December 6, 2010

Dear Colleague:

The Latin American Program and the Mexico Institute are pleased to invite you for a discussion of:

**Organized Crime in Central America**

**Tuesday, December 14, 2010**

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
5th floor conference room

Featuring country reports on Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala by:

James Bosworth, Consultant
Douglas Farah, President, IBI Consultants
Julie López, Freelance journalist

Commentary by:

Christopher C. Ashe, Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), U.S. Department of State
Juan Carlos Garzón, author of Mafia & Co: The Criminal Networks in Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia

As violent organized crime continues to wreak havoc in Mexico, the functioning and burgeoning role of criminal networks in Central America is often overlooked and little understood. Three authors will present the initial findings of research commissioned by the Woodrow Wilson Center, exploring the dynamics of organized crime in Central America and the situation in the three countries—El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—hardest hit by the growing power of transnational criminal organizations. The speakers will focus on the history and nature of organized crime in Central America, how countries there fit into trafficking networks linking the Andes, Mexico, and the United States, and how Central America has been affected by increased enforcement efforts in Mexico.

We hope you can join us for this critical discussion. Please RSVP, acceptances only, by clicking here. If you already sent an RSVP, you do not need to do so again.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Arnson
Director
Latin American Program

Eric Olson
Senior Program Associate
Mexico Institute