



Guatemala, August 24, 2017

Mr. António Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York

Subject: Support for Commissioner Iván Velásquez's work leading the CICIG in Guatemala

Your Excellency:

We, the civil society organizations in Guatemala, express our profound concern on having received information that the President of Guatemala, Jimmy Morales, will meet with you on August 25 of this year with the intent to question the work done by Commissioner Iván Velásquez as head of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and to request that he be removed from Guatemala. We consider this to be an arbitrary and malicious decision by President Morales, since there is no objective reason to question Commissioner Iván Velásquez's work, much less to request his removal from Guatemala. On the contrary, Commissioner Velásquez has conducted an extraordinary job as head of CICIG and has acted in an independent, serious, and professional way to combat impunity and strengthen justice in Guatemala.

Therefore, we ask that you grant complete support to Commissioner Iván Velásquez's work in Guatemala and that you confirm his mandate through 2019. We urge you not to yield to the malicious pressure by the Guatemalan government to stop the fight against corruption and impunity. We believe that removing Commissioner Iván Velásquez from the CICIG would be an unjust and egregious error, as it would endanger the progress in legal cases involving corruption and would unleash a profound political and social crisis in Guatemala.

As civil society organizations, we thank the United Nations System for its valuable and courageous support to the fight against corruption, and we request its continuing vigilance in order to guarantee respect for democracy and the rule of law in Guatemala.

Sincerely,

ASOCIACION DE ABOGADOS Y NOTARIOS MAYAS DE GUATEMALA
ASOCIACION KEMB'AL NO'J
ALIANZA DE MUJERES Y MUJERES INDIGENAS POR EL ACCESO A LA JUSTICIA
BUFETE DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS DE GUATEMALA
COMISION INTERNACIONAL DE JURISTAS
CONGECOOP
INTITUTO DEMOS
FADS
FEDERACION GUATEMALTECA DE ESCUELAS RADIOFONICAS
FRENTE NACIONAL DE JUVENTUD
FUNDACIÓN MYRNA MACK
FUNDAJU
GRUPO GUATEMALTECO DE MUJERES
IEPADES
IMPUNITY WATCH
INSTITUTO DE LA JUDICTURA
JURISTAS POR GUATEMALA
JUSTICIA YA
LA BATUCADA DEL PUEBLO
LANDIVARIANOS
MUJERES TRANSFORMANDO EL MUNDO
OASIS
OTRA GUATEMALA YA
SODEJU
SOMOS
SOCIOS POR EL DESARROLLO
USAC ES PUEBLO
CONVERGENCIA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS: CAFCA, CALDH, CIIDH, ECAP, ICCPG, ODHAG,
SEDEM, UDEFEGUA, UNAMG.