



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Samantha Power
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power:

We write to draw your attention to reports detailing the misuse of the Administration's influence in the legislative matters of the Guatemalan Congress. This misuse undermines the free exercise of democracy of Guatemalan Members of Congress and serves to undermine support for the United States in Guatemala and in the region.

Officials from the U.S. Department of State and USAID have no legitimate authority to press for ideological changes in Guatemala that compromise their Constitution or deeply held values concerning life and family. Further, sanctioning tools should not be used to compel Guatemalan legislators to vote one way or another. Such action is a violation of the principles of sovereignty and democracy.

The mission of the U.S. Department of State is “to protect and promote U.S. security, prosperity, and democratic values and shape an international environment in which all Americans can thrive.”

The mission of USAID is to “promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world,” all of which is done “on behalf of the American people.”

When the State Department or USAID inappropriately involves itself in the affairs of other nations, it undermines the very values it claims to support. Indeed, the Administration’s progressive ideological agenda is a national security concern as it is increasing anti-American sentiment abroad, particularly in conservative nations. To that end, we are disturbed by reports of the involvement of State officials in Guatemalan affairs – and of other conservative nations around the globe.

As members of the United States Congress, our job is to exercise oversight of the executive branch to ensure it accords with the will of the U.S. Congress and ultimately, the American people. Therefore, we ask that you answer the following questions by May 30, 2024 –

1. Have officials from the U.S. Department of State threatened sanctions upon conservative members of the Guatemalan Congress who do not support President Arévalo’s legislative priorities?
2. Have USAID or the State Department funded NGOs to implement these ideological changes, in anticipation of legislative action?
3. Has State or USAID met with Members of Guatemala Congress to support legislation in the Guatemalan Congress? If so, what legislative priorities or bills have been supported?

4. Has the Ambassador or anyone in the U.S. Embassy to Guatemala invited Members of the Guatemalan Congress to the Embassy or the Ambassador's residence to discuss this legislation? If so, please disclose which Members were invited and the nature of the conversations.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Keith Self
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress