

**Report to Congress on
Foreign Persons who have
Actions that Undermine
Institutions in El Salvador,**



**Knowingly Engaged in
Democratic Processes or
Guatemala, Honduras and**

Nicaragua

**22 USC 2277a(b): Targeted sanctions to fight corruption in El Salvador,
Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua**

Consistent with Section 353(b) of the United States – Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act (22 U.S.C. 2277a(b)) (the Act), as amended, this report is being submitted to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, House Committee on the Judiciary, and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Section 353(b) requires the submission of a report identifying the following persons: foreign persons who the President has determined have knowingly engaged (1) in actions that undermine democratic processes or institutions; (2) in significant corruption; and (3) in obstruction of investigations into such acts of corruption, in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, including the following: corruption related to government contracts; bribery and extortion; the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption, including through money laundering; and acts of violence, harassment, or intimidation directed at governmental and nongovernmental corruption investigators. On June 21, 2021, the President delegated his authority under Section 353 to the Secretary of State. Consistent with Section 353(g), this report will be published in the Federal Register.

This report includes individuals who have been determined to have engaged in the relevant activity based upon credible information or allegations of the conduct at issue, from media reporting and other sources. The Department will continue to review the individuals listed in the report and consider all available tools to deter and disrupt corrupt and undemocratic activity in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The Department also

continues to review additional credible information and allegations concerning corruption or undemocratic activity and to utilize all applicable authorities, as appropriate, to ensure corrupt or undemocratic officials are denied safe haven in the United States.

El Salvador

José Edgardo Bruno Ventura aka 'Brother', engaged in significant corruption, including through extensive bribes to members of the National Civil Police of El Salvador and other officials to aid and abet his drug trafficking network and support one of the largest prison gangs in El Salvador.

Nercy Patricia Montano De Martinez, engaged in significant acts of corruption by illegally negotiating contracts as Mayor of Soyapango, embezzling public funds, and steering municipal contracts to an individual without City Council approval.

Guatemala

Jorge Adolfo Mondal Chew, President of the Board of Directors of *Banco de los Trabajadores* (BANTRAB), engaged in significant corruption by bribing Constitutional Court magistrates to keep his position as head of BANTRAB.

Claudia Elizabeth Paniagua Pérez, Constitutional Court Magistrate, engaged in significant corruption by accepting bribes for favorable rulings from the Constitutional Court.

Honduras

Sonia Marlina Dubón, a Supreme Court Magistrate assigned to the Constitutional Chamber, undermined democratic processes by using her official powers to pressure officials to undermine the rule of law in the exercise of their government functions.

Ebal Jair Díaz Lupián, Secretary of the Presidency from 2018 to 2022, engaged in significant corruption while in his official role by misappropriating public funds allocated to provide housing for Hondurans affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

Lourdes Pamela Blanco Luque, private lawyer, undermined democratic processes or institutions by pressuring public officials' exercise of their government functions to obtain certain outcomes as well as using her connections to government officials to peddle influence.

Nicaragua

Almarina Oliveira Solís Santos, Vice President of Nicaragua's National Council of Universities (CNU), undermined democratic processes or institutions by participating in a coordinated campaign to suppress dissent by taking control over Central American University (UCA) and at least 25 other private Nicaraguan universities and installing supporters of the ruling party in the university administrations.

Roberto Enrique Flores Díaz, Secretary of Nicaragua's CNU, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to suppress dissent by taking control over UCA and at least 25 other private Nicaraguan universities and installing supporters of the ruling party in the university administrations.

Jaime López Lowery, Technical Secretary of Nicaragua's CNU, undermined democratic processes or institutions by participating in a coordinated campaign to suppress dissent by taking over control over UCA and at least 25 other private Nicaraguan universities and installing supporters of the ruling party in the university administrations.

Isaias Hernández Sánchez, Director of Planning and Development of Nicaragua's CNU, undermined democratic processes or institutions by participating in a coordinated campaign to suppress dissent by taking

control over UCA and at least 25 other private Nicaraguan universities and installing supporters of the ruling party in the university administrations.

Mario José Caldera Alfaro, Vice President of Nicaragua's National Council for Evaluation and Accreditation (CNEA), undermined democratic processes or institutions by participating in a coordinated campaign to suppress dissent by taking control over UCA and at least 25 other private Nicaraguan universities and installing supporters of the ruling party in the university administrations.

Nivea del Socorro González Rojas, former board member of Nicaragua's CNEA, undermined democratic processes or institutions by participating in a coordinated campaign to suppress dissent by taking control over UCA and at least 25 other private Nicaraguan universities and installing supporters of the ruling party in the university administrations.

Francisco Martín Jácomo Ramírez, former board member of Nicaragua's CNEA, undermined democratic processes or institutions by participating in a coordinated campaign to suppress dissent by taking control over UCA and at least 25 other private Nicaraguan universities and installing supporters of the ruling party in the university administrations.

Luz Marina Ortis Narváez, Deputy Rector of the National Casimiro Sotelo University, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement policies that punish Casimiro Sotelo University faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) political party.

Moises Ignacio Palacios, General Secretary of the National Casimiro Sotelo University, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using his position to implement policies

that punish Casimiro Sotelo University faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's Sandinista FSLN political party.

Lilliam de Jesús Lezama Gaitán, Rector of the National Polytechnic University, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement policies that punish National Polytechnic University faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's Sandinista FSLN political party.

Henry Antonio Balmaceda Zamora, Deputy Rector of the National Polytechnic University, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using his position to implement policies that punish National Polytechnic University faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Maria Alejandra Martínez Guadamuz, General Secretary of the National Polytechnic University, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement policies that punish National Polytechnic University faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Johana Elena Torrez Mendoza, Rector of the National Multidisciplinary University Ricardo Morales Aviles, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement policies that punish National Multidisciplinary University Ricardo Morales Aviles faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

José Ramón Velásquez Hernández, Deputy Rector of the National Multidisciplinary University Ricardo Morales Aviles, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement policies that punish National Multidisciplinary University Ricardo Morales Aviles faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Juan Carlos Benavides Fuentes, Rector of the National University Francisco Luis Espinoza, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using his position to implement policies that punish National University Francisco Luis Espinoza faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Noemí del Carmen Obregón, Deputy Rector of the National University Francisco Luis Espinoza, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement policies that punish National University Francisco Luis Espinoza faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Jose Elías Álvarez, General Secretary of the National University Francisco Luis Espinoza, undermined democratic processes or institutions taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using his position to implement policies that punish National University Francisco Luis Espinoza faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Flor de María Pérez Vélez, Rector of the National University Padre Gaspar Garcia Laviana, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement

policies that punish National University Padre Gaspar Garcia Laviana faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Javier Guillermo Hernández Munguía, Vice Rector of the National University Padre Gaspar Garcia Laviana, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using his position to implement policies that punish National University Padre Gaspar García Laviana faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party.

Claudia Patricia Jovel Castillo, General Secretary of the National University Padre Gaspar Garcia Laviana, undermined democratic processes or institutions by taking part in a coordinated campaign to retaliate against critics of the Ortega-Murillo regime and to suppress dissent by using her position to implement policies that punish National University Padre Gaspar Garcia Laviana faculty and students who do not take part in political activities for Ortega's FSLN political party