

Progress at Risk?

First Annual Conference on Security, Migration, and Rule of Law in the Northern Triangle of Central America

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars 1300
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Sixth Floor Flom Auditorium

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PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Arturo Aguilar is Executive Director for the Seattle International Foundation and an internationally-renowned human rights lawyer and political strategist. His career started as a young researcher in Guatemala, where he was instrumental in solving one of the first landmark cases against the military in the post-civil war era. After coordinating strategic litigation at the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala, Aguilar worked as the Secretary of Strategic and Private Affairs to Guatemala's first woman Attorney General. Most recently, he served as Senior Political Officer to Commissioner Iván Velásquez, head of the UN-backed International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG).

Erik Alda is Project Director at Creative Associates International working on Central America. He has extensive experience covering crime and violence, citizen security and development issues. Alda's main interest lies in examining crime and security in different country contexts in Latin America and Africa; the drivers and obstacles to institutional performance in developing countries; and how to improve the efficiency of criminal justice organizations. He holds a PhD in Criminology and Public Policy at American University.

Cynthia J. Arnson, the Director of the Wilson Center's Latin American Program. She is a leading expert on the countries of the Western Hemisphere and on U.S. policy in the region. She has testified before the House and Senate numerous times and is the author or editor of highly-regarded books and publications on conflict resolution, democratic governance, populism, Colombia, and Central America, among other subjects. A former foreign policy aide in U.S. Congress, Arnson has also held positions at Human Rights Watch and in academia.

Adriana Beltrán leads the Citizen Security Program at the Washington Office on Latin America, focusing on violence prevention, and police and judicial reform in Central America. In addition to her work on citizen security, Ms. Beltrán has worked extensively on human rights and organized crime, particularly in Guatemala. She earned a Master's in International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Ms. Beltrán is the co-author of the ground-breaking study, *Hidden Powers*, and has managed citizen security projects and monitored U.S. security assistance in Central America.

Laura Chioda is a Senior Economist in the Chief Economist Office of the Latin America and Caribbean Region and in the Office of the Chief Economist for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions at the World Bank. She received her PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining the World Bank, Chioda was an Assistant Professor of Economics at Princeton University. She has authored leading studies on crime and violence prevention in Latin America and Caribbean, and continues to evaluate crime prevention programs in Brazil, Honduras and Mexico.

Mauricio Díaz-Burdett is General Coordinator for *Foro Social para la Deuda Externa de Honduras* (FOSDEH). He earned his PhD in Development and International Cooperation from the Universidad del País Vasco. His research has focused on issues of poverty, macro and microeconomic policy, external debt, transparency and tackling corruption. He has lectured in seminars, academic conferences, and trainings in Honduras, Latin America, the United States, Africa and Europe. His main areas of focus concern economic development policies. He is also a member of several distinguished organizations in Honduran civil society.

David R. Dye is a consultant and research journalist who has worked in Central America since the 1980s. He has consulted extensively for the Carter Center and participated in electoral observation missions in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In addition, he has worked for the Open Society Foundation on projects in Central America, with particular emphasis on Nicaragua and Honduras. Dye has also conducted research and reports on Nicaragua for Freedom House and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The current report on police reform in Honduras is his first collaboration with the Wilson Center's Latin American Program.

Odir Fernández is the head of the Unit for Investigation, Analysis and Follow-up of Cases (UIASC) in the *Consejo Nacional Anticorrupción* (CNA) of Honduras, where he is tasked with carrying out high-profile investigations on corruption charges against public servants. Fernández is a specialist in criminal law and criminal procedure, holding a PhD in Criminal Sciences from the Universidad de Valencia of Spain and the Universidad de San Carlos (USAC) of Guatemala. He also holds a diploma in Criminal Law from the Universidad de la Habana, Cuba, and diploma in Criminology from the Universidad de Valencia, Spain.

Julia Gelatt is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, working with the U.S. Immigration Policy Program. Her work focuses on the legal immigration system, demographic trends, and the implications of local, state, and federal U.S. immigration policy. Gelatt earned her PhD in sociology, with a specialization in demography, from Princeton University, where her work focused on the relationship between immigration status and children's health and well-being. She earned her B.A. in sociology from Carleton College. Gelatt previously worked as a Research Associate at the Urban Institute.

Mario Herrera Rodríguez is a researcher with *Estado de la Nación* in Costa Rica. He has conducted research on democracy, the administration of justice and criminality in Central America. Rodríguez holds a degree in Political Science and a degree in Economics from the Universidad de Costa Rica. He has also worked as a professor at the School of Political Sciences of the Universidad de Costa Rica.

Álvaro Montenegro, is a Guatemalan journalist who has studied law, has participated in anti-corruption movements such as *Renuncia Ya*, which later became *JusticiaYa*. He is part of the *Alianza por las Reformas*, a platform that promotes modifications to the Guatemala's electoral and justice systems. Montenegro has published multiple books and writes columns for publications like *El Faro* and *Plaza Pública*. Among his most important columns are "*¿Qué ha pasado con las protestas en Guatemala?*" and "*Guatemala ante su propia insensatez*," both published in *El Faro*.

Eric L. Olson is a Wilson Center Global Fellow and Director of Policy at the Seattle International Foundation. He is the former Deputy Director of the Latin American Program, and an expert on security and organized crime in Latin America and U.S. policy in the region. Based on extensive fieldwork, which has taken him from Mexico's borderlands to the back roads of Honduras, he has published widely and testified before Congress on topics ranging from the crisis in Central America's Northern Triangle to U.S. security cooperation with Mexico. In the past, Olson has worked on governance issues at the Organization of American States and was Advocacy Director for the Americas at Amnesty International.

Maria Elena Rivera is the Program Coordinator for Public Policy Studies at *Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo* (FUNDAUNGO). She is a Social Science PhD candidate at the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA) and holds a master's degree in Government and Public Affairs from the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), México. Prior to her work for FUNDAUNGO, Rivera worked for El Salvador's Fondo de Inversión Social, and served as a consultant for international organizations like the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Labor Organization, and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Programa El Salvador (FLACSO).

Omar Rivera is Executive Director of the Civil Society Group (GSC), Coordinator of Political Advocacy for the Association for a Fairer Society (ASJ), the Honduran branch of Transparency International, and Coordinator of the Alliance for Peace and Justice, a citizen platform made up of non-governmental organizations, churches, and academic institutions. In March 2016, he was appointed by the Honduran President to the National Police Reform and Purge Commission of Honduras. Rivera specializes in performing social oversight and political advocacy in the areas of education, public health, and the security and justice system in Honduras. He has also served as a political analyst for several television and radio programs.

The Honorable Norma J. Torres represents California's 35th Congressional District in the Inland Empire which includes Bloomington, Chino, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Pomona, and Rialto. Torres immigrated to the United States from Guatemala at age five and is a longtime resident of the Inland Empire. Torres received her bachelor's degree in Labor Studies from the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland. She previously served as a State Senator, Assembly Member, and as a Mayor and Council Member in the City of Pomona. Now in her third term in Congress, Torres currently serves on the House Appropriations and Rules Committees. Previously, she served on the Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Natural Resources Committees. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Torres worked to address the root causes of migration from Central America and has fought to ensure accountability and transparency for U.S. funds spent abroad. Notably, her amendment to require the Secretary of State to send Congress a list of corrupt officials in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala was adopted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 and signed into law.

Alberto Trejos is Dean of the INCAE Business School where he has also served as a faculty member and former Director of INCAE's policy think-tank. As a policy-maker in his native Costa Rica, he served as Minister of Foreign Trade, and led the negotiation of DR-CAFTA, the trade agreement with the US. Trejos holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and has also served on the faculty of Northwestern University. He has been a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan, the Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica de Barcelona, and the Federal Reserve System. Trejos has published extensively in academic and technical journals, primarily on monetary economics, macroeconomics, international trade and development.