



Democrats Once Demanded Maduro's Ouster. Now They Mourn His Capture — Because Trump Did It.

White House
January 5, 2026

President Donald J. Trump has scored another remarkable foreign policy triumph: the bold capture and extradition of Nicolas Maduro, the indicted narcoterrorist and socialist dictator who plunged Venezuela into chaos, starved its people, and menaced American security, now detained on U.S. soil to face long-overdue justice.

Democrats spent years howling that Maduro was a ruthless tyrant who had to be delegitimized, pressured, and removed. But the instant President Trump succeeds where they failed, they erupt in furious hypocrisy — prioritizing their unhinged hatred of President Trump over American interests and national security.

Here are just a few of the many hypocritical Democrats then vs. now:

Sen. Chuck Schumer

- **THEN:** “And the President brags about his Venezuela policy. Give us a break. He hasn’t brought an end to the Maduro regime. The Maduro regime is more powerful today and more entrenched today than it was when the President began.” ([2/5/20](#))

- **NOW:** “This is reckless. And the American people are just, this morning, in fear of what’s going to happen here.” ([1/4/26](#))

Sen. Dick Durbin

- **THEN:** “The people of Venezuela deserve better than this. We can’t allow this President’s short attention span to stop us from delivering on our promise to help the Venezuelan people rebuild their country... Though President Trump may seem ready to throw in the towel, I stand committed to aiding the people of Venezuela.” ([6/20/19](#))
- **NOW:** “I disagree with President Trump’s use of U.S. military forces without Congressional approval & worry deeply about this Admin’s follow through on foreign policy interventions.” ([1/3/26](#))

Sen. Chris Van Hollen

- **THEN:** “[T]he United States is now going to use its levers and influence to push for a negotiation to have a transition to the truly elected leader... Obviously, we know Maduro and his cronies do not want to go quietly into the night, but the United States needs to work with its partners and allies in the region to ratchet up the pressure...” ([8/2/24](#))
- **NOW:** “It is an illegal act of war to replace Maduro.” ([1/3/26](#))

Sen. Chris Murphy

- **THEN:** “If Trump cared about consistency, he would make the realist case for intervention in Venezuela (getting rid of Maduro is good for the United States) rather than trying to pretend his Administration all of the sudden cares about toppling anti-democratic regimes.” ([1/23/19](#))
- **NOW:** “The invasion of Venezuela has nothing to do with American security. Venezuela is not a security threat to the U.S.” ([1/4/26](#))

Sen. Tim Kaine

- **THEN:** “This is a deeply concerning development for Venezuelans and for the entire region, since instability abroad impacts us here at home, too.” ([9/2/24](#))
- **NOW:** “President Trump’s unauthorized military attack on Venezuela to arrest Maduro... is a sickening return to a day when the United States asserted the

right to dominate the internal political affairs of all nations in the Western Hemisphere.” ([1/3/26](#))

Sen. Amy Klobuchar

- **THEN:** “I have of course supported bringing in the new president and delegitimizing the Maduro government. You always leave things on the table.” ([5/2/19](#))
- **NOW:** “I have strongly opposed sending American forces into harm’s way in Venezuela without authorization from Congress. We should not put Americans at risk in this way without careful deliberation among the people’s elected representatives. Wars for regime change can lead to unintended consequences.”([1/3/26](#))

Sen. Elizabeth Warren

- **THEN:** “Maduro is a dictator and a crook who has wrecked his country’s economy, dismantled its democratic institutions, and profited while his people suffer. The United States should lead the international community in addressing Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis and supporting regional efforts to negotiate a political transition.” ([7/30/2019](#))
- **NOW:** “What does it mean that the U.S. will ‘run’ Venezuela, and what will Trump do next around the world? The American people voted for lower costs, not for Trump’s dangerous military adventurism overseas that won’t make the American people safer.” ([1/3/26](#))

Rep. Jamie Raskin

- **THEN:** “The democratic world must stand up for the rule of law in Venezuela and oppose Maduro’s assault on the electoral process and free speech. The right-wing attack on democratic institutions anywhere is a threat to freedom everywhere.” ([8/2/24](#))
- **NOW:** “Trump is not only violating our Constitution, but he is shredding the rules-based international order created after World War II, whose essential building block is the political sovereignty and territorial integrity of each nation.” ([1/4/26](#))

Rep. Darren Soto

- **THEN:** “Honored to speak with @cdvorlando yesterday about Venezuelan TPS, raising the reward for Maduro’s capture to \$100M, and bringing democracy back to Venezuela. #VenezuelaLibre” ([10/6/24](#))
- **NOW:** “Trump’s trading one dictator for another just to get oil? This will do NOTHING to help my constituents’ family members who just lost their TPS and still can’t return home.” ([1/5/26](#))