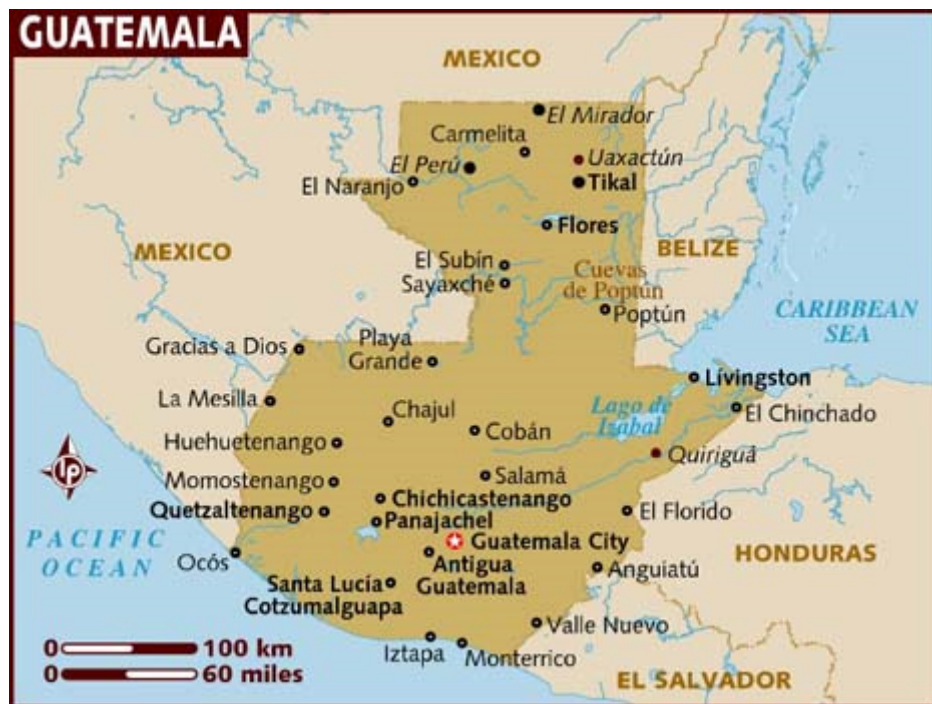


Beltway Advice Won't Suffice for Central America

by Steve Hecht



A new report is dominating discussion of Central America policy, but it glosses over one pivotal problem. The authors' deference to the status quo puts them at odds with the Trump administration's search for solutions to problems bleeding across our southern border.

The self-described nonpartisan Arsht Center of the Atlantic Council – [report](#) on May 4: “A Blueprint for Central America’s Northern Triangle (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador).”

Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly delivered the keynote for the report's release. He noted the US border “begins 1,500 miles south.” That's the 595-mile, very porous border between Mexico and Guatemala.

The report identifies a myriad of symptoms – horrors really – and proposes specific actions for the United States, mostly

through the [policy](#). Today, successors of Castro-supported guerrillas dominate Guatemala's rural areas and [appointed](#) to government positions, which politicized a judiciary that now protects the leftists.

Political opposition to this policy has been muted by threats of prosecution and US visa cancellations. The US embassy ([Cicig](#)), which the report wrongly praises. The UN secretary general appoints the Cicig Commissioner ([holdovers](#) leave the State Department, the Cicig commissioner and US Ambassador Todd Robinson are illegally [violate](#) the Alliance for Prosperity, because they degrade the judiciary and give it supremacy over the other branches.

The United States cannot help the Northern Triangle countries establish the rule of law if US officials act criminally and support criminal parties, a fact omitted by the Atlantic Council report. Further, without reliable oversight of the Cicig, we risk wasting hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars and putting national security at risk.

While Secretary Kelly has correctly stated that economic development and safety in the Northern Triangle are necessary, the anti-Trump bias of the report is hard to escape. The Atlantic Council webpage [rapists](#)." Immediately following, it quotes Secretary Kelly as saying migrants are "good people as a group," implying a split with the president.

The report's task force co-chair John Negroponte [continues](#) under Ambassador Robinson.

Hillary Clinton personally involved herself in Guatemalan affairs, including a [ASIES](#). This NGO backs the constitutional changes to consolidate power in the judiciary – the same judiciary that is shutting down businesses and supporting violations of due process against Robinson's and Velásquez's opponents.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala [nourishes](#) drug

and sex trafficking, extortion, potential terrorist crossings and illegal immigration. Technical help will not address these problems. Only law enforcement will, to the benefit of the oppressed rural population.

The immediate removal of Robinson and the encouragement of proper application of the law to Guatemala's countryside would free the people and businesses to pursue their legitimate desires. The [Impunity Observer](#).