

The World Youth Democracy Forum and Webcast
Meeting with the 2016 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award Winner:

DR. MANUEL CUESTA MORUA

Scholar and Political Activist, Cuba



Moderated by **Eliot Sorel**, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A., The George Washington University
Founder, World Youth Democracy Forum and Senior Advisor, Ion Ratiu Democracy Award

The World Youth Democracy Forum (WYDF) was founded in December 2008 as a platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and projects among democracy practitioners, advocates, and emerging young democratic leaders. The Ion Ratiu Democracy Award (IRDA), established in 2005, aims to bring visibility and international recognition to the ideas, ideals and accomplishments of individuals around the world who are working on behalf of democracy. It brings recognition to the importance of the work carried out by democracy activists around the world. Previous awardees include Jamil Hasanli (Azerbaijan, 2015), Mustafa Nayem (Ukraine, 2014), Angela Kocze (Hungary, 2013), Aung San Suu Kyi (Myanmar, 2012), Nabeel Rajab (Bahrain, 2011), Oleg Kozlovsky (Russia, 2010), Adam Michnik (Poland, 2009), Eleonora Cercavschi (Moldova, 2008), Anatoli Mikhailov (Belarus, 2007), Saad Ibrahim (Egypt, 2006), and Sergio Aguayo (Mexico, 2005).

A historian of contemporary Asia, **Dr. Manuel Cuesta Morua** has worked extensively on democratic reforms in Cuba, and he will be sharing his experiences during the course of this presentation. Over the last two decades Cuesta Morua played a leading role in a number of human rights organizations, including the Human Rights and National Reconciliation Commission. With other dissidents, he established the Reflection Table of the Moderate Opposition, in 1998, and organized Arco Progresista in 2002. In March 2016 he was a member of a select group of Cuban dissidents to meet with President Obama at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. At present Cuesta Morúa is coordinating, with other prominent activists, the Plataforma Ciudadana #Otro18, seeking electoral reforms in Cuba, and belongs to the Unity Roundtable for Democratic Action, a coalition of organization and personalities from Cuba and abroad.

Co-sponsored by the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the League of Overseas Romanian Students

Friday, December 9, 2016

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

1957 E St. NW, Room 505

Please RSVP at: <http://go.gwu.edu/morua>

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