



Will Central America be our next Afghanistan?

Join TraCCC for a virtual webinar on the continued instability and insecurity in Central America, and destabilizing effects on the region, with some states veering towards authoritarian rule and criminalized markets. Pervasive kleptocracy, violent organized crime, and illicit economies across Central America have eroded the rule of law, stymied sustainable development, heightened poverty, diverted critical resources from financing economic growth, all while fueling an array of cross-border security threats across the region, including threats to U.S. national security and international community.

Panelists will discuss the similarities and differences between the situation in Afghanistan and the countries of Central America in relation to corruption, institutional weakness (especially in the judiciary), organized crime, violence against women and human rights, as well as the role of the U.S. and international community.

PANELISTS:

- **Louise Shelley (moderator)**: Director, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center, and University Professor, Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University.
- **Adriana Beltran**: Executive Director of Seattle International Foundation.
- **Stephen McFarland**: Former US Ambassador to Guatemala and Coordinator of Rule of Law and Enforcement in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- **Claudia Escobar Mejía**: Distinguished Visiting Professor, Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University, and Executive Director of Be Just NGO.

DATE: October 14, 2021

TIME: 12:00 – 13:30 p.m.

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