

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5501

To direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions to end corruption in the Northern Triangle region of Central America, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2018

Mrs. TORRES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions to end corruption in the Northern Triangle region of Central America, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “End Corruption in the
5 Northern Triangle Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
6 of Representatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
9 Senate.

10 (2) GRAND CORRUPTION.—The term “grand
11 corruption” means public corruption committed at a
12 high level of government that—

13 (A) distorts policies or the central func-
14 tioning of the country; and

15 (B) enables leaders to benefit at the ex-
16 pense of the public good.

17 (3) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The term “North-
18 ern Triangle” means the region of Central America
19 that encompasses the countries of Guatemala, Hon-
20 duras, and El Salvador.

21 (4) NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES.—The
22 term “Northern Triangle countries” means the
23 countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

24 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

25 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the February 9, 2017, Presi-
2 dential Executive order on “Enforcing Federal Law
3 with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organiza-
4 tions and Preventing International Trafficking”,
5 transnational criminal organizations “are drivers of
6 crime, corruption, violence, and misery”, and “a
7 comprehensive and decisive approach is required to
8 dismantle these organized crime syndicates and re-
9 store safety for the American people.”.

10 (2) Since 2008, the United States has provided
11 more than \$1 billion through the Central America
12 Regional Security Initiative in order to address vio-
13 lence, organized crime, and narcotics trafficking and
14 in Central America.

15 (3) The 2017 International Narcotics Control
16 Strategy Report stated that “corruption within the
17 Salvadoran political system remains a serious prob-
18 lem”.

19 (4) According to the same report, in Guatemala
20 “widespread corruption permeates public and private
21 institutions and exacerbates the country’s security,
22 governmental, and economic challenges”.

23 (5) The same report notes that in Honduras,
24 corruption has undermined progress on disrupting
25 and degrading illegal trafficking, because “traf-

1 ficking organizations have infiltrated some military
2 units in active drug corridors”.

3 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) systemic corruption constitutes a significant
6 threat to the long-term prospects for democratic gov-
7 ernance, prosperity, and security in the Northern
8 Triangle, and is an impediment to United States ef-
9 forts to reduce the flow of cocaine and other nar-
10 cotics from South America to the United States;

11 (2) the International Commission against Impu-
12 nity in Guatemala and the Mission to Support the
13 Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras
14 have made important contributions to the fight
15 against corruption in Guatemala and Honduras, re-
16 spectively; and

17 (3) the lack of an international commission
18 against impunity in El Salvador is a limiting factor
19 in efforts to combat corruption in that country.

20 **SEC. 5. ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
23 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
24 a strategy to enhance United States efforts to dismantle
25 systemic corruption in the Northern Triangle.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy shall include the fol-
2 lowing elements:

3 (1) Diplomatic and financial support for inter-
4 national commissions against impunity.

5 (2) Enhanced cooperation with local prosecu-
6 tors, investigative units within national and local po-
7 lice forces, and revenue and customs authorities of
8 each Northern Triangle country.

9 (3) Exchange of information relevant to ongo-
10 ing criminal investigations, where possible, with local
11 prosecutors and the international commissions
12 against impunity.

13 (4) The designations of individuals within the
14 Northern Triangle that meet the requirements for
15 designations under—

16 (A) the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Des-
17 ignation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.);

18 (B) section 212(a)(2)(C) of the Immigra-
19 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
20 1182(a)(2)(C)); or

21 (C) the Global Magnitsky Human Rights
22 Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of
23 Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

1 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON CORRUPTION AND NARCOTICS TRAF-**
2 **FICKING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
5 in consultation with the intelligence community (as such
6 term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security
7 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)), shall submit to the
8 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
9 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
10 ate a report regarding corruption and illicit campaign fi-
11 nance in the Northern Triangle.

12 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
13 quired under subsection (a) shall include—

14 (1) the names of senior government officials in
15 any of the Northern Triangle countries who are
16 known to have committed or facilitated acts of grand
17 corruption or narcotics trafficking;

18 (2) the names of elected officials in any of the
19 Northern Triangle countries who are known to have
20 received campaign funds that are the proceeds of
21 narco-trafficking or other illicit activities in the last
22 2 years; and

23 (3) the names of individuals who are known to
24 have facilitated the financing of political campaigns
25 in any of the Northern Triangle countries with the

1 proceeds of narco-trafficking or other illicit activities
2 in the last 2 years.

3 (c) FORM.—The report submitted under subsection
4 (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
5 clude a classified annex.

6 **SEC. 7. CENTRAL AMERICA REGIONAL SECURITY INITIA-**
7 **TIVE.**

8 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall make avail-
10 able on the website of the Department of State the total
11 amounts of assistance under the Central America Regional
12 Security Initiative that have been provided to each country
13 within Central America since fiscal year 2008.

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