## Senate Must Reign in UN Commission Gone Bad

House Resolution on CICIG Conceals the Truth about Guatemala, Aids Violent Leftists

by Steve Hecht



CICIG Commissioner Iván Velásquez holds the ceremonial check from the US embassy in Guatemala, with Ambassador Todd Robinson on the right. (<a href="mailto:ambassador">ambassador</a>, is promoting lawlessness in Guatemala, especially in its rural areas.

The issue is now before the US Congress.

House of Representatives Resolution 145 of May 17, sponsored by Norma Torres (D-CA),  $\underline{\text{CICIG}}$ ) is "making important contributions" to combating corruption. It urges the government there to cooperate.

That is both far from the truth and ill-advised.

The UN secretary general appoints the CICIG commissioner,

who names his staff. The United Nations does not audit the CICIG, nor does anyone else. Its personnel are not subject to any law anywhere.

Meanwhile, US taxpayers bankroll the CICIG and its faux fight in Central America. US foreign aid via the <u>made clear</u> by former Vice President Joe Biden during three visits to Guatemala.

A letter to Secretary Tillerson from six senators alerted him of Obama State Department <a href="mailto:embraced">embraced</a> the remnants of Fidel Castro-supported guerillas in Guatemala. The CICIG and Obama holdovers continue to provide these leftists with protection from the law.

One justification for H.R. 145 is support for the CICIG against "attempts to publicly discredit their work," as though it is beyond scrutiny. This coincides with the <u>Iván Velásquez</u>: "Do not be fooled by false defenders of the rule of law who seek to maintain the status quo to preserve their privileges."

Such a shallow, dismissive response to <u>purpose</u> is to protect "the right to life and to personal integrity" of citizens from vigilante groups that "commit illegal acts" — those linked to "agents of the State or [with] the capacity to generate impunity for their illegal actions."

The CICIG has flipped this mission on its head. Without fear of prosecution, guerrilla-descended groups violate private property and sabotage infrastructure development in rural areas. Prosperity and stability would weaken their grip on the populace.

Illegal armed groups <u>cut off</u> electricity and water, or worse. The government does nothing to stop the coercion.

Casimiro Pérez, a Mam Indian, faced being <u>copy of a letter</u> he sent to Attorney General Thelma Aldana, saying the case was not among CICIG priorities.

"Neither the CICIG nor the attorney general have stopped the operation of these illegal groups," she says.

One of the illegal groups mentioned in Velásquez's letter is <u>must</u> pursue CICIG cases and can ignore others.

Ambassador Robinson and Velásquez have also been illegally opponent of the narco-guerrilla FARC, who <a href="Impunity">Impunity</a>
<a href="Observer">Observer</a>