



Woodrow Wilson  
International  
Center  
for Scholars

*Latin American Program*



Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to invite you to a seminar on:

**CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA:  
A HUMAN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

**June 24, 2010  
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.**

In a study published last November, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that Central America was the most violent sub-region of a very violent continent. Indeed, the UNDP concluded that, other than countries at war or undergoing severe political violence, Central America is the most violent region in the world. Rates of homicides have been three times the world average and have increased steadily throughout the last decade. Criminality, not poverty or other economic issues, tops the list of citizen concerns.

Viewing security as a universal right to be guaranteed by the state, the UNDP calls for comprehensive strategies that go beyond police and criminal justice reform to address issues of social inclusion, prevention, and the construction of a civic culture founded on the rule of law.

Joining us to discuss crime and violence in Central America and the UNDP's findings are:

- *Hernando Gómez Buendía* UNDP, Colombia
- *María Victoria Duque* UNDP, Colombia
- *Marcela Smutt* UNDP, El Salvador
- *Héctor Rosada Granados* Consultant, UNDP, Guatemala
- *Clare Ribando Seelke* Congressional Research Service

Please RSVP, acceptances only, to [lap@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:lap@wilsoncenter.org). We hope you will be able to join us for this important and timely discussion.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Arnson  
Director

José Raúl Perales  
Senior Program Associate