

PROFILES AND OPINIONS

Do you believe impunity levels have reduced in the country?

OUR TOPIC - Following the celebration of the International Day against Impunity, Guatemalans analyze whether there has been progress in the fight against impunity in the country.

ÁNGEL TOC, HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (SOLOLÁ)

INFLUENCES

I don't think so, because there is always influence peddling. Money buys judges and prosecutors, let alone the police. In Guatemala, powerful people have privileges and the poor always come off worse in court.

MELVIN PÉREZ, STUDENT (SANTA ROSA)

PROGRESS MADE

I believe some progress has been made. Unfortunately not as much as was hoped, because powerful people and millionaires do what they want with the courts in Guatemala. They are sent to prison and then just leave.

OSCAR LIMA, PAINTER (ZACAPA)

FAVORS

Very little has been achieved; there are political favors government after government. It is never ending. So long as corrupt people are in positions of power, impunity will continue in all of Guatemala.

ALEJANDRO CHUC, UNIVERSITY-LEVEL STUDENT (SUCHITEPÉQUEZ)

CICIG'S SUPPORT

CICIG's arrival demonstrated the desire to tackle impunity in Guatemala. However, we need a justice system that punishes crimes more quickly so that there are improvements and progress.

MELVIN SALAZAR, MERCHANT (QUETZALTENANGO)

NO CHANGES

Impunity still prevails in Guatemala. The innocent go to jail, and the powerful and former officials go free. The justice system protects all those who embezzle public funds.

ALEX FUNES, PROFESSOR (HUEHUETENANGO)

ENROOTED

So long as impunity stems from all levels of government, I think it will be difficult, yet not impossible, to make progress. With determination you can achieve anything. Impunity is an evil enrooted in Guatemala.

PROFILES AND OPINIONS

ASTRID GACHUPE, STUDENT (SACATEPÉQUEZ)

NOTHING ACHIEVED

I believe that despite the efforts of the institutions, we have not overcome impunity. As citizens, we want these levels to come down, because there are always people who accept bribes.

LUCY PAIZ, SECRETARY (EL PROGRESO)

YES

I think so. We see daily news stories on arrests made in relation to crimes, and the arrested people often have important jobs. Furthermore, institutions are being purged, and that is a good sign.

JAIME CUCUL, PRESENTER (ALTA VERAPAZ)

HARDLY

Unfortunately, we have made little, if any, progress. In our country, murders are prevalent and the majority of which are not investigated. White-collar criminals are still given privileged treatment by judges. There is a lack of consciousness.

HUMBERTO MOTTERLE, MERCHANT (IZABAL)

JUST ATTEMPTS

Basically, any efforts have only been made through CICIG, and the State has failed to support investigations to reduce impunity levels in Guatemala. The whole system needs to be strengthened and subject to reform.

JULIO NOJ, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST (CHIMALTENANGO)

10 PERCENT

Very weak progress has been made. The little progress is owing to international pressures to improve the administration of justice. Only 10 percent of results are positive, which is not a significantly large amount.