February 20, 2004

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the George Washington University (GWU) Seminar on Andean Culture and Politics and the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), we invite you to join us for a seminar, "El estado ante la protesta social" (The state confronting social protest), featuring Javier Mujica, Victor Abramovich and Sacha Llorenti. This seminar will take place on Monday, March 1, 2004 from 12:15 to 1:45pm in the Lindner Commons Room (6th floor) of the Elliott School Building, 1957 E Street, NW.

The speaker's presentations will include analysis of a recent report, ‘El Estado frente a la protesta social,’ published by the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), a well-known human rights organization based in Lima. The report analyzes the ways the state has recently been confronting social demands in Latin America. The three speakers are visiting Washington for the hearings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Javier Mujica Petit is from Lima, Peru. He is a lawyer and an activist for human rights. He founded and directed the Programa de Derechos Humanos del Centro de Asesoría Laboral del Perú (CEDAL) and is still active in the institution’s executive committee. Mr. Mujica Petit is a member of National Coordinator for Human Rights (CNDDHH) of Perú and also regional-level human-rights organizations

Sacha Llorenti is a lawyer and Vice President of the Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos de Bolivia (APDHB), the nation’s preeminent human rights organization, founded in 1976. He has published numerous articles and books about the defense of human rights in Bolivia, including work on the human rights implications of the “war on drugs.”
Victor Abramovich is the Executive Director of the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (Center For Legal and Social Studies, CELS), the leading professional human rights organization in Argentina.

As indicated above, the seminar will take place in the Linder Commons on the 6th floor of GWU's Elliott School Building, located at 1957 E Street, NW. Two of the presentations will be in Spanish; informal translation will be provided if necessary. We will provide light refreshments. Visitor parking is available in the University Garage on 19th Street, NW (one-way southbound), between E and F Streets. Bring your parking ticket with you to the seminar for validation. Please RSVP to Michael Fernandez at lasp@gwu.edu. We look forward to seeing you next week.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia McClintock
Co-Convener
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