



COMITÉ DE UNIDAD CAMPESINA GUATEMALA

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Sen. Roger F. Wicker, Chairman
Sen. Ben Cardin, Ranking Member
Rep. Chris Smith, Co-Chairman
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Ranking Member
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.
U.S. Helsinki Commission

We are an organization with 40 years of existence, which brings together indigenous and peasants and we act in defense of the rights of field workers.

We have learned that the commission that you chair is examining the role of the Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG in Spanish) in a case related to a Russian family named Bitkov.

The Bitkov family entered Guatemala in 2009, buying counterfeit documents from a network that operated within the National Register of Persons and the Directorate General of Migration, which was then headed by the current interior minister, Enrique Antonio Degenhart.

An investigation was initiated in 2010, based on the denunciation and subsequent murder of Mr. Fidel Pacheco, General Secretary of the union of the General Migration Direction, who pointed to a group of officials of that Direction responsible for the entry of people into the country without complying requirements established in the law; the exit of national and foreign persons with false documentation and the issuance of passports to Guatemalans and foreigners with false documentation. Human trafficking is a security problem for any nation.

The Special Prosecutor Against Impunity developed an investigation since 2010 that led to January 12, 2018, the Higher Risk Court A, issued a ruling in the aforementioned "Migration Case", declaring responsible to 39 people who participated in a passport forgery network. Among those sentenced are former officials of the General Migration Direction (DGM) and the National Registry of Persons (RENAP), lawyers, brokers and users of the criminal structure, including Igor Vladimirovich Bitkov, Irina Viacheslavovna Bitkova, and Anastasia Bitkova within these 39 people processed.

On April 26, 2018, the Constitutional Court annulled the sentence against the Bitkov family and ordered the judicial process to be returned to its intermediate phase.

The involvement of the son and brother of Mr. Jimmy Morales, President of Guatemala, in a corruption case for which they are being tried and accusations that he received illicit

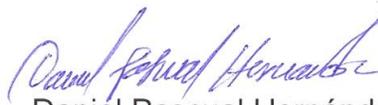
electoral financing, make doubt the effective commitment of Mr. Morales in the combat to corruption and impunity.

For this reason, we are concerned that since the second semester of 2017, Mr. Jimmy Morales has taken a series of actions to obtain the dismissal of Mr. Iván Velásquez, as commissioner of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala. These efforts have been joined by several people who are being accused and prosecuted for several cases of high-impact corruption and who have launched a campaign to try to link this case to a possible influence of the Russian government in the fight against impunity in Guatemala and in particular they try to block the work of the International Commission against Impunity.

CICIG does NOT receive funding from Russia. The financing received by CICIG comes from the United States and European countries. For her outstanding role in the fight against corruption, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, members of the House of Representatives; the Bipartisan Committee for Democracy of the United States Congress, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives; Members of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs of the United States Congress and the Secretary of State expressed their support for the CICIG, urged the Guatemalan government to work in coordination and even warned that there would be economic consequences for Guatemala if the government insisted on the expulsion of Iván Velásquez or the cancellation of the CICIG.

Unfounded people are trying to link a case that led to the dismantling of a corrupt and corrupt structure within government offices to an alleged support of the Russian government to CICIG. If these unfounded accusations prosper, we are concerned that it could lead to the reduction or cancellation of United States funding, which would allow the rearticulation of these criminal structures that allow the delivery of falsified personal documents, which constitutes a risk to the security of any nation, including the United States.

Best regards.


Daniel Pascual Hernández
Coordinador General
Comité de Unidad Campesina
CUC

