Many Latin American countries have been plagued in recent times by corrupt officials at the highest levels of government. This illustration identifies twelve of the most egregious examples from ten Latin American countries.

**Peru**

Former President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski

Kuczynski was president of Peru from 2016 to 2018. He resigned in March 2018 just prior to a vote on impeachment for permanent moral unfitness. Kuczynski faced corruption charges based on his association with Brazil’s Odebrecht construction company, which is involving reputed Iranian bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru)

**Nicaragua**

Former President Ortega Saavedra

Ortega has served in his second term as president of Nicaragua since 2007. He has been the leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front that overthrew the Nicaraguan government in 1979. Nicaragua is now experiencing a virtual civil war, largely stemming from widespread popular dissatisfaction attributed to Ortega’s alleged corruption and repression. His repressive measures aimed at putting down political opposition have convinced him of a need for a concentration of military power in order to preserve his rule. Nicaragua has been through measures attributable to claims of electoral irregularities, assault, arrest, and torture of political opponents, and war by decree. (Photo courtesy of the Presidential Office of the Republic of China)

**Argentina**

Former President Cristina Elisabet Fernández de Kirchner

Kirchner was president of Argentina from 2007 to 2015. During her tenure, Kirchner faced a host of charges in court including manipulating currency for her own benefit, illicit associations, rampant corruption within her administration, and personal obstruction of justice and high treason with regard to a case involving reputed Iranian bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires. (Photo courtesy of the Office of the President of Argentina)

**Brazil**

Former President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva

Lula served as president of Brazil from 2003 to 2011. He was convicted of corruption and money laundering and sentenced to ten years in prison in January 2018. (Photo by Fabio Rodrigues Pozzebom, Agência Brasil)

**Venezuela**

Former President Hugo Chávez

Chávez was elected president of Venezuela in 1998 and served until his death in 2013. He quickly took control of all branches of the government and the army. He replaced Venezuela’s National Assembly and its supreme court, and then used them to rewrite its constitution to allow him to remain in power indefinitely effectively changing Venezuela from a democracy to a dictatorship. (Photo by Roberto Stuckert Filho, Agência Brasil)

**Chile**

Former President Michelle Bachelet

Bachelet served as the first female president of Chile from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018. Her previous popularity plummeted in 2015 when it was revealed that her son, Sebastián, arranged a secret real estate deal. In 2016, Compagnon was charged with obstruction of justice and high treason with regard to a case involving reputed Iranian bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires. (Photo by Micaela Ayala V., The News Agency of Ecuador and South America)

**Colombia**

Former President Juan Manuel Santos

Santos was president of Colombia from 2010 to 2018. In 2016, an international investigation confirmed that Santos knew of the existence of a great deal of illegal activity during his tenure. Santos, who had been accused of corruption, tax fraud due to her involvement in the scandal. (Photo by Roberto Stuckert Filho, Agência Brasil)

**Ecuador**

Former President Rafael Correa

Correa served as president of Ecuador from 2007 to 2017. Allegations of corruption by the former president include involvement in an attempted kidnapping of opposition lawnmaker Fernando Balda. He now resides in Belgium, while Ecuador is seeking his extradition on the kidnapping charges. Additionally, Ecuadorian Vice President Jorge Glas, who served under Correa and current president Lenin Moreno, was sentenced to six years in prison in 2017 for his involvement in Brazil’s Odebrecht construction company scandal. (Photo by Mikaela Aspik, The News Agency of Ecuador and South America)

**Chile**

Former President Michelle Bachelet

Bachelet served as the first female president of Chile from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018. She was caught by a wiretap attempting to shield Lula from prosecution, and was subsequently charged with criminal administrative misconduct for her failure to act on corruption denounced during the Operation Car Wash investigation and with disregarding the federal budget for funding programs without the required legislative approval. Rousseff was impeached and removed from office in 2016. (Photo by Roberto Stuckert Filho, Agência Brasil)