

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 25, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

In December, President Biden granted Alex Saab clemency from United States charges, released him from custody, and returned him to his co-conspirators in Venezuela.<sup>1</sup> Given the serious charges in his indictment, we ask that you provide the investigative file against Mr. Saab and his confessions no later than February 7, 2024.

The State Department has described Saab as “one of the two most important money [men] in the Maduro government,” and “the middle man” between Nicolas Maduro’s narco-terrorist regime and Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism.<sup>2</sup> In March 2020, Saab brokered deals between Iran and Maduro,<sup>3</sup> and was arguably involved “in a mission designed to violate UN sanctions on Iran.”<sup>4</sup>

Saab used a sophisticated network of shell companies to launder “hundreds of millions of dollars in corruption proceeds around the world.”<sup>5</sup> He was so indispensable to his criminal network that the United States worried Iranian and Venezuelan operatives would orchestrate his escape from custody.<sup>6</sup>

Saab remains an unrepentant criminal who, within days of his release from U.S. custody, launched a propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting our country and American judiciary and law enforcement professionals.

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Grant of Clemency Joseph R. Biden President of the United States of America (signed Dec. 15, 2023), available at, <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman/status/1738272840367980713/photo/1>

<sup>2</sup> Email from Daniel Binder to Nicole Navas, Subject: FW: NYTimes questions—RE: Embassy Cabo Verde spox, *U.S. v. Saab Moran*, 1:19-cr-20450, Dkt. No. 146-6 (SDFL Oct. 13, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Email from Elliott Adams to Brian Hook, *U.S. v. Saab Moran*, 1:19-cr-20450, Dkt. No. 146-5

<sup>4</sup> Email from Elliott Adams to Bruce Swartz re Saab, *U.S. v. Saab Moran*, 1:19-cr-20450, Dkt. No. 146-4; Ex, X, Letter from AUSA to Counsel of Record for Alex Nain Saab Moran re Summary of Information Leading to Alex Nain Saab Moran’s Detention in Cabo/Verde/Redacted DEA-6, Dkt. No. 149-12, *U.S. v. Saab Moran*, 19-cr-20450 (SDFL Aug. 26, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, Press Release, Treasury Disrupts Corruption Network Stealing From Venezuela’s Food Distribution Program, Clap (July 25, 2019), <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm741>

<sup>6</sup> Email from Daniel Binder to Nicole Navas, Subject: FW: NYTimes questions—RE: Embassy Cabo Verde spox, *U.S. v. Saab Moran*, 1:19-cr-20450, Dkt. No. 146-6 (SDFL Oct. 13, 2022).

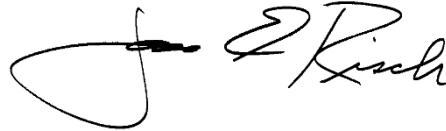
U.S. court filings disclose that Saab confessed to a serious criminal conduct, and his many victims deserve to know the extent of his crimes. History should remember him as a predator of vulnerable people within Venezuela and throughout the world. The United States government closed the case against Alex Saab when President Biden pardoned his crimes. There is no basis for withholding the evidence against Saab from the American public.<sup>7</sup>

Given this, we request that you provide the investigative file against Mr. Saab and his confessions no later than February 7, 2024.

Sincerely,



Chuck Grassley  
Co-Chair  
Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control



James E. Risch  
Ranking Member  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee



Marco Rubio  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere,  
Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy,  
Human Rights, & Global Women's Issues

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<sup>7</sup> *U.S. v. Saab*, 1:19-cr-20450, Doc No. 226 (Dec. 21, 2023) (“In light of Defendant Alex Nain Saab Moran’s release from custody and his recent grant of clemency the court order the Government, on or before December 29, 2023, to either (1) file a motion to unseal the sealed docket entries or (2) show cause why those docket entries cannot be unsealed.”), *compare with*, Doc. No. 228 (“ORDER UNSEALING DOCKET ENTRIES granting 227 Motion for Order to Show Cause as to Alex Nain Saab Moran.”).