



WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, September 15, 2023

(Sergio Ortiz Borbolla/WOLA)

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

As you may have seen from our media coverage, WOLA recently launched an in-depth report on [militarization in Mexico](#).

The report reveals how the Mexican government is giving increasing power to military institutions known precisely for their lack of transparency, and it is doing so without adequate civilian controls.

One of our main findings is that the Ministry of Defense is failing to adequately report military detentions in a registry created in 2019 to protect human rights, even though it is obligated to do so by law.

The context is particularly worrying. In recent months you may have heard that the Mexican military used *malware* known as Pegasus to spy on activists and that it continues to conceal information in the infamous Ayotzinapa case, where 43 students were disappeared.

Our full report is currently available in [Spanish](#) and there is an abbreviated version in [English](#). You can also check out my [podcast interview](#) with Adam Isacson.

In other news this week, Laura Dib, WOLA's Venezuela Director, was also invited to our [podcast](#) Latin America today to talk about the challenges to [free and fair elections in Venezuela](#). We hope you find it interesting.

Last but not least, we are excited to announce that President Boric of Chile will be making a special address in Washington D.C at a [ceremony](#) hosted by the Embassy of Chile and the Institute for Policy Studies, that WOLA is co-hosting with others, on Saturday September 23 at 11am.

We hope you can join us for this and the many other events we have planned to remember the coup in Chile in 1973 as WOLA also kicks off its 50th anniversary. **Visit our website** <https://www.wola.org/50th-anniversary-events/>

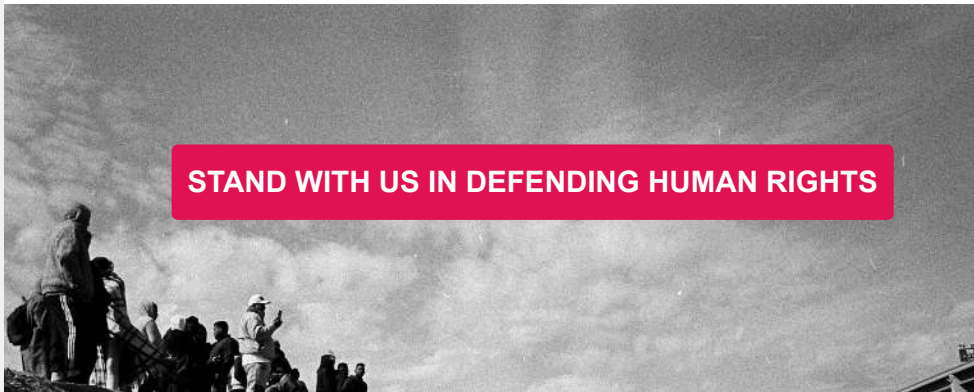
Best,



Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 🇲🇽 In an in-depth [report](#), WOLA highlights the increased power and civilian roles that the Mexican government is giving the armed forces and the effects of militarization on human rights in Mexico.
- 🇲🇽🗣️ This week, Adam Isacson, Director for Defense Oversight, spoke with Stephanie Brewer, Director for Mexico, about her latest [Militarized Transformation](#) report on [Latin America Today](#).
- 🇻🇪 As Venezuela gears up for presidential elections in 2024, WOLA publishes an [explainer](#) on what is happening with the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the upcoming elections in Venezuela.
- 🇻🇪🗣️ In last week's episode of [Latin America Today](#), Adam Isacson, WOLA's Director for Defense Oversight, discussed the challenging political situation in Venezuela in the context of the 2024 presidential election, with Laura Dib, WOLA's Director for Venezuela.
- 🇸🇻 As Salvadoran citizens prepare to elect representatives for the presidency and congress in 2024, WOLA [highlights](#) the importance of guaranteeing the right to free, transparent and fair elections as the rule of law and human rights violations in El Salvador deteriorate.
- 🇬🇹 Following the apprehension of Guatemalan human rights lawyer and former official of the International Commission against Impunity (CICIG), Claudia González Orellana, WOLA calls for her immediate release in this [joint statement](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE | WOLA CO-HOSTED EVENT
 SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 | 11 a.m.-12:00p.m. EDT
 SHERIDAN CIRCLE 23RD ST & MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW
 WASHINGTON, DC

SPECIAL SHERIDAN CIRCLE CEREMONY

**Special address by Chilean President,
 Gabriel Boric.**

The Embassy of Chile and the Institute for Policy Studies invite you to attend a special ceremony at Sheridan Circle to mark the 50th anniversary of the military coup that toppled democratically elected President Salvador Allende in 1973. We will celebrate 50 years of international solidarity for democracy and human rights.



[LEARN MORE](#)

**Public Art, Activism,
 and Historic Memory**

*Examining culture as a tool for building solidarity and advancing justice
 on the 50th anniversary of the military coup in Chile*

SPEAKERS:

 Francisco Letelier Chilean-American artist and writer, creator of Todas Las Manos mural	 His Excellency Juan Gabriel Valdés Chilean ambassador to the U.S.	
 E. Ethelbert Miller Literary activist, author, poet, and radio host	 Tope Folarin Author and IPS Executive Director	 Sarah Anderson IPS Global Economy Project Director

Friday, September 22nd • 3:00 - 5:00 PM ET
MLK Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.
*In conjunction with the Todas Las Manos
 mural exhibit at the library, on display Sept. 9 - Oct. 22*
Register now: ips-dc.org/chilecoup50th

[LEARN MORE](#)

La estrategia estadounidense post-Título 42

¿Qué consecuencias trae para las poblaciones en movilidad en el Norte de Centroamérica?



Carolina Jiménez Sandoval,
Presidenta de la Oficina en Washington
para Asuntos Latinoamericanos
(WOLA).



Úrsula Roldán Andrade,
Investigadora y directora del Instituto en
Ciencias Socio Humanistas de la Universidad
Rafael Landívar de Guatemala.



Gabriela Oviedo Perhavec,
Coord. del Proyecto de Movilidad
Humana para el Centro por la Justicia
y el Derecho Internacional,
(CEJIL-Costa Rica).



Modera:

Loïc Malheire, Coordinador del proyecto "Protección
internacional y vías complementarias en el norte
de Centroamérica", Fundación Avina.

21 de septiembre - 10:30h-12h (GMT-6)


Transmisión en vivo: Facebook de Fundación Avina

Fundación
Avina

[LEARN MORE](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



 This week, WOLA hosted an event with Dr. Victoria Sanford for a discussion on the inner workings of the Guatemalan criminal justice system and how it perpetuates inequality, patriarchy and impunity.

FOLLOW US ON YOUTUBE

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

"According to a report by the non-governmental organization Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Mexico's Armed Forces have not adequately reported the arrests they carry out, while human rights abuses perpetrated by their members persist [...]" *This quote has been translated as the article is in Spanish.*

– [Aristegui Noticias](#), [Fuerzas Armadas de México no reportan adecuadamente las detenciones que realizan, señala ONG de EU](#)



Militarized Transformation Report

"Reiterating the urgency of effective civilian controls over the actions of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy (Semar) and the National Guard (GN), the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) denounced that the Armed Forces are not reporting all the arrests they make in the National Detention Registry (RND), to which they are required by law [...]" *This quote has been translated as the article is in Spanish.*

– [La Jornada](#), [WOLA alerta por bajas de civiles en choques con militares en México](#)

"The Mexican Armed Forces are not reporting all the arrests they make in the National Registry of Detentions (RND), something they must do by law, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) said in a new report. [...]" *This quote has been translated as the article is in Spanish.*



"A recent report published by the Washington Office on Latin America listed 12 leading theories for the collapse in the price of coca – among them the deadly fentanyl boom in the US hurting demand for cocaine and the fragmentation of Colombia's drug cartels into tiny competing businesses."

– *The Guardian*, [Fentanyl, cartels or simple market glut: what's behind collapse of Colombia's coca market?](#)



Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico

"The Mexican State is concentrating more and more power in institutions known precisely for their opacity, and it is doing so without adequate civilian controls, a process that will be difficult to reverse."

– *Deutsche Welle*, [Abuses by the armed forces in Mexico persist](#)



Carolina Jiménez
President WOLA

"The main problem when authoritarianism becomes rooted is that it shows that the international system has few tools to combat this type of government."

– *NPR*, [The Sunday Story: A rare look inside locked-down Nicaragua](#)

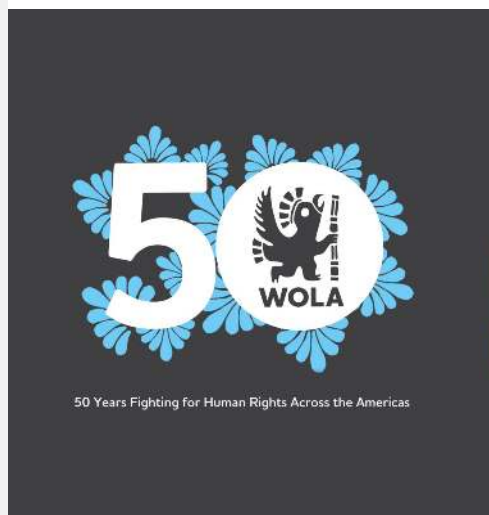


Jo-Marie Burt
Senior Fellow

"The military sectors and their allies never really went away," [...] "Their power was just tempered a bit when this international sponsored body was in Guatemala."

– *The World*, [Victims of Guatemalan military seek justice for war crimes](#)

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

[DONATE TODAY](#)



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