

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 145

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the fight against corruption in Central America.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mrs. TORRES (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the fight against corruption in Central America.

Whereas according to Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perception Index, the citizens of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama perceive high levels of government corruption;

Whereas widespread corruption in Central America weakens citizens' faith in public institutions, limits government capacity to advance development goals, and allows drug traffickers and other criminals to thrive;

Whereas the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) was created at the request of the Guatemalan Government in 2007, and has strengthened

the capacity of Guatemalan institutions, especially the Office of the Attorney General, to combat corruption;

Whereas the Office of the Attorney General of Guatemala, under the leadership of Thelma Aldana, and CICIG, under the leadership of Iván Velásquez, have recently collaborated to investigate and prosecute a series of corruption cases involving high-level government officials, demonstrating that it is possible for governments in Central America to confront entrenched corruption, and that no one is above the law;

Whereas the Attorney General of El Salvador, Douglas Meléndez, has made significant progress in tackling corruption at the highest levels;

Whereas after thousands of Hondurans joined street protests against corruption and in favor of an International Commission against Impunity in Honduras, the Honduran Government reached an agreement with the Organization of American States to create the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH);

Whereas MACCIH, under the leadership of Juan Jiménez, has begun to assist the Office of the Attorney General of Honduras, under the leadership of Oscar Chinchilla, with the investigation into the more than \$300,000,000 that was embezzled from the Institute of Social Security; and

Whereas the leadership of CICIG and MACCIH and the attorneys general of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador have faced significant challenges, including credible threats against their lives, attempts to publicly discredit their work, or efforts to remove them from their posts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives, that—

2 (1) combating corruption in the Northern Tri-
3 angle must remain a top policy priority for the
4 United States in Central America;

5 (2) the International Commission against Impu-
6 nity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the Mission to Sup-
7 port the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in
8 Honduras (MACCIH) are important contributions to
9 this effort;

10 (3) the Government of Guatemala is urged to
11 continue to cooperate with CICIG and the Govern-
12 ment of Honduras is urged to continue to cooperate
13 with MACCIH; and

14 (4) the Governments of Honduras, Guatemala,
15 and El Salvador are urged to—

16 (A) publicly support efforts to fight cor-
17 ruption;

18 (B) respect the independence of the judi-
19 cial branch and the Office of the Attorney Gen-
20 eral; and

21 (C) ensure that the Office of the Attorney
22 General in each Northern Triangle country re-
23 ceives sufficient domestic budget allocations to
24 carry out their core responsibilities and that

1 budgeted funds are delivered in a timely man-
2 ner.

