



WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, September 1, 2023

(Guillermo Legaria Schweizer/Getty Images)

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

WOLA is deeply concerned about the decision in the U.S House of Representatives to defer all aid to Colombia.

For those interested in understanding more, I recently co-authored an article in [La Nueva Prensa](#) with Raudemar Ofunshi Hernández about the complex politics surrounding this decision.

As part of our advocacy efforts this week, we worked with the Latin America Working Group (LAWG) to organize two letters - one from [U.S. civil society](#) and another from [Colombian organizations](#) - to urge Members of Congress to support the Senate version of the FY2024 foreign operations bill for Colombia.

Doing so would guarantee funding towards the consolidation of peace, the respect for human rights, support for Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities, as well as Venezuelan migrants and the communities that receive them. Over 250 organizations from [the U.S.](#) and [Colombia](#) (including coalitions) supported this effort.

The dire security situation facing the civilian populations in the departments of Cauca and Chocó is leading to humanitarian crises. The Cauca department is where most assassinations take place— with 22 killings of social leaders, human rights defenders, and signatories of the Peace Agreement out of more than 120 in the country so far this year. That is why this week WOLA joined international organizations working in Colombia in [calling on the government](#) to take action in both these areas.

This week WOLA also hosted an event about the gendered attacks on human rights leaders in Colombia which you can [watch here](#).

Thank you for supporting Colombia during these challenging times and do read other WOLA news this week on Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Mexico and more...

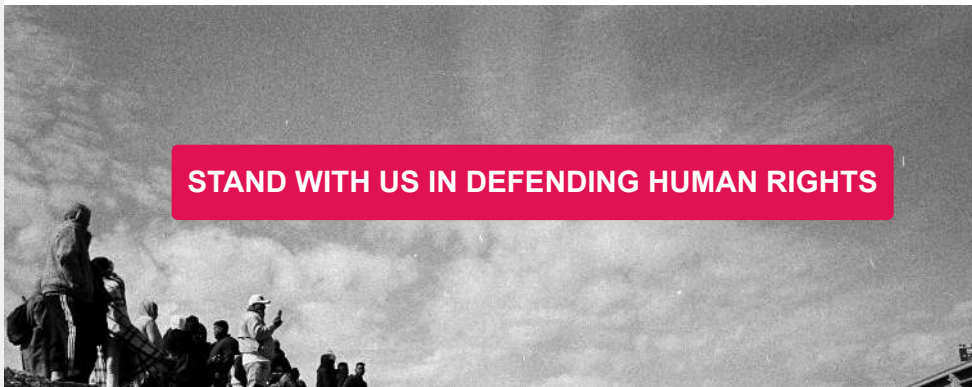
Best,



Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli
Director for the Andes

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 🇨🇴 WOLA [joins](#) over 250 civil society organization and coalitions from [the U.S](#) and [Colombia](#) to urge the U.S. Congress to support the 2024 Senate provisions of State Foreign Operations Appropriations bill to advance peace and human rights in Colombia.
- 🇨🇴 In a recent [joint statement](#), WOLA and international organizations urge the Colombian government and the illegal armed groups in Cauca to come to an agreement on conditions to initiate a dialogue that allows for de-escalation and puts an end to armed violence. *This statement is in Spanish.*
- 🇸🇻 In a [statement](#) with other organizations, WOLA called on the OAS Permanent Council to speak out against the attacks on the electoral process in Guatemala. *This statement is in Spanish.*
- 🇮🇪 Today's elections for Attorney General in Honduras are critical for the country's rule of law. Learn more about the impact of these elections in our recent commentary, "[Honduras Attorney General Election Breakdown 2023](#)".
- 🇵🇪 A recent report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru found that 75% of political violence victims came from indigenous and rural communities. Learn more [here](#). *This statement is in Spanish.*
- 🇺🇸 In a recent episode of [Latin America Today](#), WOLA's Director for Defense Oversight, Adam Isacson, [discusses](#) efforts to advocate for migrants from Mexico with Gretchen Kuhner, director of the [Institute for Women in Migration \(IMUMI\)](#).
- 🇺🇸 This week WOLA observed the [International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances](#). WOLA continues to support the commitment of the groups of relatives of disappeared persons, and the women who face with enormous courage the struggle for truth and justice.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



LASA Dialogues

"Guatemala Elecciones 2023: ¿La segunda primavera democrática?"

7 de septiembre de 2023

10 a.m. Ciudad de Guatemala / 12 p.m. EST

Carlos Figueroa Ibarra, profesor investigador, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla

Alida Vicente, abogada y autoridad ancestral, Alcaldía Indígena de Palín en Escuintla

Álvaro Montenegro, periodista, co-fundador de JusticiaYa

Ana María Méndez Dardón, Directora del Programa sobre Centroamérica, WOLA

Andrea Ixchiu, Festivales Solidarios



Moderada
Jo-Marie Burt, Presidenta de LASA

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LEARN MORE

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Virtual Panel Discussion

GENDERED THREATS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS IN COLOMBIA

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

WOLA
Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

(Guillermo / epwin Schweitzer/Getty)

🇨🇴 This week Gimena Sánchez, Director for the Andes at WOLA, hosted a [webinar](#) with Kiran Stallone and Dr Julia Zulver to discuss their recent findings in their article "The Gendered Risks of Social Leadership in Contexts Governed by Armed Groups: Evidence from Colombia."

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Carolina Jiménez, WOLA President, and Ana María Méndez Dardón, Director for Central America, had an enriching [conversation](#) with Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

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



Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico

"The argument that U.S. armed forces would completely dismantle Mexico's drug trafficking networks 'is an idea without basis in reality, even if we set aside all the legal questions'"

– [PolitiFact](#), [Experts say Ron DeSantis' plan to send troops to the U.S.-Mexico border wouldn't lower fentanyl flow](#)

"This is not something you'd want to see become normalized, and they're really going to have to prove there was an imminent risk of a loss of life or serious injury [...]"

– *The Washington Post*, [U.S. soldier in Texas wounds man in unusual cross-border shooting](#)



Adam Isacson
Director for Defense Oversight

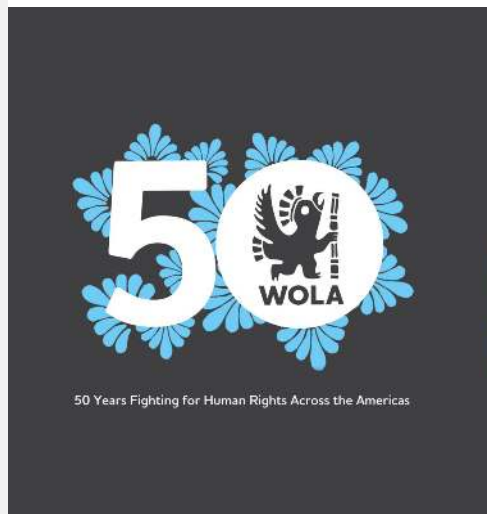


Ana María Méndez Dardón
Director for Central America

"I see it more as a transition government, to restore the democratic values that have been broken in Guatemala [...]"

– *BBC*, [Bernardo Arevalo: Anti-corruption leader wins Guatemala election](#)

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

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

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