



WEBINAR

ILLICIT ECONOMIES AND POWER IN VENEZUELA

REGIONAL IMPACTS, GLOBAL STAKES

15 January 2026

18.00–19.30 CET

11:00–12:30 CST

*Spanish interpretation
available*

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This virtual event convenes GI-TOC's Latin America and Caribbean Observatories alongside leading experts and academics to examine the current configuration of illicit economies and organized crime in Venezuela—and what it means for the region and beyond.

Grounded in field-based research and empirical analysis, the discussion will unpack the realities of criminal and armed actors today, their entanglement with state institutions, and the regional spillovers shaping security, governance, and illicit markets.

Following the extraction of President Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela's political-criminal ecosystem has entered a period of heightened uncertainty. After more than two decades of Chavista regime, Venezuela's political-criminal ecosystem is deeply embedded, structured around protection arrangements, trafficking corridors, and money-laundering circuits. These systems have proven resilient, yet inherently fragile: shifts in political power, enforcement priorities, or international pressure risk disrupting entrenched networks—with unpredictable and potentially violent consequences.

The event will assess scenarios ahead in Venezuela and the wider region, identify early warning indicators, and explore the risks of destabilization.

SPEAKERS

- Cecilia Farfan-Mendez, Head of North America Observatory, GI-TOC
- Gabriel Funari, Head of Amazon Basin Observatory, GI-TOC
- Romain Le Cour, Head of Haïti and Caribbean Observatory, GI-TOC
- Felipe Botero, Head of Andean Observatory, GI-TOC
- Clavel Rangel, Venezuelan journalist, editor and fixer. Co-founder of @Red_Amazonia
- Rebecca Hanson, Assistant Professor Center for Latin American Studies at University of Florida
- Eduardo Bechara-Gómez, Researcher and Lecturer, Universidad Externado de Colombia

MODERATOR

- Siria Gastélum Félix, Resilience Director, GI-TOC