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The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) is pleased to invite you to:

Freedom of Expression and Human Rights in Venezuela

Carlos Ayala, human rights lawyer

Carlos Correa, Director, Espacio Público

Solbella Pérez, El Comité de Familiares de las Víctimas

Humberto Prado, Observatorio de Prisiones

Board Room, 12th Floor, 1 Nicholas Street, Ottawa
Friday, March 27th, 2:30 pm – 4 pm

Please RSVP to Peter Moore by email at pmoore@focal.ca or telephone 613-562-0005 ext. 255 by March 26, 2009. Space is limited.

This meeting will be in both Spanish and English.

For more information, see the biographies below.

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The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (www.focal.ca) is an independent, non-partisan think-tank dedicated to strengthening Canadian relations with Latin America and the Caribbean through policy dialogue and analysis.

Biographies

Carlos Ayala is a prominent human rights lawyer in Venezuela and former President of the [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#). Currently, he presents most Venezuelan cases against the state at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Carlos Correa is the founder of [Espacio Público](#), an independent non-profit dedicated to monitoring and advocating for the right to free expression in Venezuela, including cases of violence against journalists. Espacio Público publishes a yearly report on freedom of expression in Venezuela. Correa is a former director of the Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos ([PROVEA](#)), an independent human rights organization in Venezuela.

Solbella Pérez represents [El Comité de Familiares de las Víctimas \(COFAVIC\)](#), a non-partisan and independent human rights organization dedicated founded in 1989 as a response to harsh government repression of street protests. COFAVIC issues a yearly human rights report.

Humberto Prado is a director of the [Observatorio Venezolano de Prisiones](#), which monitors and advocates for the human rights of prisoners in Venezuela. Prado is a former prisoner himself who served eight years after his car was used in a robbery.