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](https://www.oas.org/en/). 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](https://www.espaciopublico.org/), 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)](https://www.provea.org/), an independent human rights organization in Venezuela.

**Solbella Pérez** represents [El Comité de Familiares de las Víctimas (COFAVIC)](https://www.cofovich.org/), 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](https://www.observatorio-prisiones.org/), 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.