



Protecting Migrant Rights Across Borders

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 4, 2026

Media contact: [media@justiceinmotion.org](mailto:media@justiceinmotion.org)

**Justice in Motion Raises Concern Over Trial of Guatemalan Anti-Corruption Lawyer  
Claudia González Orellana**

NEW YORK – Justice in Motion expresses deep concern over the upcoming trial of Guatemalan human rights lawyer Claudia González, set to begin on May 5, 2026. A longtime member of Justice in Motion’s Defender Network, González has dedicated her career to advancing human rights and fighting corruption in Guatemala.

She now faces criminal charges of “abuse of authority” for work carried out in her role as a legal representative of the United Nations International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) – even though she did not serve as a public official under Guatemalan law. **Her prosecution is a critical test of whether efforts to combat corruption in Guatemala will be upheld or punished.**

**Cathleen Caron, Justice in Motion’s Executive Director:** “Claudia González is being prosecuted for fighting corruption. When lawyers are targeted for doing their jobs, it’s not just one lawyer at risk – it’s the rule of law itself.”

**González’s case is part of a broader pattern of criminalization against justice operators and human rights defenders.** Since her arrest in August 2023, proceedings have been marked by repeated delays, lack of transparency, and restrictions on public access, including a key hearing that stretched over 15 months.

Justice in Motion calls on Guatemalan authorities to ensure a fair, transparent, and impartial trial in line with international standards and will continue to closely monitor the proceedings.

For all media inquiries, please contact [media@justiceinmotion.org](mailto:media@justiceinmotion.org).

**###**

*[Justice in Motion](#) protects migrant rights by ensuring justice across borders. Our unique network of on-the-ground human rights defenders in Mexico and Central America partner with U.S. advocates to make sure that wherever migrants go, their rights will follow.*