



April 30th, 2018

The Honorable Robert Corker
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable Bob Menendez
Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable Ed Royce
Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

The Honorable Paul Cook
Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

The Honorable Eliot Engel
Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Albio Sires
Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman Emeritus of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

The Honorable Norma Torres
Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Francisco Palmieri
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs



Mrs. Stefanie Fabrico
Guatemala Desk Officer at U.S. Department of State

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable Chris Smith
Co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission

Re: CICIG

Dear Congressmen:

Over the past several years, following the implosion of the Perez Molina Government in Guatemala due to widespread and rampant corruption, there have been groups and persons who oppose the international efforts by the United States and the United Nations to combat impunity in Guatemala. It has come to my attention that information which may have been circulated to you and members of your institution about these efforts might unfairly damage and discredit the reputation of the United Nations sponsored International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, known as "CICIG."

As President of Fundación Libertad y Desarrollo, a non-profit think tank and sponsor of the country's leading School of Government, and as a Guatemalan citizen deeply involved in the democratic welfare of my country, I am compelled to write you today in order to help dispel any false information or misrepresentations regarding CICIG. Fortunately, for both of our sakes, my interest in doing so also runs directly parallel to your mission and mandate to promote the national security interests of the United States of America.

Guatemala is a society besieged by the incompetence of politicians, aggrieved by public corruption and tired of impunity. Far from building a true democracy in which the laws and the rights of the citizens are respected, we have been developing a nation state that fosters corruption and impunity throughout its institutions for over 100 years, resulting in decades of civic abuse and looting of the national treasury, leading to violence and repression, leaving the Guatemalan people cynical and ashamed. The



government, politicians and elites of society have contributed by action or omission, to this state of moral anarchy and public indifference, which I consider dangerous symptoms of a civilized society in peril and insurmountable obstacles to the establishment of sustainable democratic institutions and the rule of law.

By virtue of determination and a commitment to justice, important strides have been made in efforts to eliminate corruption and impunity in Guatemala. CICIG's main purpose is to support, strengthen, and assist national institutions in the investigation, prosecution, and dismantling of illegal forces and clandestine organizations associated with malfeasant and fraudulent government actors.

CICIG's work has been fundamental in the fight against corrupt structures of all kinds, including illicit networks within government institutions. CICIG's mandate is unprecedented within the United Nations and other international efforts to promote accountability and strengthen the rule of law. CICIG has been successful in identifying and exposing discrepancies and weaknesses within the judicial and criminal justice system, and prosecuting the individuals who are found in violation of the rule of law. In fact, CICIG has been instrumental in the prosecution and conviction of several of the country's highest ranking government officials, demonstrating its capacity to bring wide ranging justice to Guatemala for the first time in recent or distant memory, instilling trust and faith among Guatemalans in their government institutions like never before. Just by way of example, due to the diligent work of CICIG, people in the following positions have been indicted and are awaiting trial:

- 2 Presidents
- 1 Vice President
- 1 President with pre-trial
- 3 Candidates (President or Vice President)
- 19 Top Cabinet members
- 4 Secretaries of the Presidency
- 4 Heads of the Guatemalan Tax Authority (SAT)
- 1 President of the Guatemalan Central Bank (BANGUAT)
- 1 Board of Directors of the Social Security Institute (IGSS)
- 25 Congressmen
- 4 Supreme Court Magistrates, 3 Appeals Magistrates, 6 Judges



- 12 Mayors
- 155 businessmen, including several renown business leaders
- 9 Members of 3 Bank's Boards of Directors
- 3 Owners or Representatives of media groups
- 182 officials and public servants

This is unprecedented in Guatemala, if not the region or the hemisphere.

CICIG's efforts have benefited Guatemalan society not only in the areas of government and judicial affairs but it has also promoted the welfare of citizens. For example, the overall rate for unprosecuted homicides fell from 95 percent to 72 percent between 2006 and 2012. This statistic is a key element to the notion that, because of efforts like CICIG, Guatemala can one day again become a safer place to live. If and when that happens, a direct result would likely be less illegal immigration to the United States. Moreover, if this trend is allowed to continue, narcotic traffickers and organized criminals might no longer feel that they are able to control society for their own ill-gotten gains. Furthermore, all of this would directly support your efforts in the United States to secure your borders and protect your people in the United States from the free flow of drug and other illicit activities.

Furthermore, CICIG operates autonomously and free from any local or foreign influences, other than the inherent support from the United Nations. I have not witnessed or been advised of any compromising behavior or undue influence by any individual or entity which would deviate from CICIG's primary and independent purpose.

Unfortunately, the Guatemalan democratic system currently in place cannot stand alone against the many forces of corruption. It is for this reason that the importance of this organization cannot be overstated. CICIG is truly unique in its nature and purpose in trying to regulate the current political climate with only one objective: protecting the fundamental human rights of our citizens and the integrity of the law.

The establishment and protection of Guatemalan democratic institutions, overseen by Guatemalans, for Guatemalans, and the collaboration of like-minded individuals in achieving these goals with any degree of longevity, is critical to ensure respect for the rule of law, transparency in the management of government and the relentless



prosecution of those who commit crimes. With the support of the United Nations and the U.S., CICIG must continue to work towards its vision against the corrupt status quo, which can serve as a beacon of hope and a good model for reform in other countries across the region and beyond, which would be a great achievement, not just for Guatemala but for the national security interests of the United States.

For the foregoing reasons, I implore that all efforts be made to protect and sustain CICIG, its mission and reputation. I firmly believe that it is in the best interest not only of the people of Guatemala, but also the United States, as the World's leader and champion for free, fair and democratic societies.

Sincerely,

Dionisio Gutierrez
President

Fundación Libertad y Desarrollo