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**Eric L. Olson** is Deputy Director of the Latin American Program and Senior Advisor to the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. His research and writing has focused on security issues and the impacts of crime, organized crime, and violence on democratic governance. He has also written extensively about U.S. security assistance in Mexico and Central America. Among his most recent publications are, “The Evolving Merida Initiative and the Policy of Shared Responsibility in U.S.-Mexico Security Relations,” and “Crime and Violence in Central America’s Northern Triangle: How U.S. Policy is Helping, Hurting, and can be Improved.” He also co-edited two volumes on U.S.-Mexico relations including “Building Resilient Communities in Mexico: Civic Responses to Crime and Violence,” (Wilson Center, 2014), and “Shared Responsibility: U.S.-Mexico Policy Options for Confronting Organized Crime.” (Wilson Center, 2010). Prior to joining the Wilson Center he was a Senior Specialist in the Department for Promotion of Good Governance at the Organization of American States from 2006-2007. He served as Advocacy Director for the Americas at Amnesty International USA from 2002-2006. Prior to Amnesty, he was the Senior Associate for Mexico, and Economic Policy at the Washington Office on Latin America for eight years. He worked at Augsburg College’s Center for Global Education in Cuernavaca, Mexico from 1989-1993 where he was the program director. From 1986-1988, he worked in Honduras as a development specialist for several local non-governmental organizations. He has an M.A. in International Affairs from the School of International Service at American University, Washington, D.C.