

Tackling corruption and impunity:

International Mechanisms in Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico



The Support Mission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) is organized through the OAS. It was created in September 2015 at the request of the Honduran government.

The International Commission against Impunity In Guatemala (CICIG) is organized through the U.N. It was created in December 2006 in an agreement between the government and the U.N.

The Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) is organized through the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. It was created in November 2014.

The MACCIH was created to "accompany and strengthen" the Honduran justice system. It is focused broadly on institution building and has limited role in reviewing specific cases.

The CICIG was created to "support, strengthen and assist" state institutions that investigate and prosecute crimes. It has the capacity to both build up Guatemalan institutions and engage in its own investigations.

The GIEI was created to provide "international technical assistance" and investigate one specific case – the 43 missing students from Ayotzinapa, Mexico.

The MACCIH has a renewable two year mandate.

The CICIG has a renewable two year mandate.

The GIEI has a renewable six month mandate.

The roles of international lawyers and judges are limited to consulting on criminal investigations and advising Honduran authorities.

International lawyers and judges take an active role in investigating cases, filing criminal complaints, and joining criminal proceedings as a private prosecutor. They can also recommend public policies to the government.

An international team of human rights experts investigated the Ayotzinapa case, made recommendations to the Mexican government, and published a report clarifying the facts of the case.

Initial estimates predict that the MACCIH will cost \$1 to \$2 million annually. Its funding comes through the OAS, but additional funding sources are to be determined.

Over the nine years of its tenure, the budget for the CICIG has ranged from \$12 to \$20 million. Its funding comes from voluntary contributions from U.N. member states.

It is unclear how much the GIEI costs. Its costs are all covered by the Mexican government.

It remains unclear how large the staff of the MACCIH will be.

In 2013 the CICIG had 162 staff, 72 of which completed "substantive tasks."

The GIEI is made up of five international experts including lawyers, academics, and medical doctors.

The Support Mission has not yet begun its mandate.

The Commission has investigated more than 200 individuals and criminal networks, including 161 public officials.

The GIEI's mandate was recently renewed to continue investigating the Ayotzinapa case.