

## New Report on Violence Underscores Chronic Problem in Central America



The Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center has released a new report this week: [\*\*Chronic Violence and its Reproduction: Perverse Trends in Social Relations, Citizenship, and Democracy in Latin America\*\*](#), by Tani Marilena Adams.

The report details the consistent and diverse ways that chronic violence undermines social relations and support for democracy, focusing especially on Mexico, Central America, Colombia, and the Caribbean.

The report demonstrates a strong correlation between social inequalities in Central America with high levels of violence in the region. It also calls attention to drug traffickers and their accumulation of power in arenas historically considered to be state domains. In Guatemala, drug traffickers effectively control at least 5 out of 22 departments, directly contesting the State and the national army for territorial control.

The report also proposes a collaborative initiative to join international, national, and local actors in developing more effective approaches through research, policy reform, and local social action. SIF supports research on policy reform in Central America through organizations such as the [\*\*Due Process of Law Foundation\*\*](#) and the [\*\*Center for Global Development\*\*](#).