

The Honorable Senator Roger F. Wicker  
Chairman Helsinki Commission  
Congress of the United States, Washington, DC

April 25, 2018

Dear Chairman Wicker,

We are aware of your commission's hearing regarding the Bitkov case in Guatemala on March 27 and your interest in the role of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, known by its acronym CICIG. For the last few weeks, we have been publishing information about the CICIG that bears on your case.

The CICIG was created with a pledge to help control subversive, extra-legal groups that threatened the exercise of freedom in our constitutional republic. The broader concern behind starting the CICIG -- an entity mostly funded by the United States -- was hemispheric security, with global implications.

We understand that the input you've received about the CICIG -- most crucially from the State Department -- paints a positive picture. Indeed, Congressional Democrats have introduced H.R. 5501, a proposal that envisions expanding the CICIG's operations beyond Guatemala.

If the CICIG had performed as promised, Guatemala's economy would be growing as a result of increased confidence and decreased lawlessness. However, the CICIG's regime has led not to successful development but to widespread uncertainty and fear. As Guatemalan security is essential for reducing the flow of illegal migrants and drugs to the US, we feel you have a strong stake in this matter beyond the Bitkov matter.

The lack of useful information about the CICIG recently led our four non-profit organizations to publish a new report, *The CICIG and the Rule of Law*. Some of our country's best legal minds have worked on it. The table of contents, <https://ligapropatria.com/CICIG-AND-THE-RULE-OF-LAW-TABLE-OF-CONTENTS.pdf>, gives mini-descriptions of the narratives and links to them.

Most crucially, this report shows how the CICIG became the dominant power in Guatemala. Today it is no longer our elected representatives who decide what is law in our country and what is not. The CICIG's commissioner makes those choices and answers to no one -- except, perhaps, to the US Congress, which is the CICIG's major funder.

We urge you to use our report, however you can, to increase your effectiveness with the CICIG-Bitkov case.

With respect and kind regards,

