



COUNCIL FOR EMERGING NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

CENSA New York Dinner Program

“Venezuela: After the August 15 Referendum”

Speakers:

Ambassador Milos Alcalay, Former Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the U.N.

Thor Halvorssen, First Amendment Scholar, The Commonwealth Foundation

Jennifer Satz, Analyst, Latin America Practice, Eurasia Group (moderator)

Presider: Cristina Slattery, CENSA Member

**Tuesday, August 10th, 7:00-7:30PM Reception; 7:30-9:00PM Program
Held at: Osteria Laguna 209 East 42nd St. (at 3rd Avenue)**

Program Notes: The evening will begin with brief presentations by the speakers and then we will turn to the group for questions and answers. The entire evening's proceedings will be not-for-attribution.

Synopsis: When the National Electoral Council (CNE) ruled on June 3rd that the opposition had secured enough signatures to call a referendum on President Hugo Chavez, the entire political context changed in Venezuela. Now, as the president faces a referendum on his mandate on August 15th, the opposition is also under pressure to define a platform of post-Chavez transitional government. The referendum promises to be close and the outcome will have a large impact on the future of Venezuelan politics, economics and social policy.

Speakers:

Ambassador Milos Alcalay held the position of Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations until resigning in March, 2004. Mr. Alcalay was Venezuela's Ambassador to Brazil from 1997 to 2000. Prior to that, he was Vice-Minister for External Affairs between 1995 and 1996 and served previously as Ambassador to Israel from 1992 to 1995, and Romania from 1990 to 1992. His diplomatic career also includes stints in his country's Permanent Mission to the European Community and at the Venezuelan Embassy in Paris. Having published a number of articles on various human rights and diplomatic issues, Mr. Alcalay speaks several languages, including French, English, Portuguese and Italian. Born on 8 November 1945, Mr. Alcalay graduated from the Andres Bello Catholic University School of Law. He undertook post-graduate studies at the International Public Administration Institute of Paris, the International Institute of Human Rights at Strasbourg and the University of Paris.

Thor Halvorssen is a First Amendment Scholar at The Commonwealth Foundation, a free-market research and educational institute. Mr. Halvorssen graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with concurrent undergraduate and graduate degrees. He is a lifelong civil liberties activist with case experience in his birthplace of Venezuela, as well as China, Cuba, and most recently, the United States. Mr. Halvorssen recently stepped down as CEO of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), a group he headed from its founding in 1999. He currently serves on FIRE's Board of Advisors and on the Advisory Council of the Atlantic Legal Foundation. He has lectured at universities across the country on matters of liberty and his opinions and views have appeared frequently in numerous venues including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, National Public Radio, *TIME*, Fox News, *National Journal*, HBO, *The Washington Post*, and CNN. He was founding secretary of the Venezuelan Governors' Association and is now devoted on a full-time basis to the restoration of liberal democracy in Venezuela. He divides his time between New York and Caracas.



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Jennifer Satz is an analyst in the Latin America Practice at Eurasia Group, a NY-based research and consulting firm that focuses on political-risk analysis and industry research for global markets. Ms. Satz received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania where she studied Diplomatic History and Latin American Studies, and she holds a joint MBA/MIA from Columbia Business School and Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. During her three-year master's program, Ms. Satz led the Western Hemisphere Project on Latin American democratization and regional economic integration for the American Assembly in New York, and worked for Mercer Management Consulting in Mexico City. Prior to joining Eurasia Group, Ms. Satz was a Fulbright Scholar in Argentina studying issues of trade liberalization and regional integration. She has been quoted on issues of political risk in international press including *The Financial Times*, *The Miami Herald*, *Newsweek* and *Bloomberg*. She will be in Venezuela August 11-16 covering the referendum and its aftermath.

How to Register: **You must pre-register** with Cristina Slattery (with name, email and professional affiliation) at cristina.slattery@censa.net. Seating is limited so please register early. Fee: \$35.00 *prix fixe* dinner per person (plus 18% gratuity), cash bar. INCLUDED: Appetizer ~ Main Course ~ Assorted Cookies ~ Coffee/Tea. Due to logistics, we are unable to accommodate *a la carte* requests unless there are specific dietary concerns. *Event Management support donated by Jocelyn Yambao, CEC International.* JLYambao@aol.com, (212) 592-4132

For More Information on CENSA: For information on upcoming New York programs please contact CENSA NY Director William Robison at william.robison@censa.net.

About CENSA:

The Council for Emerging National Security Affairs (CENSA) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) research organization established in 1999. Its membership is a diverse international group of public sector foreign policy specialists, military officers, private sector professionals, and accomplished academics. CENSA's mission is to contribute to the ongoing dialogue shaping national security policy through formal discussions, graduate level teaching programs, virtual collaboration, frequent publications, and high quality research programs that draw upon the diverse talents and innovative perspectives of its membership.