

UK sanctions Guatemalan Congressman under new global anti-corruption regime

World news story

The UK Government designated today Guatemalan Congressman Felipe Alejos Lorenzana due to his involvement in significant corruption.



In his official capacity, Felipe Alejos Lorenzana served as an intermediary for corrupt officials in a largescale corruption scandal involving Guatemala's Tax Administration. His conduct undermined democracy, the rule of law and good governance in Guatemala. Sanctions include assets freeze and travel ban.

This designation is made under the UK's [Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021](#), launched [today](#) and put in place to prevent and combat serious corruption. The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021 is secondary legislation laid under the [Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018](#). These regulations have replaced the EU's sanctions system.

The Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 provides that, in cases where the Secretary of Foreign Affairs has credible information officials of foreign governments have been involved in significant corruption, those involved in serious acts of corruption, such as Felipe Alejos Lorenzana, are prevented from entering the UK, as well as stopping their assets from being able to be dealt with in the UK.

Today's actions support UK public security interests and sends out a strong political message that the UK considers this conduct unacceptable. The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions regime targets individuals, not countries. The UK currently has no other sanctions targeting Guatemalan nationals.

These measures are being taken partly in tandem with the US, which is today also announcing further corruption sanctions. Acting together sends the clearest possible signal that corruption comes with a heavy price.

We continue to support initiatives that align with our own values of democracy, the respect for human rights and the rule of law. We will continue working with Guatemala to strengthen our bilateral economic relationship, and dealing with other top priority issues, such as tackling climate change and keep promoting good governance.

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