



## **The Prevention of Youth Violence in Latin America: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges**

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### **Speakers' Bios**

**Jeannette Aguilar** is Director of the University Public Opinion Institute (IUDOP) at the José Simeón Cañas Central American University in El Salvador. IUDOP is a research center which tracks public opinion and investigates various topics relevant to present day Central America. She manages public opinion studies and has published frequently on questions of violence and youth gangs. Aguilar has also researched violence, political reform, and public security at non-profit groups and international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program and the European Union. Ms. Aguilar holds a BA and an MA in Psychology from the José Simeón Cañas Central American University.

**Cynthia Arnson** is Director of the Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is editor of *Comparative Peace Processes in Latin America* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Stanford University Press, 1999), co-editor (with I. William Zartman) of *Rethinking the Economics of War: The Intersection of Need, Creed, and Greed* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), among other works. She is a member of the editorial advisory board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica* and a member of the advisory board of Human Rights Watch/Americas. Arnson has an MA and Ph.D. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.

**Carlos Basombrío** is Consulting Director for the Woodrow Wilson Center's Citizen Security Project. He is the former director of the Instituto de Defensa Legal, one of Peru's premiere human rights organizations. Basombrío previously worked in Peru's Ministry of the Interior in the roles of Vice Minister of the Interior, Chief of the Cabinet of Advisors of the Ministry, Coordinator of the Commission to Restructure the Police, and Member of the Commission for the Modernization of the Police. As a consultant and independent investigator for both Peruvian and international organizations, he has written widely on issues of citizen security, democracy, peace and violence, civil-military relations, and police reform. Basombrío holds a BA in Sociology from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

**Adriana Beltrán**, Associate for Organized Crime and Police Reform, has worked for the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) for more than seven years. Prior to her current position at WOLA, she worked with its Central America Advocacy Training Program and the Guatemala Program, which promotes the implementation of the 1996 Peace Accords and promoted the establishment of a United Nations commission to investigate illegal armed or clandestine groups. Beltrán previously interned at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She holds a BA in International Studies and Political Science from Loras College.

**Marco Castillo**, Executive Director of Ceiba Group, is a consultant on topics of youth, violence, and drugs in Central America. He serves on the board of directors of the National Coalition for the Prevention of Youth Violence, an umbrella institution for 132 organizations in Guatemala. Castillo previously served as Deputy Director of the presidential program *Escuelas Abiertas*. He has extensive experience working with vulnerable and at-risk social groups, and has researched gang violence and the *maras* phenomenon in Central America. Castillo holds a PhD in Social Research from FLACSO-Argentina.

**Elizabeth Gozzer** is the Technical Secretary of the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence. She is a consultant on violence prevention, the rights of indigenous people, women and children, and corporate social responsibility. Gozzer has conducted research on gangs and juvenile violence for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and was the lead researcher on the World Bank's School-Based Violence Prevention Manual. Gozzer is currently investigating the role of the private sector and the media in violence and crime prevention. She holds a BA in Business Administration from Universidad de San Martín de Porres and an MA in International Relations from Syracuse University.

**Fernando Martínez** teaches at the Policía de Investigaciones de Chile (PDI) academy and is a researcher for the Center for Citizen Security Studies at the University of Chile's Institute of Public Affairs. He previously consulted on public security for the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Guatemala. Martínez has also worked in human rights at *Vicaría de la Solidaridad* of the Catholic Church in Santiago, the United Nations, and the Chilean Truth Commission on Political Prison and Torture. He has researched criminal justice reform, prison systems, and police accountability. Martínez' written work has been published by numerous institutions, including INSYDE-Mexico, FLACSO-Ecuador, and the Universidad de Chile. He holds a law degree from the University of Salamanca, Spain.

**Claudia Ocampo** is Coordinator for Prevention Strategy for the City of Bogotá's *Jóvenes Conviven por Colombia* program. For over 10 years she has been involved in programs related to youth at risk, violence, and prevention. She represented the municipality for the project "Youth Development and Violence Prevention," organized in collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization and the German government. Ocampo has a degree in social work from Universidad de la Salle, Bogotá, and completed post-graduate studies in children's law, criminal investigation, and public administration.

**Rebeca Pérez** is Area Coordinator for Youth and Violence at Viva Río in Río de Janeiro, Brazil. She supervises and coordinates disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs as well as transitional justice measures in situations of armed violence. As a consultant to UNICEF, Pérez conducted a global study on the impact of small and light weapons on the lives of children outside the traditional context of conflict. The study included 8 cases: Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Palestine, and Yemen. She is the author of several publications on peacebuilding, disarmament, and armed violence. Pérez holds a law degree.

**Alfredo Santillán** is Professor and Coordinator of the Municipal Studies Program at FLACSO-Ecuador. Santillán has consulted on matters related to development and community participation. His research and publications focus on urban violence, gangs, and citizen security. Santillán's recent publications include "Métodos cuantitativos para entender la violencia" in *Un lenguaje colectivo en construcción: el diagnóstico de la seguridad ciudadana*; and "Introducción: mirar la ciudad desde la cuestión social" in *Las ciudades y la cuestión social*. He holds a BA in Sociology and Political Science from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador and an MA in Social Sciences from FLACSO.

**Verónica Zubillaga** is a Professor at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (UCAB) and adjunct scholar at the Laboratorio de Ciencias Sociales (LACSO) in Caracas. Her research focuses on urban violence in Latin America, youth, and questions of masculine identity. Her recent publications include the co-authored *Violence and Globalization in Latin America*; *En búsqueda de salidas a la violencia: Análisis de experiencias de reconversión de hombres jóvenes de vida violenta en Caracas*; and 'Gaining Respect': *The Logic of Violence among Young Men in the Barrios of Caracas*. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the Catholic University of Lovain in Belgium.