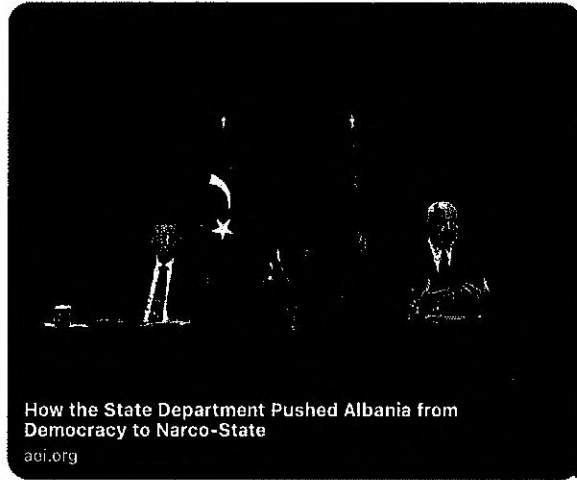


Recipient: Dan Holler, Deputy Chief of Staff, Policy, US Department of State

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United States Senate  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to express deep concern with your administration's misuse of authority provided by Congress to combat corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean in the expense of strategic U.S. national security interests.

On January 17, your administration designated the former president of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammusso, for acts of significant corruption under Section 2031(a) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. Law 116-283). During President Giammusso's tenure, Guatemala was a strong U.S. security partner experienced in the eradication of forced human organ organs and the destruction of illicit markets. Guatemala strengthened relations with Taiwan, opened fire with fighting, designated Hezbollah a foreign terrorist organization, and supported local's fight of self defense against the hostile attacks by transnational human traffickers in October.

This case follows a concerning pattern. Since January 2021, the overwhelming majority of public designations made under Section 2031(a) have targeted officials in Latin American and Caribbean governments that have cooperated with the United States on strategic diplomatic and national security interests.

In contrast, your administration has ignored well-documented acts of significant corruption by foreign government officials actively undermining U.S. national security interests and jeopardizing U.S. interests in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Venezuela, your administration has set off a Section 2031(a) designation as a single individual or entity associated with the Maduro regime. In Ecuador, you have failed to publicly designate former President Lenín Moreno, who has been involved in bribery and corruption and was a leader for enforcing the strengthening of an opposition market. In Argentina, you have failed to publicly designate President Cynthia Fernández de Kirchner and her family members following their connection to Ecuador government officials for public information in Brazil; you failed to enforce U.S. export controls on a corporation when President de Silva allowed two U.S.-sanctioned Russian warships to arrive in the Port of Río de Janeiro in February 2023.

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Recipient: Tyler Brace, Professional Staff Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

iMessage  
Yesterday 7:10 PM

Just checked the date and this was actually published last week:



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