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Congress of the United States
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November 29, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
United States of America

Dear President Trump:

I am shocked by the statement you made that you are planning to pardon the former President of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández. Mr. Hernández is a convicted drug trafficker who was sentenced by U.S. courts to 45 years in prison for his villainous crimes, which include trafficking hundreds of tons of cocaine into our country and using government resources to further his criminal enterprise. I urge you not to release this dangerous felon and to ensure that instead, he serves out his full prison sentence.

Releasing Mr. Hernández flies in the face of your stated aim to fight narco-trafficking and to label narcotics gangs as terrorists. If drug cartels are terrorist organizations, Juan Orlando Hernández is a convicted terrorist and must not go free. Do not release a criminal who has caused so much suffering and so many American deaths.

Instead of using his power for good, Mr. Hernández supported and protected one of the most violent drug conspiracies in the world. The scale of his crimes is catastrophic, using his power to operate a superhighway of drugs to the U.S., billions of cocaine doses shipped to American streets, with violence and death the cost he happily paid to cash his cartel checks. He armed cartels with military grade weapons, including grenade launchers. He ordered national security forces to protect his drug runners and the cocaine routes. He used death squads and intimidation to silence opponents, from witnesses to journalists, from those who stood up to him to those who were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

While Hernández pretended to cooperate with U.S. anti-drug efforts, he and his brother were mocking U.S. officials by openly branding their drugs with their initials. Meanwhile, he stole U.S. taxpayer money and siphoned it into his private accounts.

If a current President of a foreign country acted this way, lying to your face about cooperation while undermining our national security, stealing our money, and getting rich off American deaths, would you pardon him?

Over the course of his Presidency, Mr. Hernández contributed to and profited off of the overdose deaths of more than 100,000 Americans¹. In fact, cocaine deaths sharply increased while Hernández was President and pushing hundreds of tons of cocaine across our border. While American families were burying loved ones to addiction, he was cashing the cartel checks. While our law enforcement was fighting the drug war, he was running the supply chain. Hernández used his power as president to shield men responsible for the worst crimes across the Americas, including the murders of children. His trial and conviction were a victory for the people of the United States, as well as the people of Honduras. It showed clearly how our work in Central America to prevent drug trafficking and corruption plays a key role in improving safety here at home.

The victims of Hernández's crimes, including tens of thousands of American families who lost loved ones to cocaine overdoses, deserve justice. Just last year they received a measure of it when Juan Orlando Hernández was sentenced to 45 years in prison. A pardon would tell these victims that their lives don't matter and that power can buy freedom even after conviction. I implore you to stand with the victims and ensure this convicted criminal serves his full sentence.

Sincerely,



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

¹ Cocaine-involved deaths from 2014-2022: Spencer MR, Garnett MF, Miniño AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2002–2022. NCHS Data Brief, no 491. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:135849>