



A First Year Appraisal of the Funes Administration in El Salvador

Friday, June 25, 2010

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

6th Floor Flom Auditorium

Speakers' Biographies

Cynthia Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Her most recent work has focused on the quality of democratic governance in the hemisphere, poverty and inequality, international relations, and efforts to bring about negotiated settlements to internal armed conflicts in Latin America. She has followed Salvadoran politics for more than 30 years and during the 1980s worked on Central American issues for Rep. George Miller (D-CA). Arnson has an MA and PhD in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University.

Ricardo Córdova is the executive director of the Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo (FUNDAUNGO) in San Salvador, El Salvador. He is a leading researcher on Central American politics, and uses survey research methods to analyze political attitudes and practices throughout Central America. Córdova has authored some 25 book-length studies on politics and political movements in Central America, and numerous articles on the subject. Córdova was a Tinker Visiting Professor of Latin American Studies at Columbia University, where he taught courses on conflict and democratization in Latin America and Latin American politics. He earned a PhD in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

José Miguel Cruz is involved in Vanderbilt University's Latin America Public Opinion Project and is involved in research projects on Latin American political culture and violence. He has been the director of the University Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP in Spanish) at the UCA for ten years, and member of the Editorial Board of the academic journal *Estudios Centroamericanos* (ECA). A consultant for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program in the topic of Central American violence, Cruz received his B.A. in Psychology from Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in San Salvador and M.Sc. in Public Policy on Latin America at Oxford University, England.

Carlos Dada is co-founder and director of the newspaper *El Faro*. He has more than fifteen years of experience in journalism. Dada has worked for media in Europe, Latin America and the United States. He is recognized internationally as one of the best Central American journalists. Dada is the only Salvadoran to be selected as a Knight Fellow by Stanford University and is the only Central American journalist to be a part of the Leadership Seminar of the University of Georgetown. He has covered news in over 20 countries and has interviewed dozens of political, religious, and cultural leaders. Dada has also been named Journalist of the Year and Pioneer of Journalism, both prizes awarded by the Association of Journalists of El Salvador.

Cristina Eguizábal is the director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University. She was previously a program officer at the Ford Foundation Mexico City office. Eguizábal has held research and teaching positions in Costa Rica, Bordeaux, Miami, and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, and has served as advisor for regional projects for the Confederacy of Central American Universities, the Central American Institute for Public Administration, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations University. Eguizábal was also a senior fellow at the Center for Peace and Reconciliation of the Arias Foundation in Costa Rica. She currently sits on the boards of the Washington Office of Latin America (WOLA), Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP), and Fundación Amistad. Eguizábal earned a PhD in Latin American Studies from the University of Paris-Sorbonne-Nouvelle.

Federico Hernández serves as the executive director for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in El Salvador, having previously been the president of the National Council for Culture and Art. The most published Salvadoran of his generation, he is widely known as a poet, narrator, and essayist. He has received numerous awards in El Salvador and has published several works and anthologies of poems throughout Central America, the Caribbean, South America, and Europe. Hernández has completed professional studies in Political Science and Communication.

H.E. Hugo Martínez has been Minister of Foreign Relations of El Salvador since June 1, 2009. He has held a variety of positions in public and academic life in El Salvador and Central America, including advisor to the Central American University Council and member of the Consultative Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of El Salvador. In 2003 he was formally elected to the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador and held a variety of important positions in the FMLN delegation to the Assembly. Between 2006 and 2009 he presided over the Commission on Culture and Education and was a member of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, Central American Integration, and Salvadorans Abroad, a commission he eventually directed before assuming the position of Minister of Foreign Relations. Martínez has a BA in Engineering from the University of El Salvador, a Masters in Engineering from the Université de Toulouse, and undertook additional postgraduate studies in Business Administration from the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas.

Rep. Jim McGovern is currently serving his seventh term in the House of Representatives. McGovern is the vice chairman of the House Rules Committee, a member of the House Budget Committee, and co-chair of both the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the House Hunger Caucus. Before his election to Congress, he spent fourteen years working as a senior aide for the late U.S. Representative John Joseph Moakley (D-South Boston). In 1989, McGovern was the lead investigator on the Moakley Commission Congressional Investigation into the murders of 6 Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter in 1989. The investigation ultimately led to a turnaround in U.S. foreign policy towards El Salvador when it was determined that the Salvadoran military was implicated in the murders. He earned his BA and Masters of Public Administration degrees from American University.

Luis Membreño has worked as an adviser to Scotiabank in El Salvador, and through his firm has been a prominent economic consultant for private businesses. He is also a board member of FUSADES, a private think tank promoting economic development and democratic governance in El Salvador. Membreño was advisor to President Alfredo Cristiani in 1993-1994, and advisor to the Finance Minister in 2001-2003. He was also a member of the Banco de Comercio board from 2001-2005. Membreño writes a bi-weekly column in *La Prensa Gráfica*, one of the most influential papers in the country. Membreño has a BA in Economics from Francisco Marroquín University of Guatemala and a post-graduate degree in Applied Macroeconomics from the Catholic University of Chile.

William Pleitéz works for the United Nations Development Program in El Salvador and has been general coordinator of the *Human Development Report* for El Salvador since 2000. Between 1998 and 1999 he was an advisor in agricultural policies and international trade negotiations for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, as well as for the Bureau of Trade Policies and International Negotiations of the Ministry of the Economy of El Salvador. Pleitéz has written dozens of articles in Salvadoran and Central American journals and newspapers. Pleitéz has a BA in Economics from the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, a Masters in Political Economy and Development from the Université Aix-Marseille II, and a Doctorate in Economic Sciences from the Université de Paris VIII.