

## The Elusive Quest for Dignity, Democracy & Development in Latin America

**Date:** Monday May 21, 2018, 6:30-9:00PM

**Venue:** Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, 1957 E St NW Washington DC 20052

Join us for an insightful conversation on the unfolding crises threatening human rights and democratic governance in Latin America and viable steps to restoring human dignity and the rule of law.

The Yale Club of Washington DC in partnership with local professionals and alumni from: Harvard Kennedy School, and The Elliott School at George Washington University, Georgetown University, and Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University invite you to participate in a lively discussion with three distinguished panelists:

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

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#### Democracy in Retreat & The OAS's Role

*Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)*

The OAS is the world's oldest regional organization. It relies on a four-pronged approach to effectively implement its essential purpose of upholding peace and justice in the Western Hemisphere through: democracy, human rights, security, and development. The multilateral political forum for the Americas is the only such forum in the hemisphere. However, it has been criticized in its responses to its mission with agility or efficacy. We will discuss the organization's mandates and mechanisms available to respond to the different democratic and political crises unfolding in the region.



#### Why Government Presupposes and Does Not Create Human Dignity: Subsidiarity, Free Association and Successful Democracy

*Father Thomas Joseph White, Professor of Theology at Catholic University*

The dignity of the human person is the touchstone of civic government. Nations are always patrimonies held in common (common goods) that can only function well when they allow and encourage the participation of their citizens in markets, education, free association and peaceful, ordered forms of self-governance. The measure of how well a government does in acknowledging these truths can be located primarily in its treatment and respect of human persons.



#### Perspectives from a country in chaos: Nicaragua's past, present and future!

*Felix Maradiaga, Yale World Fellow, Executive Director Institute of Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEPPP)*

Nicaragua has followed Venezuela's policies of autocracy, violations of human rights, rampant corruption and escalating social unrest. The two countries have become the least free and most corrupt societies in the hemisphere. We will explore a case study on the evolving civil unrest and government sponsored violence in Nicaragua and see what can be done to prevent its descent into anarchy and violence. Since April 19<sup>th</sup> students have led a peaceful insurrection to overthrow its dictator, Daniel Ortega, who has sequestered the country's institutions while amassing a fortune and bankrupting the state. The government responded swiftly with violence, incarcerations, torture and assassinations. The Church has stepped in to mediate. What is next?



### MODERATOR

*Javier Arguello is the Executive Director of COGx & Yale SOM Alumni Chapter Leader for Washington DC*

Javier Arguello is the Founder & Executive Director of COGx, a research and development firm in applied cognitive science dedicated to translating the science of learning to programs that target and enhance cognition to improve learning and modernize teaching. Javier holds graduate degrees from Yale and Harvard and an undergraduate degree from GWU. He serves as chapter leader for the Yale Alumni Association of Washington DC. He has also published dozens of articles on a broad range of topics including: economics, behavioral finance, cognition and learning, US foreign policy and education reform.

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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**Luis Almagro** is the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS). Upon taking leadership of the OAS, he announced that one of the central themes of his mandate will be “more rights for more people,” and that he would work to bring the Organization closer to the new realities in the Hemisphere and contribute to ensuring more democracy, security and prosperity for all. A career diplomat, Almagro was Foreign Minister of Uruguay from 2010 to March 2015; and has extensive regional and international experience. In 2014 Foreign Policy magazine named Mister Almagro as a Leading Global Thinker, one of ten decision-makers in the world who have been granted this international distinction.

**Fr. Thomas Joseph White** is the Director of the Thomistic Institute at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. He did his doctoral studies at Oxford University, and is the author of various books and articles, and is a specialist on the thought of Thomas Aquinas. He is co-editor of the academic journal *Nova et Vetera* and in 2011 was appointed an ordinary member of the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas. He lectures frequently on topics of philosophy and ethics in relation to the Catholic intellectual tradition.

**Felix Maradiaga** served as the youngest Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense in Nicaragua, and has dedicated himself to strengthening peace, democracy, and the rule of law in Central America since then. A recognized international expert in civil society, post-conflict reconstruction and leadership development, he founded in 2007 the Civil Society Leadership Institute, one of Central America’s premier training centers on civic leadership and nonviolence. He is a widely published thought leader in Central America.

Felix is also the executive director of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEEPP), one of Central America’s leading think-tanks. Felix is a Young Global Leader (alumnus) at the World Economic Forum and in 2010 was inducted into the Aspen Global Leadership Network. In 2015, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs honored him with the prestigious Gus Hart Fellowship. He is a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School and a Yale World Fellow.

### EVENT REGISTRATION

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There is no cost to attend but registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-elusive-quest-for-human-dignity-democratic-governance-development-tickets-45842418909>