals", \*The Guardian\*](#)
- 
["Report paints picture of rampant human rights abuses from US border agents", \*The Hill\*](#)
- 
["Report spills beans on alarming human rights abuses at US border", \*The News\*](#)
- 
["'Violencia sistemática,' 'crueldad' y 'discriminación': informe denuncia abusos contra migrantes en la frontera", \*Univision\*](#)
- 
["95% de las quejas contra agentes fronterizos no se investiga ni recibe sanción de las autoridades de EU", \*Animal Político\*](#)
- 
["ONG denuncian preocupantes abusos de la patrulla fronteriza", \*La Jornada\*](#)

“It is hard to tell someone who has just experienced an abuse by Border Patrol that they should file a complaint, only to explain to them that in the vast majority of cases, we never hear anything back and agencies take no accountability action.”

Zoe Martens-Kino Border Initiative



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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 🇻🇪 Alongside over 130 organizations, WOLA spoke out against the arbitrary detention of 33 gay and bisexual men in Venezuela. Read the [joint-statement](#) here. *(In Spanish)*
- 🇸🇻 Recent reforms to the Law Against Organized Crime in El Salvador have caused great alarm for human rights organizations. Read our [commentary](#) highlighting how mass trials in El Salvador are the reflection of an unsustainable State of Emergency.
- 🇵🇪 WOLA's Senior Fellow, Jo-Marie Burt, pens an [op-ed](#) on the importance of the recent letter from Congress denouncing human rights abuses in Peru and urging the Biden administration to take action. *(in Spanish)*
- 🇺🇸 ICYMI: Coletta Youngers, WOLA's Senior Fellow published an [article](#) highlighting the need for more humane alternatives to imprisonment for women in the Americas.



🇨🇴 This week, Gimena Sánchez, WOLA's Director for the Andes, was in Colombia to attend the ceremony to mark the ceasefire between the ELN and the Colombian government. The ceasefire will initially last 180 days, marking the most concrete progress so far in the ongoing peace talks. A Participation Committee was established during the ceremony which included the ELN, the Colombian government, and 30 organizations that will provide a voice for civil society at the negotiation table.

## WEEKLY 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 IN THE NEWS

"There is a regional concern about a tendency towards authoritarian or anti-democratic practices [...]" *This interview is in Spanish.*

– *El Heraldo, Honduras* [Directora de WOLA para Centroamérica alerta sobre los riesgos de la 'Ley de Escuchas'](#)



**Ana María Méndez Dardón**  
Director for Central America

# 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](http://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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