

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Ranking Members Rogers,

As you develop the FY23 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bill, we urge you to take clear and decisive steps to address major concerns regarding U.S. security assistance in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

In Guatemala and El Salvador, state security forces are used to quell democratic opposition, as well as to repress grassroots movements defending environmental and human rights. While Honduras has recently returned to democracy, the majority of the state security forces responsible for human rights violations and facilitating drug trafficking during the Hernández era enjoy impunity and maintain links with networks of corruption and organized crime. In light of this, we request your support in incorporating language to restrict military and police financing to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

While the political context in each of the three countries is very different, there is a common thread of state violence as both a human rights violation in its own right and as a root cause of migration from the region. The use of U.S.-trained and equipped security forces for civilian repression contradicts not just our values, but our interests in the region.

Since 2008, with the implementation of the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), the United States has spent more than \$1 billion in an attempt to improve citizen security as well as to reduce drug trafficking and its related violence. But increased levels of U.S. cooperation with military and police forces throughout this period have not reformed these institutions, nor has additional conditioning of security assistance led to any measurable progress.

We therefore respectfully request that you include the following bill language in the forthcoming FY23 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill:

- None of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "Foreign Military Financing Program" may be made available for assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras.
- None of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "International Military Education and Training" may be made available for assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras.
- None of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement" may be made available for military assistance or police assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras.

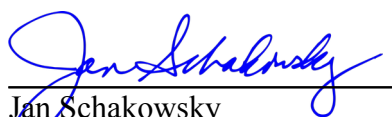
Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration in a shared endeavor to ensure that the U.S. acts as a good neighbor in our hemispheric and global relationships.

Sincerely,



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



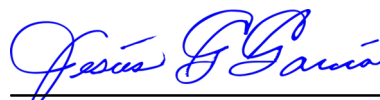
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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



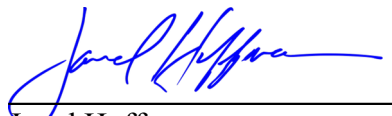
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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



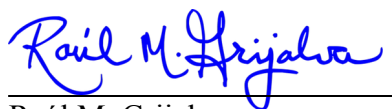
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



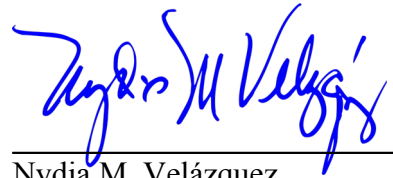
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress