



## **The Challenges of Honduran Police Reform: A Report from the National Police Reform and Purge Commission**

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Woodrow Wilson Center

*6th Floor Auditorium*

### *Speakers*

**Carlos Hernández** is President of the Board of Directors of the Association for a Fairer Society (ASJ) and of Transparency International in Honduras, where he has helped with designing public policies. He also serves as President of the Transformemos Honduras coalition and is on the Board of Directors of both the Alliance for Peace and Justice and the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Development of Honduras (FOPRIDEH)—all organizations with considerable success in advocacy and social oversight on issues of peace, citizen security, and transparency. In Honduras, Hernández is an opinion leader on issues related to public policy, corruption, transparency, democracy, and development. He has also spoken at international conferences on security, transparency, and development. In recent years, Hernández has worked on reforming the Honduran security, justice, education, health, and democratic system, while also strengthening the transparency of the State.

**Jorge Machado** is Executive Director of the Evangelical Fellowship of Honduras (CEH), which represents the Evangelical Church of Honduras both nationally and internationally. Machado also serves as Director and Host of the CIH's radio and television programs, which are broadcast weekly on Enlace TV y HRVC "La Voz Evangélica de Honduras." In February 2016, he was appointed as the Executive Officer of the Latin American Evangelical Alliance, which represents Evangelical Alliances and Fellowships in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain, as well as Hispanics from the United States. In addition to his ministerial experience, Machado has worked as a consultant in marketing, advertising, and public relations. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Marketing, from the University of Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano in Bogotá, Colombia.

**Vilma Morales** is a lawyer and the first woman to serve as the President of the Supreme Court of Justice in Honduras. During her time as President, Morales initiated reforms to create a more moderate and transparent judicial body. In 2010, she was head of Honduras' National Commission of Banks and Insurance (CNBS), and she is currently part of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS). In recent years, Morales has been Legal Advisor to the Secretary of Finance and to the Honduran Telecommunications Company (Hondutel). She attended the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), where she graduated as an Attorney and Notary Public and specialized in Commercial Arbitration and Business Management.

**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 president as a member of 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.

### *Commentator*

**Shanna Tova O'Reilly** is Senior Development Practitioner at the Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI). In her current position, Tova O'Reilly focuses on new businesses and technical oversight of DAI's work on violence prevention through a public health lens, the rule of law, police and justice reform, and countering violent extremism. Prior to joining DAI, Tova O'Reilly led two complex justice reform efforts—the first strengthened police and citizen relations through community policing in Bangladesh, and the second enhanced crime prevention by justice officials working with at-risk Caribbean youth. However, her true passion for development began while living with and learning from indigenous communities in the rural villages of Mexico's sparsely governed northern border. Many of the projects she launched at the time laid a foundation for strengthening citizen engagement in an environment of increasing violence, resulting from the escalating drug war and trafficking taking place across the region. Tova O'Reilly holds an M.A. in International Development and Economics from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

### *Moderator*

**Eric L. Olson** is Associate Director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. His research and writing have focused on security issues and the impacts of crime, organized crime, and violence on democracies. He has also written about reform of police and judicial institutions as a vehicle for addressing the problem of expanding crime in the Americas. Among his most recent publications are, "Crime and Violence in Central America's Northern Triangle: How U.S. Policy is Helping, Hurting, and can be Improved." Prior to joining the Wilson Center he was a Senior Specialist in the Department for Promotion of Good Governance at the Organization of American States. He has also served as Advocacy Director for the Americas at Amnesty International USA; Senior Associate for Mexico, and Economic Policy at the Washington Office on Latin America; and Program Director at Augsburg College's Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, Mexico. From 1986 to 1988, he worked in Honduras as a development specialist for several local non-governmental organizations. He has an M.A. in International Affairs from the School of International Service at American University, Washington, D.C.