

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 7, 2025

Dear Chairman Paul,

We call on you, as Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC), to immediately hold a hearing on the Trump Administration's continuing refusal to comply with court orders or follow the rule of law. President Trump's actions threaten the system of checks and balances on which our country is founded. As Chairman of HSGAC, and as a steadfast advocate for Congress' role as a co-equal branch of government, you are uniquely positioned to exercise the Committee's authority and uphold its responsibility to keep the Administration accountable for these actions.

At President Trump's direction, our government defied multiple federal court orders related to the President's decision to send over 100 people to a foreign prison in El Salvador with no ability to contest the allegations against them in a court of law.

On March 14, the Trump Administration, invoking the Alien Enemies Act (AEA), initiated two flights from the United States to El Salvador—during and despite a court hearing contesting the legality of these actions.¹ Even after a federal judge's written order and oral command requiring the flights to return to the United States, the Administration defied the order and refused to halt the flights.²

The Trump Administration is also currently refusing to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling requiring the Administration to facilitate the return of Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia who the Administration admitted it illegally sent to El Salvador.³

¹ *Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, et al., v. J.G.G., et al.*, 604 U.S. ____ (2025) (Sotomayor, S. dissenting); Memorandum Opinion (Apr. 16, 2025), *J.G.G., et al., v. Donald J. Trump, et al.*, D.D.C. (No. 25-cv-00766-JEB).

² Hearing (Mar. 15, 2025), *J.G.G., et al., v. Donald J. Trump, et al.*, D.D.C. (No. 25-cv-00766-JEB); Memorandum Opinion (Apr. 16, 2025), *J.G.G., et al., v. Donald J. Trump, et al.*, D.D.C. (No. 25-cv-00766-JEB).

³ *Kristi Noem, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, et al., v. Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, et al.*, 604 U.S. ____ (2025) (per curium); *Maryland judge, Sen. Van Hollen push back against Trump administration over Kilmar Abrego Garcia case*, CBS News (Apr. 30, 2025) (<https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/kilmar-abrego-garcia-trump-deportation-immigration-judge/>).

In another case, the Trump Administration is refusing to comply with a federal court order to return another individual who was also wrongfully sent to El Salvador's prison in violation of a 2024 court settlement.⁴

In each of these instances, the Administration demonstrates its intention to upend our nation's bedrock principles of checks and balances by placing the Executive Branch above the law and outside the reach of judicial orders. The Administration has declined to present evidence of their claims in court, they have denied individuals their right to have a hearing to contest the government's claims, and they have refused to follow the rulings of multiple courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to the Administration's ongoing defiance of the courts, President Trump has now also threatened to send American citizens to foreign prisons.⁵

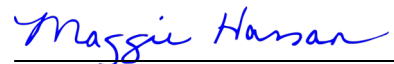
These actions paint a grim picture of an Administration that is undermining the core principles of our democracy and violating the rights guaranteed in our Constitution. This is a threat to the rights of all Americans. If Republican leaders in Congress fail to use their authority to protect our Constitutional rights, then you will embolden the President's continued violation of the law.

HSGAC is the U.S. Senate's chief oversight committee and has a strong tradition under Republican and Democratic leadership of holding the Executive Branch accountable to the law and to the American people. We therefore call on you to immediately hold an oversight hearing with Administration officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel, and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem to explain the Administration's disregard for the law and our nation's courts, and to call on the Administration to act in accordance with the Constitution of the United States.

Sincerely,



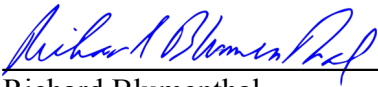
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



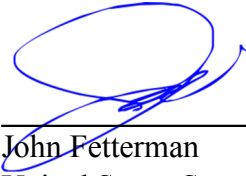
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

⁴ *Trump-appointed judge orders return of 2nd migrant deported to El Salvador*, ABC News (Apr. 23, 2025) (<https://abcnews.go.com/US/judge-orders-return-2nd-migrant-deported-el-salvador/story?id=121110233>).

⁵ *Trump again threatens to send Americans to prisons in El Salvador*, Axios (Apr. 14, 2025) (<https://www.axios.com/2025/04/14/trump-americans-el-salvador-prison-bukele>).



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator