



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 5, 2023

F-2019-06199

Melanie Sloan
1030 15th Street NW Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This is in response to your May 16, 2019, request submitted pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, in which you requested Records for all email communications between (1) U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela Elliot Abrams, and anyone communicating on his behalf such as a Chief of Staff, executive assistant, or scheduler, and (2) Senator Marco Rubio, or any member of his staff, including any communications to or from email addresses ending in rubio.senate.gov or marcorubio.com.. The Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services received your FOIA request on May 16, 2019, and assigned it tracking number F-2019-06199. Please include the tracking number in all future communications concerning this FOIA request.

Please be advised that a search was conducted in the Department of State Bureau of Legislative Affairs, the Office of Information, Programs, and Services, the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, and 17 records, totaling 69 pages, were located that are responsive to your request. After careful review, we determined that 1 record is appropriate for release in full and 16 records are appropriate for release in part. All released material is enclosed. The Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. The denied information is exempt from release pursuant to:

- 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), which concerns certain inter- and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege; and
- 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), which concerns material the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy.

This action closes your request in this office. For further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison via email to FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at (202) 261-8484.

If you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your FOIA request, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Appeals Review Panel, Office of

Information Programs and Services (IPS), U.S. Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/PP/LA, HST Room B266, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520, or by faxing to 202-485-1718. Appeals must be postmarked within 90 calendar days and include a copy of this letter, clearly stating why you disagree with the determination set forth in this response.

Additionally, if you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your request, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA Mediation Services they offer. The contact information is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email address: ogis@nara.gov; telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free number: 1-877-684-6448; fax: (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

JAMES A
ROSENBAUM

Digitally signed by JAMES A
ROSENBAUM
Date: 2023.09.05 08:47:35 -04'00'

Andy Rosenbaum
Branch Chief
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosure(s):
As stated

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	tweet?
Date:	Wed, 12 Jun 2019 22:35:46 +0000

"Venezuela's Central Bank announced today the introduction of three new banknote denominations: 10,000; 20,000; and 50,000 bolivars. Currently, the largest bill is the 500 bolivar, worth just \$0.08."

May be worth tweeting about —what a measure of inflation!

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
United States Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.,
Washington D.C. 20520
Tel: (b)(6)

Sender:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	Trio of misfortune
Date:	Tue, 26 Mar 2019 13:45:21 +0000

"In a televised broadcast to the nation, Venezuela's vice-president, Delcy Rodríguez, claimed the blackout was the result of an attack on a key transmission line by members of Venezuela's "fascist right" and their "imperial masters" in Washington.

"Without offering evidence, Rodríguez pointed the finger of blame at "the trio of misfortune, perversity and criminality" – the US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, the national security adviser, John Bolton, and the Republican senator Marco Rubio."

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
U.S. Department of State

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

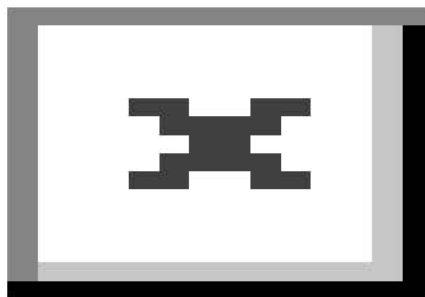
Sender:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	Senator Marco Rubio <newsletter@rubio.senate.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	This Week in the Office of Senator Marco Rubio
Date:	Fri, 7 Aug 2020 16:01:39 -0400

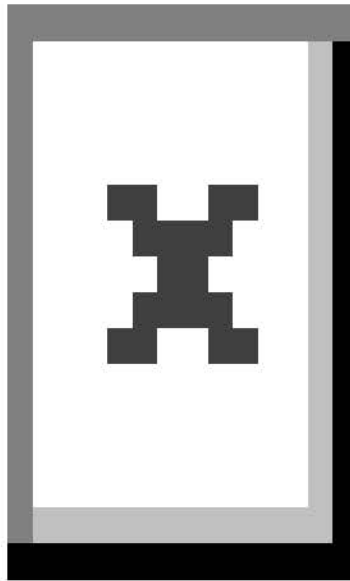


This Week in the Office of Senator Marco Rubio

On Wednesday, I joined *Squawk Box* on CNBC to discuss the prospect of passing another relief bill, the threat TikTok poses to our national security, and the state of COVID-19 in Florida. Watch the full interview [here](#).

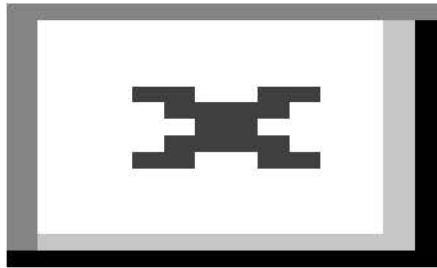


On Thursday, I sent a letter to Governor Ron DeSantis outlining measures that, if adopted, could allow Florida student athletes to safely return to high school sports this fall. My proposal is based on a review of protocols created by states, youth sports organizations, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), with guidance from leading public health authorities and experts. Read more [here](#).

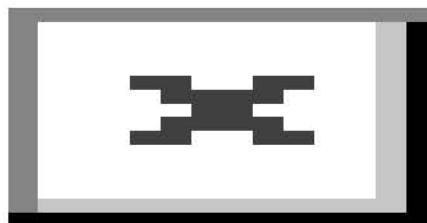


On Tuesday, I spoke during a Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Hearing on Venezuela's deteriorating security and humanitarian situation under the corrupt Maduro crime syndicate, with testimony from Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Joshua Hodges. During the hearing, I questioned Special Representative Abrams about U.S. policy toward Venezuela, and Abrams confirmed that the U.S. is not open to negotiating a deal that allows dictator Nicolás Maduro to remain in power. Read my full

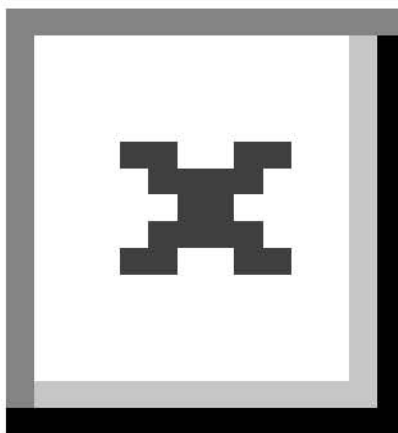
remarks [here](#) and watch the video [here](#).



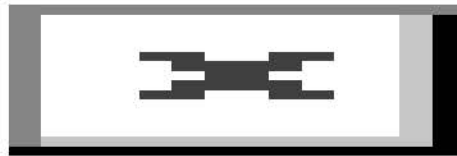
On Thursday, I introduced a bill to extend the federal safe harbor period for states to determine electors from December 8, 2020 to January 1, 2021 for this year's presidential election. Doing so would give states the flexibility needed in a pandemic to help ensure each and every legal vote cast is counted. In a *Medium* post titled, "Americans Should Expect Election Chaos," I warned how hostile foreign actors like China and Russia are looking to exploit the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic to sow discord and undermine our democracy. Read more [here](#).



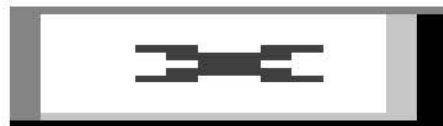
On Tuesday, I published an op-ed in *American Compass* discussing how America's competitiveness in the semiconductor industry has been placed in jeopardy due to the U.S. losing its manufacturing capacity. To address this, we must revitalize American manufacturing and strengthen our nation's industrial base in critical areas. Read the full article [here](#).



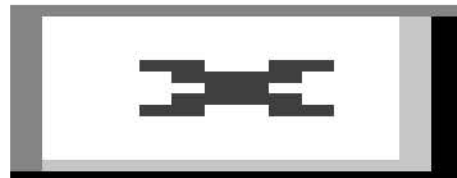
On Monday, I joined March for Life President Jeanne Mancini in publishing an op-ed in the *Washington Examiner* demanding that Planned Parenthood follow the lead of the Florida Democratic Party and return the tens of millions of dollars in Paycheck Protection Program funds which it has illicitly taken from taxpayers. Read the full article [here](#).



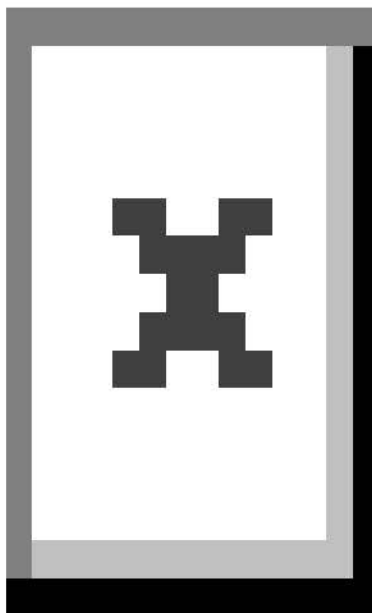
On Tuesday, I joined the Hugh Hewitt Show to discuss TikTok's relationship with the Chinese Communist Party, the next round of small business relief, and more. Listen to the full interview [here](#).



On Tuesday, as Acting Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I joined Vice Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA) in releasing a joint statement after the Committee voted to adopt the classified version of the fifth and final volume of the Committee's bipartisan Russia investigation. Read more [here](#).

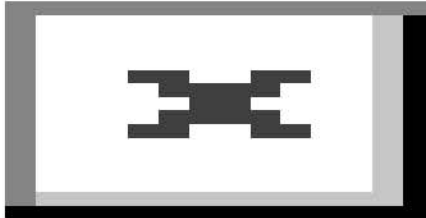


On Thursday, Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and I wrote to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after an investigative report found that the league's "Chinese partners were physically abusing young players and failing to provide schooling, even though commissioner Adam Silver had said that education would be central to the program." In our letter, we requested answers to when and how the NBA took steps to terminate its relationship with the training camp in Xinjiang, why the abuse of young players went unnoticed, and what steps the NBA has taken to prevent similar problems from recurring. Read more [here](#).

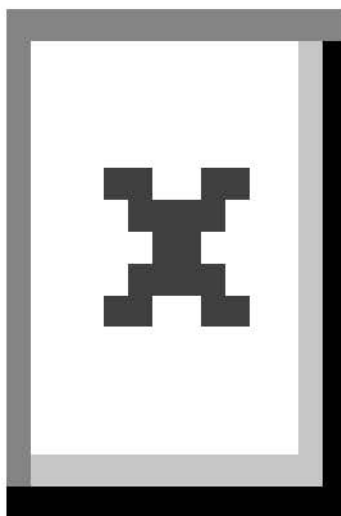


On Thursday, I joined Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) in publishing an op-ed in *Roll Call* discussing our *Strengthening America's Health Care Readiness Act*, legislation which would address health workforce shortages and medical disparities, as well as bolster health worker surge capacity to be prepared and respond to health emergencies, such as pandemics or natural

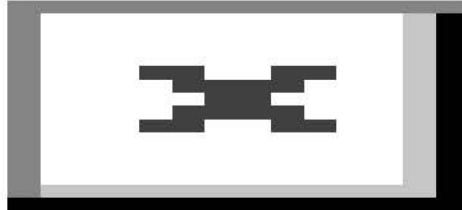
disasters. Read the full article [here](#).



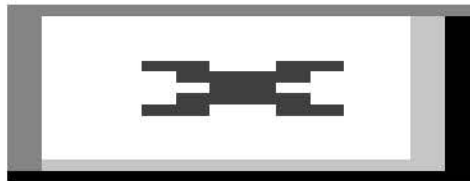
On Thursday, I joined Senators Rick Scott (R-FL), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Josh Hawley (R-MO), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Martha McSally (R-AZ) in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross urging the Department to examine the impact that importing Chinese-made drones has on national security. My colleagues and I also introduced the *American Security Drone Act* to prohibit the U.S. Government from purchasing drones manufactured in countries identified as national security threats, including Iran and China. Read more [here](#).



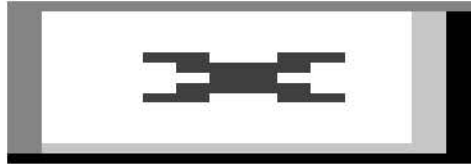
On Friday, I welcomed two Executive Orders by President Trump to address the national security threat posed by TikTok and WeChat. Last October, I was the first lawmakers to warn of the danger posed by TikTok when I requested that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) launch a full review of the national security implications of TikTok's acquisition of Musical.ly. This review by CFIUS remains ongoing. Read more [here](#).



On Friday, I welcomed the report released by President Trump's Working Group on Financial Markets to address China's exploitation of U.S. capital markets. Last month, I wrote to members of the working group urging them to address the risks posed to American investors by the lack of required accounting oversight of Chinese firms listed on U.S. stock exchanges, the inclusion of Chinese stocks and bonds on securities indexes, and lack of recourse for American investors who have been defrauded by Chinese firms. Read more [here](#).



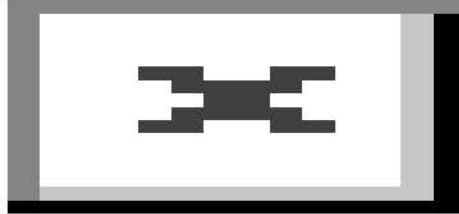
On Friday, as author of the *Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act*, I issued a statement after the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), pursuant to Executive Order 13936, sanctioned 11 individuals for their role in undermining Hong Kong's autonomy and suppressing Hong Kongers' rights, including Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Carrie Lam. Read more [here](#).



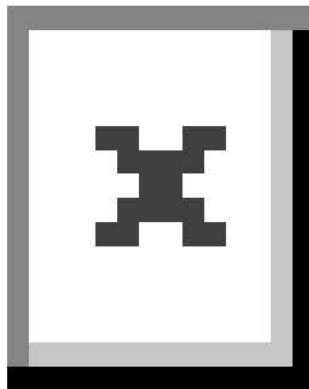
On Thursday, I joined Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) in applauding the Senate's passage of our bipartisan resolution, which calls for a free, fair, and transparent presidential election in Belarus on Sunday. Read more [here](#).



On Thursday, I joined Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Jim Risch (R-ID), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Mark Warner (D-VA), and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) in issuing a joint statement ahead of the 22nd anniversary of the bombings at the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania on August 7, 1998. Read more [here](#).



On Wednesday, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I named JWR Construction Inc. of Deerfield Beach, FL as the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week. Read more [here](#).



Legislation Introduced

- On Thursday, I introduced the *Medical Manufacturing, Economic Development, and Sustainability (MMEDS) Act of 2020*, which encourages companies currently producing medical and pharmaceutical equipment abroad to relocate to the U.S. The bill would also enact a tax credit of federal income tax liability for wages and eligible pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in economically distressed zones, including Puerto Rico. Read more [here](#).

In Case You Missed It...

"Marco Rubio: Americans Should Expect Election Chaos" ([Medium](#), 08/06/20)

"Marco Rubio: Intel's Stumble Is Very Bad for America" ([American Compass](#), 08/04/20)

"Marco Rubio and Jeanne Mancini: Planned Parenthood must return Paycheck Protection Program money to taxpayers" ([Washington Examiner](#), 08/03/20)

"Marco Rubio and Dick Durbin: How can we fix our health worker shortage? Start with tackling student debt" ([Roll Call](#), 08/06/20)

"Sen. Marco Rubio wants prep football in '20, and recommends how to do it" ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 08/06/20)

"Marco Rubio Advances Crucial Election-Support Ideas" ([National Review](#), 08/06/20)

"As the coronavirus pandemic began shutting down the U.S. economy in March, Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.) spearheaded legislation creating the \$670 billion Paycheck Protection Program, one of the most expensive business-rescue frameworks in history." (How Senate's Small Business Chairman Sees PPP Evolving, [Wall Street Journal](#), 08/02/20)

"As long as [the Democrats have] calculated that they think they can benefit politically by the unemployed not getting benefits, by small-business funding running out, by schools not getting the money they need to reopen ... it's going to be hard for us to move forward," Rubio

said on Capitol Hill Thursday. "And that's the calculation they've made, it appears." ('We're very far apart': Coronavirus relief negotiations left in uncertainty after Congress leaves for the weekend, USA Today, 08/06/20)

"Rubio warns of surge in small business layoffs if PPP money dries up" (CNBC, 08/05/20)

"Exclusiva: Marco Rubio habla sobre el COVID-19 y Latino América" (Telemundo 49, 08/05/20)

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This e-mail was sent to (b)(6)
[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

Senator Marco Rubio
United States Senate Washington DC, 20510

Phone: (b)(6)
Fax: n/a



Sender:	Senator Marco Rubio <newsletter@rubio.senate.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Subject:	Testimony for Special Representative Abrams - SFRC Venezuela Hearing
Date:	Wed, 6 Mar 2019 22:19:41 +0000

Good afternoon,

I am attaching the testimony for U.S. Special Representative Elliot Abrams ahead of tomorrow's hearing titled, "U.S.-Venezuela Relations And The Path to a Democratic Transition." Please pass to SFRC staffers I might have missed.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:55 AM

To: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

(b)(6)

Thanks for your note.

Please have the driver drop Mr. Abrams at the First and Constitution Avenue door of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

I will be waiting there for him.

My cellphone number is (b)(6)

What time will he be arriving?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Meg

Meg Murphy
Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel

United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:52 AM

To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov> (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Before I make the motor pool request, are there specific instructions I should include in my request about driving to the Senate?

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) (Caracas)

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:03 AM

To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov> (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Good morning,

I will make a motor pool request for the S/R, (b)(6) and (b)(6) I will forward the driver details to you when I receive them.

Regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) FS OMS

Elliott Abrams, Special Representative for Venezuela

Tel: (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Elliott Abrams <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:10 PM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6) (Caracas) <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

My only guest is (b)(6)

I imagine we will have a motor pool car. (Adding (b)(6) here, who can tell us.) In any event, help with the line would be useful.

Thanks.

----- Original Message -----

Received: 05:06 PM EST, 03/05/2019
From: "Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)" <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
To: "Zarate, Robert (Rubio)" <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>, USA.NET (b)(6)
Cc: "Poulos, Bethany (Rubio)" <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Mr. Abrams,
Will State motor pool drop you off on Thursday?
Please advise as I can meet you and cut the line getting in the building.
We have had lots of lines as there are many visitors visiting the Senate.

We are saving a seat for your daughter for the hearing.
Please let me know if you have any other guests.
Thank you.
Meg

Meg Murphy
Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
(b)(6)

From: Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:55 PM
To: USA.NET (b)(6) Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Dear Elliott: I'm putting you in touch with Meg Murphy, who handles protocol for SFRC. See below. She's trying to clear a car for you.—Bobby

Robert Zarate

Senior Foreign Policy Advisor

Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Trunkline: (b)(6)

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)

Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:46 AM

To: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio)

<MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations)

<Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Bethany,

Thanks for your note.

Got it.

Please loop me in with Mr. Abrams office as I may need to clear a car for him.

Many thanks.

Meg

Meg Murphy

Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel

United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:44 AM

To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Ramos, Maria

Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations)

<Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thanks, Meg. Sorry in advance as this might be a little confusing. The three names listed below will be Senator Rubio's guests. He may have additional names for VIP list and we will send them as soon as we have those!

Separate request: Mr. Abrams (b)(6) will be his guest and I am not sure if she will be arriving with him but he requested a seat behind him for her.

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)

Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:39 AM

To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thank you for your note.

We will have the guests on a VIP list at the door to the hearing.

Will the guests arrive with Mr. Abrams?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Meg

Meg Murphy

Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel

United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 6:42 PM

To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)

<Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

No problem here are the 3 names:

1. (b)(6)
- 2.
- 3.

From: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 4:00 PM

To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Would you mind giving us the guests names? And are these all guests of Mr. Abrams? Will they be arriving with him?

Thanks so much,

Emily Cottle

Director of Operations
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thank you!

From: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Yes, of course!

Emily Cottle

Director of Operations
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Hi Emily,

Could we please reserve four chairs for 4 guests on Thursday at subcommittee hearing?

Best,

Maria-Paula

Maria-Paula Ramos

Office of Senator Marco Rubio

Foreign Policy Staff

Legislative Correspondent

T: (b)(6)

Email: MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov

Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

U.S.-VENEZUELA RELATIONS AND THE PATH TO A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

TESTIMONY OF
ELLIOTT ABRAMS
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR VENEZUELA
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BEFORE
THE UNITED STATES SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE
MARCH 7, 2019

Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member Cardin, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Administration's approach to Venezuela. I thank all of you for your interest in one of the most pressing foreign policy issues before us. We are witnessing one of the worst humanitarian disasters ever in our hemisphere. And it is all man-made, by a small and venal group acting without the slightest concern for the people of Venezuela.

On February 23, the world witnessed disgraced former president of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro and his wife joyfully dance after his criminal gangs murdered more than 25 people, injured more than 80 others, and set fire to and destroyed humanitarian assistance that could have fed hungry children, provided medicines to the sick, and saved lives. His henchmen, like Freddy Bernal, released prisoners from jail and paid them—along with terrorists groups like the ELN—to shoot, harass, and intimidate indigenous people and aid workers who only wanted to bring long-awaited relief to Venezuelans. And the effects of Venezuela's crisis are not limited to its own borders. We are witnessing the largest displacement of people in Latin American history. Well over three million Venezuelans have fled to neighboring countries.

In short, while his own people starve and bleed, the Maduro regime celebrates.

Every day that goes by, the suffering of the Venezuelan people grows. But every day, we also see Maduro grow weaker and that's why the Venezuelan people should not lose hope. We now know Maduro can no longer depend on the loyalty of those around him. He may dress up his thugs in military and National Guard uniforms to make it appear he has support, but his use of armed gangs suggests his real doubts about the loyalty of the Venezuelan military. Maduro's back is up

against the wall. Surrounding him on all sides, he has people who despise him—people just waiting for the right moment to show him the door.

It's becoming clearer that the vast majority of the Armed Forces and National Guard do not want to carry out Maduro's shameful orders. For those members of the armed forces who are still on the fence, fearing retaliation by Maduro's Cuban accomplices, we have told them that now is the time to take a stand because Maduro is waging war against his own people. We are asking them to show their pride and patriotism by lifting their own people out of this crisis. Their people need them now more than ever and they have a key role to play in rebuilding their homeland. Interim President Juan Guaidó, his representative in the United States Ambassador Carlos Vecchio, political parties in Venezuela's legitimate National Assembly, and the National Assembly's economic recovery planners have all stated that the transition to a new, post-Maduro Venezuela will be a multi-party, inclusive process. It will also include chavistas and others of every socio-economic background who see a democratic future for Venezuela, led by the Venezuelan people—not a Venezuelan dictator and a small, corrupt crew.

In the meantime, Mr. Chairman, the Venezuelan people have the commitment of the United States government to work with them as they restore their democracy, restore a proper respect for human rights, and rebuild the prosperity of their nation.

First, we will keep building the pressure on Nicolás Maduro. We are putting an end to his regime's pillaging of PDVSA, once called the "crown jewel of the people," as a source of vast corruption. We have implemented sanctions that are cutting off vital sources of cash to this corrupt regime's pockets. Customers for Venezuela's oil are dwindling, reducing the regime's ability to sustain itself and enrich insiders. We are also working with the international community to freeze the regime's bank accounts across the globe. We are revoking their own and their families' visas and we are applying the full weight of individual sanctions on Maduro's supporters.

We are also making it clear that it is never too late to change. Off-ramps are available to those who concretely support democratic change in Venezuela and do what is right for the Venezuelan people.

At the same time, we have answered interim President Guaidó's call for humanitarian help. Vice President Pence's February 25 announcement of nearly \$56 million in additional humanitarian assistance to support the regional response to the Venezuela crisis brings the total United States government response to more

than \$195 million, including more than \$152 million in humanitarian assistance and approximately \$43 million in development and economic assistance. On January 24, Secretary Pompeo announced the United States is ready to provide more than \$20 million in initial humanitarian assistance to the people inside Venezuela. We have stocked warehouses full of food and basic medicine at the border crossing of Cucuta, Colombia, and are seeking ways to bring these supplies into Venezuela and have them distributed to people in need.

Maduro and his cronies, and some of his cheerleaders abroad, claim that delivering humanitarian assistance is a political show—a cover for a military intervention and a violation of Venezuela's sovereignty. But let me be very clear: only the Maduro regime is using violence. Only the regime is shooting at and killing unarmed protestors and aid workers. Only the regime has betrayed Venezuelan independence and sovereignty by submitting to Cuban influence in Venezuela's military, security, and intelligence. Only the regime uses food and medicines as political tools for social control. Their repeated mention of U.S. military intervention is simply a ploy designed to divide the broad, unified international coalition of 54 countries supporting democracy in Venezuela.

We are grateful for the leadership of our partners in supporting humanitarian assistance for the people of Venezuela and supporting their demand for democracy. The European Union, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Peru, all swiftly condemned the use of violence and called for the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance. Their words, and their actions, are making a real difference in this crisis. As a result, we are witnessing a historic shift in our hemisphere toward solidarity and shared interests – recognizing we are stronger together. With 54 countries that have now recognized Guaidó as interim president, we can be proud that we have helped galvanize a global effort to restore democracy and liberty in Venezuela.

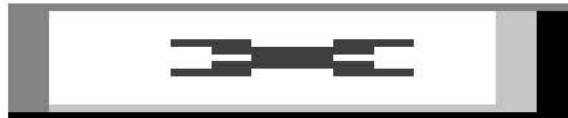
Although Maduro's dictatorial actions have cost lives and inflicted great pain and suffering, we are witnessing a massive outpouring of hope, courage, and tenacity by the Venezuelan people. They are openly condemning a regime that has brought them nothing but sadness, anger, and misery. The protests of 2017 were significant. What we are seeing today should humble and inspire us all: Venezuelans from all walks of life united in an enduring struggle to end this nightmare. Each day, courageous Venezuelan patriots struggle to make Venezuela free, often at their own peril. They are bringing change to Venezuela through their bravery. And over the last few weeks, they have been heard. Interim President Juan Guaidó has injected new energy into the collective hope of those who want to

return to a Venezuela that benefits all Venezuelan citizens, not just Maduro and his inner circle.

The United States stands behind Interim President Guaidó 100 percent. More importantly, Mr. Chairman, we stand united behind the Venezuelan people. We will not abandon them in this difficult moment. Like the vast majority of Venezuelans, we believe that the time to end Maduro's wholesale destruction of Venezuela is now. And when Venezuelans succeed in ending the dictatorship and restoring liberty, it will show despots and dictators not only in our hemisphere, but in the rest of the world, that the people's desire for freedom cannot be extinguished.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee. I look forward to answering any questions you have.

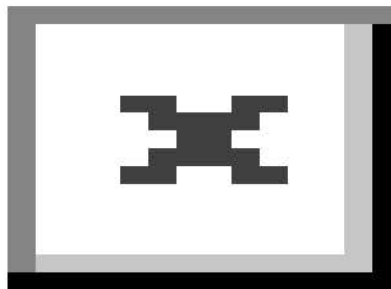
From:	"PressShop, Rubio (Rubio)" <RubioPressShop@rubio.senate.gov>
To:	PressShop, Rubio (Rubio) <RubioPressShop@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	Rubio Speaks at Hearing on Venezuela's Deteriorating Security and Humanitarian Situation Under the Corrupt Maduro Crime Syndicate
Date:	Tue, 4 Aug 2020 21:17:00 +0000



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
[View Online](#)

Contact: Dan Holler
202-224-3041

RUBIO SPEAKS AT HEARING ON VENEZUELA'S DETERIORATING SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION UNDER THE CORRUPT MADURO CRIME SYNDICATE



Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) spoke during a Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Hearing on Venezuela's deteriorating security and humanitarian situation under the corrupt Maduro crime syndicate, with testimony from Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams and U.S. Agency for International

Development (USAID) Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Joshua Hodges.

Rubio questioned Special Representative Abrams about U.S. policy towards Venezuela and Abrams confirmed that the U.S. is not open to negotiating a deal that allows Dictator Nicolás Maduro to remain in power.

Video of Rubio's remarks can be found [here](#) and a full transcript of Senator Rubio's remarks are below.

Rubio: Thank you both for being here. **How many countries in Latin America recognize Guaidó as the legitimate Interim President?**

Abrams: Every country except I think Cuba, Argentina, and Mexico.

Rubio: I imagine Nicaragua?

Abrams: Yeah, and Nicaragua. Sorry.

Rubio: We didn't just pull Guaidó out of the air and say this is who we recognize. The basis of our support for Juan Guaidó is the legitimate interim and the basis for why all these other countries have also recognized him is because he is the democratically elected member of the National Assembly, who the democratically elected members of the National Assembly have made the President of that Assembly. That under the Venezuelan Constitution fills the role of President when there is a vacancy in that office. Is that not the reason why we recognize him?

Abrams: That's correct. We did not choose Juan Guaidó, the Constitution of Venezuela chose Juan Guaidó.

Rubio: As Interim President until the next free and fair election?

Abrams: Yes.

Rubio: I also heard a comment earlier by one of my colleagues, Senator Paul who is no longer here, he said "our policy of replacing Maduro with Guaidó", that is not the policy of the United States. **The policy of the United States is to try to promote a transition to free and fair elections where the people of Venezuela choose who the next President of Venezuela is.**

Abrams: That's exactly right.

Rubio: Let me ask you another thing you hear a lot about is [Maduro] is still clinging on to power. **First of all, I think it's fair to say, the Maduro regime is not really a government in the traditional sense of the word. It's an organized crime reign, is that a fair characterization?**

Abrams: It is. And I think that's what distinguishes it from many Latin American cases of Military Juntas, which were replaced by democratic governments.

Rubio: And as a criminal enterprise, basically what it's comprised of, these individuals that allow Maduro to remain in "power". Much of the country, they don't really exercise much government grid any longer, they're heavily focused in Caracas. But to the extent that they are in control of national territory, people that allow them to do it, the reason why they allow them to do it, it's fair to say it's not because of ideological or personal affinity to Mr. Maduro. It is actually the fact that these people have become very rich and want to maintain power that allows them to keep their money and their personal freedom. Would you not say that is the glue that holds together this criminal enterprise?

Abrams: I would, Senator. I think that explains part of the difficulty in getting them out.

Rubio: And the reason why they won't leave is not because they love Maduro, some of them want to replace him. The reason why they can't leave is because right now he's their best bet. At least for the moment. In essence, of all the options before them, this is the one that most guarantees them the power — for the time being — to protect their wealth and their personal freedom.

Abrams: Senator, I think that's right. Again, I think it explains the great difficulty of Venezuela.

Rubio: Is it not also fair to say that one of the things that a lot of those folks in there are probably thinking about is "let's see what happens moving on in American politics, maybe a change in policy". To me, this is an issue that's been pretty strong in bipartisan support. I think it's a bad assumption on their part, but there are some that are sort of standing around saying "well let's wait around and see because maybe after the elections there will be a change in policy that will take the pressure off of us."

Abrams: That's our calculation too. Maduro is to some extent watching and waiting.

Rubio: I think it's a bet. I don't think he has very many supporters here that are in favor of him remaining in power.

The last point is pretty straight forward questions. You've answered it in many ways and times. **But I want to reiterate once more: Whether it's the President or anybody else, when they discuss talking to Maduro, that means a negotiation with Maduro about how he leaves his current position and allows for there to be free and fair elections. We are not discussing talks. We are not open to talks about how he remains in power.**

Abrams: That is right. We are open to talks about him leaving power if he doesn't want to leave Venezuela, what happens to the sanctions for him and other people.

Those discussions we're willing to have, but a negotiation about his remaining in power in Venezuela we are not going to have.

Rubio: And my last question is, we see them buying all of this gasoline from the Iranians. One of the most oil rich nations in the world no longer has any refining capacity and that has been the case for a long time even before these sanctions took hold. How are they paying for it?

Abrams: They're paying Iran with gold, as far as we're aware.

Rubio: From both their reserves and illegal mining?

Abrams: Yeah, their gold reserves value seems to be rising because the price of gold is rising. But we are able to see sometimes the movement of gold out, which we think is to Iran. And they're trying to refill it, in part, through current gold mining in the Arco Minero.

Rubio: So, in essence, they are depleting their national gold reserves to buy time to provide even a very limited amount of fuel.

Abrams: They are.

Rubio: Thank you.

###

Sender:	"PressShop, Rubio (Rubio)" <RubioPressShop@rubio.senate.gov>
Recipient:	PressShop, Rubio (Rubio) <RubioPressShop@rubio.senate.gov>



marco[®]

RUBIO

U.S. SENATOR for FLORIDA

F-2019-06199

A-0000032731

"UNCLASSIFIED"

9/5/2023

STATE-19-0598-A-0000032

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	RE: Today's Hearing
Date:	Fri, 8 Mar 2019 12:03:55 +0000

Power still out in Caracas.

From: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:53 PM
To: Abrams, Elliott <AbramsE@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Today's Hearing

The bigger story is that the backup generators didn't come on which tells you they are out of diesel fuel. People who depend on oxygen and medical support will die tonight in Venezuela.

If this is not restored soon it could trigger dramatic and cataclysmic developments.

By the way, the information minister says I am behind the sabotage.

On Mar 7, 2019, at 9:53 PM, Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Power outage in Caracas and most of Venezuela since 5 pm. They're blaming sabotage.

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
U.S. Department of State

From: Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:33 PM
To: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio)
Subject: RE: Today's Hearing

I will—many thanks

From: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 2:32 PM
To: Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Today's Hearing

You did an excellent job.

(b)(5)

Let me know how I can help.

On Mar 7, 2019, at 11:56 AM, Abrams, Elliott <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Thanks very much for this. We sure got the use of force from the other side. I hope my answers to your questions were good. We will absolutely do more financial sanctions, maybe end of next week

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
U.S. Department of State

From: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <marco_rubiobb@rubio.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 9:23 AM

To: Abrams, Elliott

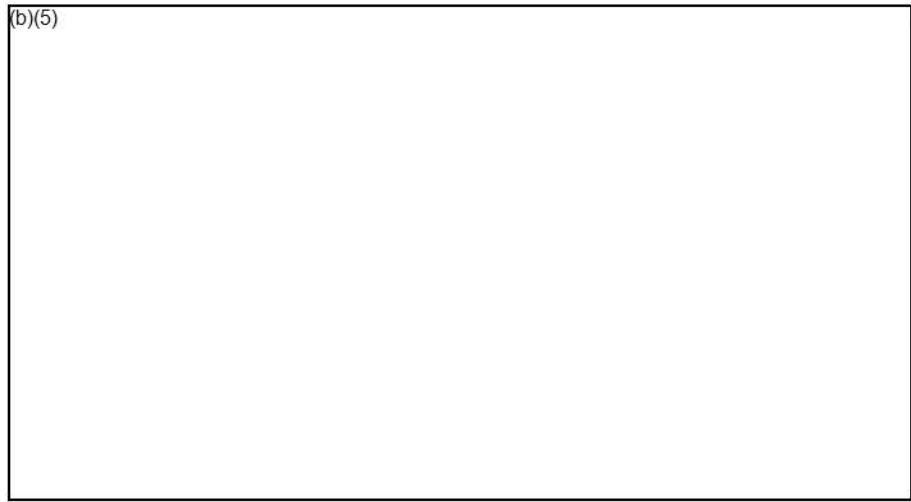
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Today's Hearing

Elliot:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



Thanks

Sender: "Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>

Recipient: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	RE: Today's Hearing
Date:	Fri, 8 Mar 2019 12:55:08 +0000

I will not abuse this email address—truly. But I want to say one good word for (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

If you've made your decision, so be it.

From: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 7:51 AM
To: Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Today's Hearing

Good!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2019, at 7:43 AM, Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

"US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also weighed in:
'No food. No medicine. Now, no power. Next, no Maduro', he tweeted."

I wrote that line and I like it!

From: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:53 PM
To: Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Today's Hearing

The bigger story is that the backup generators didn't come on which tells you they are out of diesel fuel. People who depend on oxygen and medical support will die tonight in Venezuela.

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Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
U.S. Department of State

From: Abrams, Elliott <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:33 PM
To: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio)
Subject: RE: Today's Hearing

I will—many thanks

From: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 2:32 PM
To: Abrams, Elliott <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Today's Hearing

You did an excellent job.

(b)(5)

Let me know how I can help.

On Mar 7, 2019, at 11:56 AM, Abrams, Elliott <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Thanks very much for this. We sure got the use of force from the other side. I hope my answers to your questions were good. We will absolutely do more financial sanctions, maybe end of next week

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
U.S. Department of State

From: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio)
<marco_rubiobb@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 9:23 AM

To: Abrams, Elliott

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Today's Hearing

Elliot:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks

Sender: "Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>

Recipient: RubioBB, Marco (Rubio) <Marco_RubioBB@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	"Bovo, Viviana (Rubio)" <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Subject:	RE: Testimony for Special Representative Abrams - SFRC Venezuela Hearing
Date:	Thu, 7 Mar 2019 00:34:41 +0000

No problem.

Thank you



VIVIANA BOVO

SENIOR ADVISOR FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

284 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington DC 20510

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:22 PM

To: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Testimony for Special Representative Abrams - SFRC Venezuela Hearing

Hi Viviana,

It is the same testimony. We are having some difficulties with Outlook. Apologies for sending twice, but wanted to make sure you received it.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:20 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Testimony for Special Representative Abrams - SFRC Venezuela Hearing

Hi

(b)(6)

Is this different than the one you sent at 5:21pm today?

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 7:16 PM
To: Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Subject: Testimony for Special Representative Abrams - SFRC Venezuela Hearing

Good evening,

I am attaching the testimony for U.S. Special Representative Elliot Abrams ahead of tomorrow's hearing titled, "U.S.-Venezuela Relations And The Path to a Democratic Transition." Please pass to SFRC staffers I might have missed.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:55 AM
To: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

(b)(6)

Thanks for your note.

Please have the driver drop Mr. Abrams at the First and Constitution Avenue door of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

I will be waiting there for him.

My cellphone number is (b)(6)

What time will he be arriving?

Please advise.
Thank you.
Meg

Meg Murphy
Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Before I make the motor pool request, are there specific instructions I should include in my request about driving to the Senate?

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) (Caracas)
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:03 AM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Good morning,

I will make a motor pool request for the S/R, (b)(6) and (b)(6) I will forward the driver details to you when I receive them.

Regards,

(b)(6)

FS OMS

Elliott Abrams, Special Representative for Venezuela

Tel: (b)(6)

**Official
UNCLASSIFIED**

From: Elliott Abrams (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:10 PM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

My only guest is (b)(6)

I imagine we will have a motor pool car. (Adding (b)(6) here, who can tell us.) In any event, help with the line would be useful.

Thanks.

----- Original Message -----

Received: 05:06 PM EST, 03/05/2019
From: "Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)" <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
To: "Zarate, Robert (Rubio)" <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>, USA.NET (b)(6)
Cc: "Poulos, Bethany (Rubio)" <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Mr. Abrams,
Will State motor pool drop you off on Thursday?
Please advise as I can meet you and cut the line getting in the building.
We have had lots of lines as there are many visitors visiting the Senate.

We are saving a seat for (b)(6) for the hearing.
Please let me know if you have any other guests.
Thank you.
Meg

Meg Murphy
Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
(b)(6)

From: Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:55 PM
To: USA.NET (b)(6) Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)
<Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Dear Elliott: I'm putting you in touch with Meg Murphy, who handles protocol for SFRC. See below. She's trying to clear a car for you.—Bobby

Robert Zarate
Senior Foreign Policy Advisor
Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Trunkline: (b)(6)

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:46 AM
To: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Bethany,
Thanks for your note.
Got it.
Please loop me in with Mr. Abrams office as I may need to clear a car for him.
Many thanks.
Meg

Meg Murphy
Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:44 AM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations)

<Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thanks, Meg. Sorry in advance as this might be a little confusing. The three names listed below will be Senator Rubio's guests. He may have additional names for VIP list and we will send them as soon as we have those!

Separate request: Mr. Abrams (b)(6) will be his guest and I am not sure if she will be arriving with him but he requested a seat behind him for her.

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)

Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:39 AM

To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thank you for your note.

We will have the guests on a VIP list at the door to the hearing.

Will the guests arrive with Mr. Abrams?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Meg

Meg Murphy

Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel

United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 6:42 PM

To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)

<Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

No problem here are the 3 names:

1. (b)(6)
- 2.
- 3.

From: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Would you mind giving us the guests names? And are these all guests of Mr. Abrams? Will they be arriving with him?

Thanks so much,

Emily Cottle

Director of Operations
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thank you!

From: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Yes, of course!

Emily Cottle

Director of Operations
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio)

<Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Hi Emily,

Could we please reserve four chairs for 4 guests on Thursday at subcommittee hearing?

Best,

Maria-Paula

Maria-Paula Ramos

Office of Senator Marco Rubio

Foreign Policy Staff

Legislative Correspondent

T: (b)(6)

Email: MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov

Sender:	"Bovo, Viviana (Rubio)" <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

From:	(b)(6) (Caracas)" (b)(6) @state.gov>
To:	Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
CC:	Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject:	RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday
Date:	Wed, 6 Mar 2019 14:17:28 +0000

Thank you. I should have exact details soon of the car and driver.

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:55 AM

To: (b)(6) Caracas) (b)(6) @state.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6) @state.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

(b)(6)

Thanks for your note.

Please have the driver drop Mr. Abrams at the First and Constitution Avenue door of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

I will be waiting there for him.

My cellphone number is (b)(6)

What time will he be arriving?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Meg

Meg Murphy

Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel

United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Before I make the motor pool request, are there specific instructions I should include in my request about driving to the Senate?

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) (Caracas)
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 8:03 AM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Good morning,

I will make a motor pool request for the S/R, (b)(6) and (b)(6) I will forward the driver details to you when I receive them.

Regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) FS OMS
Elliott Abrams, Special Representative for Venezuela
Tel (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Elliott Abrams (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:10 PM

To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6) (Caracas) <(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

My only guest is (b)(6)

I imagine we will have a motor pool car. (Adding (b)(6) here, who can tell us.) In any event, help with the line would be useful.

Thanks.

----- Original Message -----

Received: 05:06 PM EST, 03/05/2019

From: "Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)" <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

To: "Zarate, Robert (Rubio)" <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>, USA.NET <(b)(6)>

Cc: "Poulos, Bethany (Rubio)" <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Mr. Abrams,

Will State motor pool drop you off on Thursday?

Please advise as I can meet you and cut the line getting in the building.

We have had lots of lines as there are many visitors visiting the Senate.

We are saving a seat for (b)(6) for the hearing.

Please let me know if you have any other guests.

Thank you.

Meg

Meg Murphy

Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel

United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

(b)(6)

From: Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:55 PM

To: USA.NET <(b)(6)> Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>

Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Dear Elliott: I'm putting you in touch with Meg Murphy, who handles protocol for SFRC. See below. She's trying to clear a car for you.—Bobby

Robert Zarate
Senior Foreign Policy Advisor
Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Trunkline: (b)(6)

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:46 AM
To: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Bethany,
Thanks for your note.
Got it.
Please loop me in with Mr. Abrams office as I may need to clear a car for him.
Many thanks.
Meg

Meg Murphy
Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
(b)(6)

From: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:44 AM
To: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thanks, Meg. Sorry in advance as this might be a little confusing. The three names listed below will be Senator Rubio's guests. He may have additional names for VIP list and we will send them as soon as we have those!

Separate request: Mr. Abrams daughter will be his guest and I am not sure if she will be arriving with him but he requested a seat behind him for her.

From: Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations)
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:39 AM

To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>; Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thank you for your note.
We will have the guests on a VIP list at the door to the hearing.
Will the guests arrive with Mr. Abrams?
Please advise.
Thank you.
Meg

Meg Murphy
Chief of Protocol and Foreign Travel
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
(b)(6)

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 6:42 PM
To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

No problem here are the 3 names:

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- 2.
- 3.

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Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Would you mind giving us the guests names? And are these all guests of Mr. Abrams? Will they be arriving with him?

Thanks so much,

Emily Cottle

Director of Operations

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Thank you!

From: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Yes, of course!

Emily Cottle

Director of Operations

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

From: Ramos, Maria Paula (Rubio) <MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Cottle, Emily (Foreign Relations) <Emily_Cottle@foreign.senate.gov>
Cc: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: Reserve seats for hearing on Thursday

Hi Emily,

Could we please reserve four chairs for 4 guests on Thursday at subcommittee hearing?

Best,
Maria-Paula

Maria-Paula Ramos

Office of Senator Marco Rubio

Foreign Policy Staff

Legislative Correspondent

T: (b)(6)

Email: MariaPaula_Ramos@rubio.senate.gov

Sender:	(b)(6) (Caracas)" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Murphy, Meg (Foreign Relations) <Margaret_Murphy@foreign.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	"Zarate, Robert (Rubio)" <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
To:	Abrams, Elliott (b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject:	Re: reply
Date:	Sat, 23 Feb 2019 23:45:45 +0000

Got it. Will convey.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2019, at 6:37 PM, Abrams, Elliott (b)(6) @state.gov> wrote:

Thanks.

I think he should:

- call for a UNSC session on this violence ion VZ's borders.
- Call for the VZ military to stop the armed gang violence and promote law and order.
- Call for VZ independence from Cuban intervention
- Note many colectivos are armed and trained by Cuban intel

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
United States Department of State

Sender:	"Zarate, Robert (Rubio)" <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Recipient:	Abrams, Elliott (b)(6) @state.gov>

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>; Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	RE: (b)(6)
Date:	Mon, 4 Mar 2019 14:55:12 +0000

Thank you!

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 8:37 AM
To: Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>; Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: (b)(6)

The hearing room is Senate Dirksen 419 and I just emailed SFRC to confirm they will reserve a seat behind you for (b)(6)

Best,
Bethany

From: Zarate, Robert (Rubio)
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 7:56 AM
To: Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: (b)(6)

Yes, of course! Bethany (cc'ed) will confirm the hearing room number.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 3, 2019, at 4:21 PM, Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

(b)(6) would like to attend the hearing on Thursday. Can you save a seat behind me? Also, which hearing room?
Thanks.

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
U.S. Department of State

Sender:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Poulos, Bethany (Rubio) <Bethany_Poulos@rubio.senate.gov>;

Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	RE: Is the Senator comfortable with the decision on VZ embassy?
Date:	Tue, 12 Mar 2019 12:28:58 +0000

Right. Let me know if he has questions and comments.

I think the basic argument is, we took all dependents and almost the whole staff out on January 24. This is the rest—and in those 6 weeks the situation has become far worse. Upside, we give all the premises to Vecchio and can now press other govts to do the same. Downside, we lose the direct secure communication with Guaido and others.

From: Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:24 AM
To: Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Is the Senator comfortable with the decision on VZ embassy?

Haven't spoken to him yet, but will find out. He has never called for what happened. There is, of course, value in having ppl there.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 12, 2019, at 8:21 AM, Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
United States Department of State

Sender:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	RE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio
Date:	Fri, 23 Aug 2019 13:41:47 +0000

Bridget,

Sorry for the delay – we have been working on potential travel the week of Sept 9-13. Would we be able to set up a phone call for Fri, Sept 13 when I expect Elliott to be back in the office? Pretty flexible on timing except 8:30-10am.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 12:01 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

Let me know windows of time the week of the 9th and we will see what's possible. Would a call suffice?

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>; Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>
Cc: Fernandez, Jessica (Rubio) <Jessica_Fernandez@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

The topic would be Venezuela. Happy to look at options during the first week of September if you have availability.

Thank you!

From: Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>
Date: August 12, 2019 at 10:48:21 AM EDT
To: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Fernandez, Jessica (Rubio) <Jessica_Fernandez@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

Hi (b)(6)

Appreciate your patience here. Do you have a topic for the meeting?

As of now, we don't expect the Senator to be in DC for meetings until after Labor Day, but can look at some alternate options if possible.

Best,
Bridget

From: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio)
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2019 1:54 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>; Fernandez, Jessica (Rubio) <Jessica_Fernandez@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

Thanks (b)(6)

Adding our colleague Jessica for follow up too.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2019, at 1:40 PM, (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Bridget/Viviana,

I hope you are able to enjoy some down time during the recess!

Special Representative Elliott Abrams would like to meet with Senator Rubio in late August or early September if possible. We realize that the Senator may not be in Washington until after Labor Day so please let me know when we might be able to schedule something.

Thank you, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant for the Special Representative for Venezuela

Please note that we have moved to a new office:

Room 4325

Work Phone (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	OBE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio
Date:	Fri, 30 Aug 2019 15:54:40 +0000

Bridget,

I have learned that S/R Abrams has communicated with Senator Rubio so this request is now OBE.

I hope you and your family are able to get through this storm without any issues!

Unclassified

From: Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 12:01 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

Let me know windows of time the week of the 9th and we will see what's possible. Would a call suffice?

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov]
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Cc: Fernandez, Jessica (Rubio) <Jessica_Fernandez@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

The topic would be Venezuela. Happy to look at options during the first week of September if you have availability.

Thank you!

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Date: August 12, 2019 at 10:48:21 AM EDT
To: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Fernandez, Jessica (Rubio) <Jessica_Fernandez@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

Hi (b)(6)

Appreciate your patience here. Do you have a topic for the meeting?

As of now, we don't expect the Senator to be in DC for meetings until after Labor Day, but can look at some alternate options if possible.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Bovo, Viviana (Rubio)

Sent: Friday, August 09, 2019 1:54 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>; Fernandez, Jessica (Rubio) <Jessica_Fernandez@rubio.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: Abrams Request for Meeting with Senator Rubio

Thanks (b)(6)

Adding our colleague Jessica for follow up too.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2019, at 1:40 PM, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Bridget/Viviana,

I hope you are able to enjoy some down time during the recess!

Special Representative Elliott Abrams would like to meet with Senator Rubio in late August or early September if possible. We realize that the Senator may not be in Washington until after Labor Day so please let me know when we might be able to schedule something.

Thank you (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant for the Special Representative for Venezuela

Please note that we have moved to a new office:

Room 4325

Work Phone (b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sender: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Recipient: Spurlock, Bridget (Rubio) <Bridget_Spurlock@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	Is the Senator comfortable with the decision on VZ embassy?
Date:	Tue, 12 Mar 2019 12:21:11 +0000

Elliott Abrams
Special Representative for Venezuela
United States Department of State

Sender:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Zarate, Robert (Rubio) <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

From:	"Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	FW: Feb 14 Venezuelan Humanitarian Conference
Date:	Sat, 9 Feb 2019 17:31:21 +0000

Hi Bobby. Is the Senator going to this breakfast or event?

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Abrams, Elliott (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Feb 14 Venezuelan Humanitarian Conference

Sir,

You have been invited to two Council of the Americas events on Feb 14:

7:45am Breakfast with Senator Rubio; Carlos Vecchio; Ambassador of Venezuela to the US; and Dr. Gustavo Tarre, Venezuela's Special Representative to the OAS. The breakfast is a private sector event with the interim government on humanitarian assistance prior to the start of the related conference at the OAS. Olga Cabello will be the POC for the breakfast and can assist in your remarks where you may wish focus to on encouraging private sector support (from US companies) for Venezuelan humanitarian needs. The attached is Senator Rubio's invitation and I have asked our team here to obtain a copy of your invitation.

9:00am Conference following the breakfast - I understand you are invited to give remarks at this event as well and (b)(6) can assist in drafting your remarks which would focus on overall US support, and potential new money, for Venezuelan humanitarian needs. I attached your invitation for the conference.

I am in the process of tallying who from our team will attend both events with you if you wish to attend.

Team OAS/Team V – please correct anything I may have missed in my message.

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Official – SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 2:43 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Feb 14 Venezuelan Humanitarian Conference

We don't have his invitations as they should have gone directly to his email. We can ask for copies.

I am including (b)(6) on TeamV who likely is the best POC for the context of his short remarks for the meeting at the OAS (intervention focusing on overall US support, and potential new money, for Venezuelan humanitarian needs).

There should be a personalized invite for the breakfast. I am adding (b)(6) in ESPC will be the POC for this event, where he can focus on encouraging private sector support (from US companies) for Venezuelan humanitarian needs.

Thank you.

From: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2019 2:25 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Feb 14 Venezuelan Humanitarian Conference

Dear All,

Could you please send to me the OAS 9am invitation as well? I don't seem to have it. I will forward both invitations to the S/R to confirm his participation for both events.

Based on your emails I assume the S/R is to make remarks at both events? Is there a personalized invitation to the breakfast or he is only to provide a RSVP? Will anyone accompany him to either event? If he is giving remarks – who will be the POC for writing the remarks and any BCL he made ask for?

Thanks.

(b)(6) FS OMS
Elliott Abrams, Special Representative for Venezuela
Tel: (b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 12:06 PM

To: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Carlos I (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Feb 14 Venezuelan Humanitarian Conference

Also, he will be invited to give remarks, along with Sens Rubio and Menendez, **at a private sector event with the interim government on humanitarian assistance on the morning of Feb 14**, prior to the start of the related conference from 9am-12 noon at the OAS. Thank you helping to share and hopefully confirm his ability to attend. The invite we have for Rubio is attached (the SE should receive a similar invite directly).

USOAS is working with the Council of the Americas to help coordinate this event.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2019 12:04 PM

To: (b)(6) (Caracas) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Feb 14 Venezuelan Humanitarian Conference

Hi (b)(6)

We have also invited Special Rep Abrams to a February 14 Venezuela humanitarian assistance conference at the OAS. Please let us know if he does not have the invitation. We hope very much that he can lead the USG delegation,

(b)(6)

Sender: "Abrams, Elliott" (b)(6)@state.gov>

Recipient: Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>

COUNCIL OF THE / Americas

February 7, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senator
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

It is our honor to invite you to a private breakfast at the Council of the Americas with foreign officials of the new government of Venezuela. The breakfast will take place on Thursday, February 14 from 7:30-8:45 am.

Carlos Vecchio, Ambassador of Venezuela to the United States, and Dr. Gustavo Tarre, Venezuela's Special Representative to the Organization of American States, will discuss the diplomatic priorities of the Guaidó administration to Council members, comprised of senior representatives of the business community.

We invite you to join this high-level discussion and offer remarks on the partnership and support that the U.S. government is providing to the people of Venezuela. Your advocacy for democracy, human rights, and transparent institutions in Venezuela is steadfast. During this historic and turbulent period for our hemisphere, the Council of the Americas is honored to convene a forum that advances the principles of democratic governance in Venezuela among its new leaders and partner countries. Your participation in this discussion is immensely valued.

We will be in contact with your staff to follow up on this invitation. We look forward to receiving your favorable response.

Sincerely,



Eric Farnsworth
Vice President

1615 L Street, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20036
TEL: 202-659-8989
FAX: 202-659-7755



His Excellency Carlos Vecchio
Ambassador of Venezuela to the Government of the
United States of America

requests the honor of

Mr. Elliot Abrams

at the Conference Regarding the Current Situation
in Venezuela and the Humanitarian Crisis

on Thursday, February 14th, 2019
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Hall of the Americas
Organization of American States
17th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20006

R.S.V.P.
venezuelaayudahumanitaria@gmail.com
Invitation must be presented at the door

From:	"Zarate, Robert (Rubio)" <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
To:	Elliott Abrams (b)(6)
CC:	Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>
Subject:	Formal invitation letter for SFRC Hearing on Venezuela
Date:	Fri, 1 Mar 2019 16:08:47 +0000

Elliott:

(1) Pro-forma matter—please find enclosed the formal invite letter to the SFRC hearing on Venezuela on Thursday.

(2) I also wanted to put you in direct touch with my colleague Viviana Bovo, senior advisor for Western Hemisphere. She's is our office's subject matter expert on the region and she's also in close and continuing contact with the players in Guaido admin & National Assembly in VZ.

(3) Please always feel free to let us know whenever there are specific things we can do or push for that help you. Your comments in recent days about VZ TPS have been helpful, and we wanted to make sure you saw Rubio co-authored a new bill with Menendez on this matter:

<https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=17324FAE-4542-4098-9AEF-67C55C1BE2F9>. We're working to do more behind-the-scenes on this.

Bobby

Robert Zarate
Senior Foreign Policy Advisor
Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Trunkline: (b)(6)

Sender:	"Zarate, Robert (Rubio)" <Robert_Zarate@rubio.senate.gov>
Recipient:	Elliott Abrams (b)(6) Bovo, Viviana (Rubio) <Viviana_Bovo@rubio.senate.gov>

MARCO RUBIO, FLORIDA
 RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
 CORY GARDNER, COLORADO
 MITT ROMNEY, UTAH
 LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
 JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
 JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING
 ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
 RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
 TODD YOUNG, INDIANA
 TED CRUZ, TEXAS

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9/5/2023

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

March 1, 2019

The Honorable Elliott Abrams
 Special Representative for Venezuela
 U.S. Department of State
 2201 C Street, N.W.
 Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Abrams:

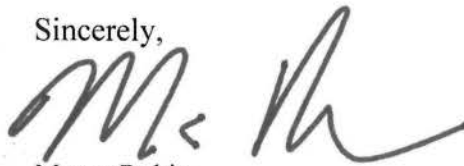
I am writing to invite you to testify at a Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues Subcommittee hearing titled "U.S.-Venezuela Relations and the Path to a Democratic Transition" on March 7, 2019.

The purpose of this hearing will be to highlight U.S. support for Interim President Juan Guaidó and to discuss ways to address the humanitarian crisis and how the United States can continue to support the relief efforts. The hearing will focus on the Venezuelan National Assembly's efforts to restore democracy and reinstitute a newly appointed *Consejo Nacional Electoral* (CNE) to schedule free and fair elections. The hearing will also address an eventual reconstruction phase.

This hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing Room, located in Room 419 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Please arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to the start time of the hearing. We ask that you send your written testimony, which will be submitted into the formal record, 24 hours in advance of the hearing to Emily Cottle at emily_cottle@foreign.senate.gov. Please limit your verbal presentation to five minutes so that we can maximize the time available for questions. You may contact Emily at (b)(6) if you need assistance or have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to hearing your insights.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
 Chairman

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere,
 Transnational Crime, Civilian Security,
 Democracy, Human Rights,
 and Global Women's Issues