



## Governance in Guatemala

Thursday, June 4, 2009

### Speakers' Bios

**Ana Isabel Garita** is Chief of Staff of Comisión Internacional Contra la Impunidad en Guatemala (CICIG). Previously, she served as political advisor to the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guatemala, and as director of the Program of Support to Legal Reform of the UN Mission in Guatemala, MINUGUA. She has taught criminal and penal law at the Universidad de San Carlos (Guatemala), the Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala), the Universidad de Costa Rica, and the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), and has worked extensively on justice, legal reform, and security issues with the United Nations. In Costa Rica, Dr. Garita served as academic director of the Costa Rican Bar Association. She has a law degree from the University of Costa Rica and a doctorate in jurisprudence from the Università Degli Studi di Roma in Italy.

**Sylvia Gereda** is Director and Vice President of the Guatemalan newspaper *El Periódico*, where she also heads its team of investigative journalists, the only one of its kind in Guatemala. Previously, she was chief political editor for *Siglo Veintiuno*. She teaches journalism at the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala and moderates the Aspen Institute's Central American Leadership Initiative seminars. She is president of the Guatemalan chapter of Vital Voices, a non-governmental organization that identifies, trains, and empowers emerging women leaders and social entrepreneurs around the globe. Dr. Gereda has also been a member of the editorial board of the Centro Latinoamericano de Periodismo and serves as a representative for the French organization Journalists Without Borders. Dr. Gereda holds a BA in Literature from the Universidad del Valle (Guatemala), a BA in Journalism from the Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala), and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Salamanca, Spain.

**Francisco Jiménez** is Technical Secretary for the National Security Council of Guatemala. He previously worked at the Guatemalan government's Department of Strategic Analysis, and was an advisor for the design and implementation of the Directorate General of Civil Intelligence. Dr. Jiménez has also held the position of Technical Secretary of the Security Advisory Council, and directed the Program for Strengthening Specialized Civil Society Organization on Security. Additionally, he taught social philosophy and policy at Guatemalan universities and political theory at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLASCO) and the Universidad Rafael Landívar. Dr. Jiménez holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Pontificia Universidad Gregoriana in Rome.



**Nery Rodenas** is Executive Director of the Human Rights Office of the Archdiocese of Guatemala and a member of the Archdiocese's Social Pastoral Commission. He previously served as legal adviser and coordinator of the Archdiocese's Legal Division. Mr. Rodenas has won numerous awards in Guatemala and abroad for his work in defense of human rights. He represents the Catholic Church in the case of the murder of Monseñor Juan José Gerardi, among other prominent cases. Mr. Rodenas is a frequent speaker on issues of human rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, and criminal process. He holds a Masters degree in Constitutional Law from the Universidad Rafael Landívar.

**Peter Roskam** is the U.S. Representative for the Sixth District of Illinois. He currently serves on the Committee on Ways and Means, which has jurisdiction over taxes, trade, Social Security, healthcare and other important federal issues. Prior to being elected to Congress, Congressman Roskam served in both the Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate. While in the Illinois Senate, he served in the leadership as the Republican Whip and Floor Leader. Congressman Roskam also has taught high school history and government in the U.S. Virgin Islands and served as Executive Director of Educational Assistance Ltd., a nonprofit scholarship program for disadvantaged youngsters. Congressman Roskam earned his BA from the University of Illinois and his law degree from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law.

**Ricardo Stein** is Special Advisor to the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Guatemala, and a consultant to United Nations Development Program's National Human Development Report. From 1998-2006 he was executive director of the Soros Foundation, Guatemala. Previously, he held several important positions overseeing the implementation of the 1996 peace accords, including as Technical Secretary for Peace and as Chief of Staff of the Office of the Presidency. Dr. Stein has taught at the Universidad de San Carlos and the Universidad Del Valle in Guatemala, as well as the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in San Salvador, and the University of California, Berkeley. He holds a BA in Mathematics and Physics from the Universidad Del Valle (Guatemala), a MSc. in Mathematics from Tufts University, and a Ph.D. in Education from Boston University.