On February 20th a lecture on 'The Maritime Demand before the International Court of Justice: The Bolivian Arguments' was held at the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford. The speaker of the talk was the Former President of Bolivia and current agent of the Bolivian delegation before The Hague, Mr. Eduardo Rodriguez Veltze.

The event was organized by the students of the Latin American Society of Oxford (OLAS) with funding from the Malcolm Deas Fund and coordinated by the Bolivian students Adriana Unzueta and Sebastian Cajias.

The purpose of OLAS is to increase the knowledge about the cultures, economies, and contemporary issues of the Latin America nations; and promote cooperation and understanding among the people of the region.

The society regularly invites speakers from the region with the purpose of promoting awareness and the generation of open debates on topics concerning the development of Latin America. Naturally, resolving local disputes in accordance with international law is one of those important challenges for the region.

The talk presented the Bolivian arguments before the prestigious academic audience represented by the University of Oxford. Among the attendees were the participation of prominent political figures such as the Ambassador of Bolivia to the United Kingdom, Mr. Roberto Calzadilla and the Deputy Head of Mission of the Chilean Embassy to the United Kingdom, Mr. Mathias Francke, and various academic experts from Oxford such John Crabtree, Laurence Whitehead, David Preston, Eduardo Posada-Carbo and Diego Sanchez-Ancochea.

Rodriguez presented the Bolivian perspective on the relations between Bolivia and Chile from a historical perspective. He also discussed the legal foundations of international law that are part of the case and prospective scenarios after the ruling.

Former President Rodriguez stressed the need to seek solutions to the problem between both countries for the benefit of the region in the long term. He recognised that the level political, economic and social integration between Chile and Bolivia was far behind that in Europe and called for further bilateral understanding.