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**America is dangerously close to being run by a king
who answers to no one**

By Rex Huppke

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President [Donald Trump and Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele sat in the Oval Office](#) like a pair of smarmy abusers and openly mocked U.S. courts that have ordered the return of a wrongfully deported Maryland man.

[Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a father and sheet metal worker, was deported](#) to a notorious prison in El Salvador due to what the Trump administration admitted in court was an “administrative error.” You don’t have to care about him or his family – though anyone with a hint of morality would – but you darn well better care about a U.S. president openly defying a [U.S. Supreme Court](#) order while yukking it up in the White House with a Central American leader who dubbed himself “[world’s coolest dictator](#).”

Abrego Garcia, 29, was [detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) agents in Maryland on March 12 and swiftly dispatched to what amounts to a gulag in El Salvador. That was in open defiance of [an immigration judge’s 2019 ruling that Abrego Garcia](#) could not be removed to El Salvador because he would face persecution.

Before I say more about this gross miscarriage of justice, it's worth reminding folks that this is the president Republicans wanted. And until they say otherwise, I'll assume this dictatorial behavior is also what they want.

Abrego Garcia was wrongfully deported. Trump will do nothing to get him back.

The administration has claimed Abrego Garcia is a gang member, but [a federal judge has already said there’s no evidence to support that claim](#). On April 10, [the Supreme Court upheld a lower court order](#) requiring the administration to facilitate Abrego Garcia’s return to the United States.

[Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote](#): “To this day, the [Government has cited no basis in law](#) for Abrego Garcia’s warrantless arrest, his removal to El Salvador, or his confinement in a Salvadoran prison. Nor could it.”

It has been clear that Trump and his cronies plan to defy the order to return Abrego Garcia. That plan was cemented on April 14 in the Oval Office when not-at-all-cool dictator Bukele said: “How can I return him to the United States? I smuggle him into the United States? Of course I'm not going to do it. The question is preposterous.”

That does not make our big, tough American president look very tough.

In fact, it looks like a dictator waltzed into the Oval Office and told the American people that their weenie president is powerless to retrieve a wrongfully deported man from a small Central American country.

Trump seems to be using El Salvador to help him defy courts

Jennifer Vasquez Sura, wife of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran migrant who lived in the United States legally with a work permit and was erroneously deported to El Salvador, at a news conference with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in Washington, D.C., on April 9, 2025. © Ken Cedeno, REUTERS

The only other possibility is that Trump and Bukele are in cahoots and are jerking the U.S. Supreme Court around while flaunting their laws-don't-apply-to-us attitudes. If that's the case, then it appears the U.S. government can simply disappear a person legally residing here with a wife and child who are U.S. citizens and then fart around as if federal court orders are meaningless. And if THAT'S the case, then the idea of America is pretty much shot.

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