

Public discussion

# SOCIAL PROTESTS IN LATIN AMERICA: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

April 8, 2022, Madrid, Spain

## OPENING REMARKS:

**Juan Carlos Jiménez Redondo**, Lecturer, History of Thought and Social Movements at Universidad San Pablo CEU, Spain  
**Jakub Klepal**, Executive Director, Forum 2000 Foundation, Czechia

## SPEAKERS:

**Tamara Sujú**, Director and Founder, Nueva Conciencia Nacional, Venezuela  
**Erika Guevara Rosas**, Americas Director, Amnesty International, Mexico  
**Rosa María Payá**, Activist, Cuba Decide, Cuba  
**Christopher Sabatini**, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House, UK

## MODERATOR:

**Darío Lopérvido**, former Culture Minister of Buenos Aires City, Argentina

**During the event that took place at Universidad San Pablo CEU Madrid, international speakers debated the origins, motivations, and reactions behind social demonstrations in Latin America.**

After the welcome remarks by **Juan Carlos Jiménez Redondo** and **Jakub Klepal**, an interesting discussion took place on the subject that arises much concern in Latin America: social protests, mobilization and demonstrations. The speakers analyzed the differences between demonstrations under dictatorship and under democracies, and contrasted responses by authoritarian and democratic governments.

**Tamara Sujú** began by making clear that “one must distinguish between demonstrations under dictatorships and those under democracies”. “There are human and economic resources being sent by authoritarian governments to take advantage of the demonstrations and destabilize democratic governments”, she added.

**Erika Guevara Rosas** considered that “the responses by authoritarian and democratic governments to the demonstrations have been similar: accusing demonstrators of terrorism and using violence to put them off”.

“When security forces violate demonstrators’ human rights under democratic governments, they are later investigated and held accountable. Under dictatorships, nothing happens afterwards”, considered Chatham House’s **Christopher Sabatini**.

**Rosa María Payá** from Cuba Decide narrated the demonstrations and repression that took place in Cuba during July 11, 12, and 13, 2021 and detailed the violent answer from the Cuban regime to a legitimate citizen demand.

To close the discussion, the documentary “The Truth on the Assassination of Oswaldo Payá” was presented. The film provides details on the death of the leader of Movimiento Cristiano Liberación and his colleague Harold Cepero in Cuba.

The discussion took place on April 8 at the Sala de Grados of Universidad San Pablo CEU and was organized by Forum 2000 Foundation, within the framework of its Democratic Solidarity project, in cooperation with Fundación Internacional para la Libertad and Cátedra Mario Vargas Llosa.