

Migrant Ban Will Fail if Backdoor Remains Open

Guatemala's Porous Border Offers Easy Access through Mexico

by Steve Hecht



At times, one cannot tell whether he is in Mexico or Guatemala, so open is the border. ([595-mile](#), almost non-existent border with Mexico with countless crossing points. Mexican authorities are unable to stop the flow of illegals through their country, and recent [According](#) to the Council for Foreign Relations, Northern Triangle nations consistently rank as the most violent in the world. They estimate that 10 percent of the Northern Triangle populations have fled the lawlessness in recent decades, mostly to the United States.

Guatemala is the key Northern Triangle country for US interests, because of its long border with Mexico. Now the Trump administration can do what Obama's would not: properly apply the terms of the Alliance for Prosperity, bring the rule

of law to Guatemala, and create a real border with Mexico.

The United States is fortunate to now have General John Kelly as Secretary of Homeland Security. The former commander of the US Southern Command is very knowledgeable about the region. Understanding the dynamics of Central America, Kelly [estimated](#) that the wall will take about two years to construct. During that time, the Trump administration has an opportunity to immediately and significantly reduce illegal immigration without spending any more money than has already been approved by Congress.

The Trump administration should insist the Guatemalan government comply with the conditions of the Alliance for Prosperity. That means enforcing the law and confronting violence. Guatemala has elite security forces capable of rooting out criminal groups that terrorize rural populations, but the Obama administration has sidelined them for this purpose.

Todd Robinson, the US ambassador to Guatemala, has been a key implementer of the Obama agenda and is unfortunately [Impunity Observer](#)