

**Suspend the Rules And Agree to the Resolution, H. Res. 145 with  
Amendments**

**(The amendments consist of a new preamble and a complete new  
text)**

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 145

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the fight  
against corruption in Central America.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mrs. TORRES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

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# RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives  
regarding the fight against corruption in Central America.

Whereas according to Transparency International's 2016  
Corruption Perception Index, the citizens of Honduras,  
Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua perceive high  
levels of government corruption;

Whereas widespread corruption in Central America weakens  
citizens' faith in public institutions, limits government ca-  
pacity to advance development goals, and allows drug  
traffickers and other criminals to thrive;

Whereas the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) was created at the request of the Guatemalan Government in 2007, and has strengthened the capacity of Guatemalan institutions, especially the Office of the Attorney General, to combat corruption;

Whereas the Office of the Attorney General of Guatemala and CICIG have recently collaborated to investigate and prosecute a series of corruption cases involving high-level government officials, demonstrating that it is possible for governments in Central America to confront entrenched corruption, and that no one is above the law;

Whereas the Attorney General of El Salvador has made significant progress in tackling corruption at the highest levels;

Whereas after thousands of Hondurans joined street protests against corruption and in favor of an International Commission against Impunity in Honduras, the Honduran Government reached an agreement with the Organization of American States to create the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH);

Whereas MACCIH has begun to assist the Office of the Attorney General of Honduras with the investigation into the more than \$300,000,000 that was embezzled from the Institute of Social Security; and

Whereas the leadership of CICIG and MACCIH and the attorneys general of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador have faced significant challenges, including credible threats against their lives, attempts to publicly discredit their work, or efforts to remove them from their posts:  
Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2           (1) reaffirms that combating corruption in the  
3       Northern Triangle is an important policy interest for  
4       the United States;

5           (2) acknowledges that the International Com-  
6       mission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG)  
7       and the Mission to Support the Fight against Cor-  
8       ruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) are  
9       currently making important contributions to this ef-  
10      fort;

11          (3) urges the Government of Guatemala to con-  
12      tinue to cooperate with CICIG and the Government  
13      of Honduras to continue to cooperate with  
14      MACCIH; and

15          (4) encourages the Governments of Honduras,  
16      Guatemala, and El Salvador to—

17           (A) publicly support efforts to fight cor-  
18      ruption;

19           (B) respect the independence of the judi-  
20      cial branch and the Office of the Attorney Gen-  
21      eral; and

22           (C) ensure that the Office of the Attorney  
23      General in each Northern Triangle country re-  
24      ceives sufficient domestic budget allocations to  
25      carry out its core responsibilities and that

1 budgeted funds are delivered in a timely man-  
2 ner.