

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 26, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write as strong supporters of the Guatemala-United States partnership to express our deep concern for attacks on Guatemala's democratic process to prevent President-elect Bernardo Arévalo from taking power on January 14, 2024.

Since elections on August 20, 2023, actions taken by Guatemala's Public Prosecutor's office, the Guatemalan Supreme Court, and members of Guatemala's Congress have undermined the rule of law to overturn a free and fair election. The latest attempt to nullify the election results on Friday December 8th from the Public Prosecutor's office and prosecutor Leonor Morales falls nothing short of an attempted coup d'état.

We appreciate the administration's steadfast, high-level support and commitment to democratic institutions in Guatemala. Attacks on the rule of law and judicial independence in Guatemala are not a new phenomenon, but these unprecedented actions to deny the will of the Guatemalan people and prevent President-elect Arévalo from taking office on January 14th demand an unprecedented response.

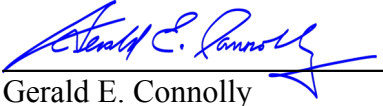
The United States must stand with the people of Guatemala. Attempts to subvert the will of the Guatemalan people and lift the immunity of several members of the "Movimiento Semilla" party, including the President and Vice President-elect, must end. Attacks from the Public Prosecutor's office on the electoral system, including raids on the headquarters of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and attacks against the magistrates, must end.

Statements from the Public Prosecutor's office deeming the election "null and void," contradicting Supreme Electoral Tribunal officials, are indicative of an attempted coup underway, perpetrated by those who would rather not see President-elect Arévalo take power in January. We urge you to work with partners and allies to take comprehensive action and hold all actors who have attempted to overturn a free and fair election in Guatemala, including members of the private sector, accountable.

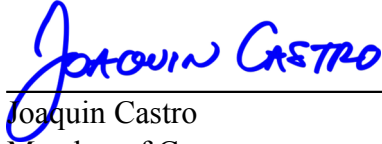
In 1954, the United States inflicted significant and lasting damage to Guatemala's democracy when it supported and orchestrated the ouster of democratically elected President Jacobo Arbenz in support of a military dictatorship. Seventy years later, U.S. support for Guatemala's democratic institutions must remain paramount. This time around, recognizing our own role in Guatemala's democratic fate, we stand on the right side of history. But in doing so, the United States must work closely with allies and partners to make clear to anti-democratic forces in Guatemala that should President-elect Arévalo be prevented from assuming the presidency on January 14, 2024, there will be significant consequences.

Sincerely,

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Washington, DC 20510



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



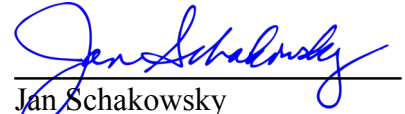
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress

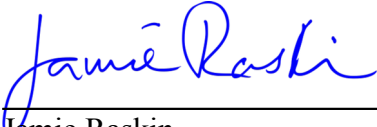


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



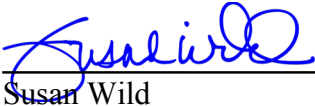
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



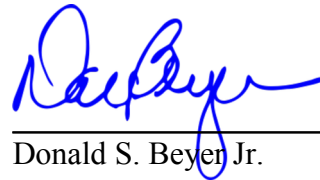
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



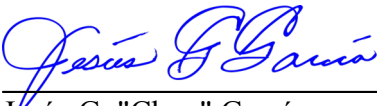
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress