

CORRUPTION

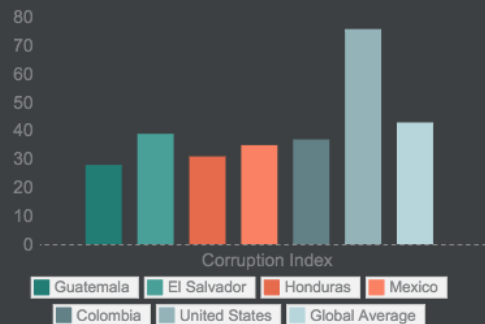
CENTRAL AMERICA IN PERSPECTIVE

Despite continued efforts to tackle Central American corruption and impunity, the region continues to lag behind the rest of the world in addressing rule of law issues.



CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX IN 2015

The Corruption Perception Index, created by Transparency International, measures the perceived level of public sector corruption. Countries are ranked on a scale from 0 (very corrupt) to 100 (very clean).



These scandals involve grafted funds totaling roughly

\$435
million

MAJOR CASES



Major corruption scandals have rocked Central America in the past three years.

La Línea Guatemala

A sitting President and Vice President were jailed for their alleged participation in a multi-million dollar customs fraud. Dozens of government officials and business leaders are implicated in the case.

Francisco Flores El Salvador

A former President was ordered to stand trial in December 2015 for allegedly misusing earthquake relief aid to finance his coffers and his political party. Flores died suddenly before the trial had finished.

Social Security Honduras

Roughly a dozen patients are believed to have died due to a lack of medicines related to this case. Allegedly, the sitting president received campaign contributions from these embezzled funds.

ANTI-CORRUPTION MECHANISMS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE

The International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG)

The CICIG, a U.N.-backed mechanism fighting corruption and impunity in Guatemala since 2007, is largely considered the gold standard for such mechanisms. In 2015 alone, the CICIG assisted in investigations which led to the arrest of over 200 public officials.

The Support Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH)

The agreement to establish a MACCIH was signed in January 2016, responding to demands from civil society that an anti-corruption mechanism be established. The MACCIH is backed by the OAS, and has less investigative and prosecutorial authority than the CICIG.

UNODC Collaboration with El Salvador

This three year project, supported by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), will train Salvadoran officials in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of corruption. It will not have the same investigative capacity as the CICIG or the MACCIH.