

Cut Off Illegal Immigration at the Source

Guatemala Presents the Opportunity, but Heads Must Roll

by Steve Hecht



US Ambassador Todd Robinson (left) sits in on the meeting between Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales (right). ([aware](#) of the [visited](#) Guatemala on Wednesday).

While the border wall should reduce the flow, it won't be completed for as much as [595-mile](#) border between Guatemala and Mexico is no trivial piece of the puzzle. In fact, multiple [elsewhere](#) in the world use Guatemala as the key passage en route to the land of the free.

That is why rule of law in Guatemala is crucial, in contrast to the prevailing rule of the jungle. Armed gangs dominate the

rural areas, in particular, and descend from the subversives of the nation's internal armed conflict that nominally ended in 1996. Successive governments have abandoned the interior of the country.

Although not well known in the United States, the Obama administration [shutting down](#) Guatemala's hydroelectric plants. Consequently higher costs of living, reduced employment prospects, increasing violence, along with the arrival of newly deported Guatemalans, are fuel for the fire of human-trafficking.

Charged with confronting impunity in Guatemala, one organization is actually fomenting the problem and impeding the necessary work that could be done to clean up the mess. That is none other than the UN Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala [pressured](#) former President Otto Pérez to extend the Cicig mandate, and he succumbed to Biden's will.

Purportedly, the Cicig [appeared](#) in public, at a human-rights forum no less, with Daniel Pascual, the general coordinator of the Committee of United Campesinos (CUC). The CUC is one such group that has been involved in violent actions against hydroelectric plants and other businesses. US Ambassador Todd Robinson has also joined the party and



Cicig Commissioner Iván Velázquez (left) chats with Daniel Pascual (center) of the CUC and Alberto Brunori of the UN Office of the High Commissioner. (



US Ambassador Todd Robinson (center) has similarly been chummy with the leader (left) of a violent Marxist gang in Guatemala. ([got](#) Gloria Porras appointed to the nation's highest court, and if the constitutional reforms go ahead, the current members of court will be able to perpetuate their positions of power.

In other words, radical collectivists will be able to continue

Obama's policies and block reforms by the Guatemalan government that the Trump administration would support, long after Robinson is gone.

Guatemalans want to be free to work according to the law, with physical and legal security. The rural population would welcome any rescue from the oppressive, arbitrary rule of groups such as the CUC. Upstanding individuals in government understand the problem and are inclined to support the rule of law, except they have been intimidated and look for a green light from the United States.

The Guatemalan government has elite security forces that could bring law and order to the rural areas. Further, the annual \$750 million allotted for the US Alliance for Prosperity aid program already calls for these activities.

A grateful populace would become an asset, not only less likely to migrate illegally to the United States but supportive of efforts to impede foreigners traversing their nation. Such a success story would become a model for other Latin American countries.

The Alliance for Prosperity requires the ambassador's participation, but Robinson's [Impunity Observer](#)