

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 26, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We respectfully write to request your support for designating the Maduro regime in Venezuela as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.

In its most recent *Country Reports on Terrorism*, the State Department noted its 11th-annual consecutive determination that “Venezuela was not cooperating fully with U.S. counterterrorism efforts,” and cited credible reports that Maduro’s illegitimate dictatorship “allowed for support of activities that benefited known terrorist groups.” The State Department’s report elaborated on the nexus among Venezuela and various U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs): “Individuals linked to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army, and Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) were present in Venezuela, as well as Hizballah supporters and sympathizers.”

Moreover, the Treasury Department found, under the *Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act*, that the Maduro regime in Venezuela has taken no action against senior Venezuelan government officials who are under U.S. sanctions for assisting the narcotics-trafficking activities of the FARC terrorist group, which for more than fifty years has waged a guerilla war against the Colombian people and fueled its terrorist activities by trafficking weapons and drugs.

It comes as no surprise that the Maduro dictatorship aided and abetted terrorists. After years of cooperating with FARC, ELN, and other narco-trafficking terrorists, Venezuela has now become a “narco-state.” In fact, Tareck al-Aissami, who served as Venezuela’s vice president until June 14, 2018, has been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department as a “Specially Designated Narcotics Trafficker,” and two of Maduro’s nephews are currently serving 18 years in a U.S. prison for conspiring to import cocaine into the United States.

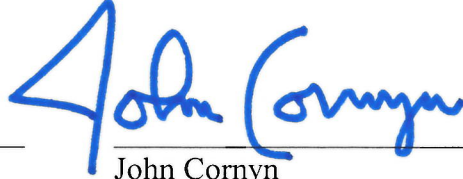
The crisis in Venezuela is dire and worsening every day. The United States must use all available tools to protect the American homeland and our people from the Venezuelan dictatorship’s egregious support for terrorism and narco-trafficking in Venezuela. We strongly

believe that the Maduro regime in Venezuela meets the criteria necessary to designate the current Venezuelan government as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.

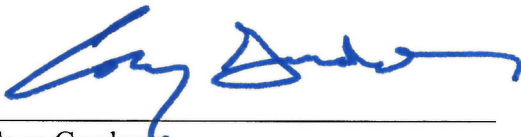
Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn
U.S. Senator



Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator