



Man mistakenly deported to El Salvador 'alive and secure', US says

2 days ago

Share Save

Christal Hayes
BBC News, Los Angeles



Ábrego García Family/Handout via Reuters

A man who was mistakenly deported from the state of Maryland to a mega-jail in El Salvador is "alive and secure", a US official has told a judge.

The update on Kilmar Ábrego García's condition came days after the US Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration should facilitate his release and return to the US.

"It is my understanding, based on official reporting from our embassy in San Salvador, that Ábrego García is being held in the Terrorism Confinement Centre in El Salvador," State Department official Michael Kozak said.

President Donald Trump is due to sit down on Monday with his counterpart from El Salvador, where he has sent more than 200 migrants who he alleges are gang members.

Supreme Court rules Trump officials must 'facilitate' release of man deported to El Salvador
Can the US return man deported to El Salvador? Immigration lawyers think so

The US government has conceded Mr Ábrego García was deported due to an "administrative error", though it also claims he is a member of the MS-13 gang, something his lawyer denies.

He was one of the 238 Venezuelans and 23 Salvadoreans the Trump administration deported last month to El Salvador's notorious Terrorism Confinement Centre (Cecot) under an arrangement between the two countries.

"He is alive and secure in that facility," Mr Kozak said on Saturday.

An immigration judge had granted Mr Ábrego García, a Salvadorean, legal protection from deportation in 2019.

Trump's administration fought against helping Mr Ábrego García return to the US, and argued Maryland District Judge Paula Xinis had exceeded her authority when she ordered the action.

However the US Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, **weighed in on the case this week** and unanimously backed the order to help facilitate his release.

On Friday, Judge Xinis directed the Trump administration to provide her with daily updates on what steps were being taken to bring Mr Ábrego García back to the US.

In court documents, Mr Ábrego García's lawyers accused the US government of trying to "delay, obfuscate and flout court orders, while a man's life and safety is at risk".

Mr Ábrego García, 29, entered the US from El Salvador illegally as a teenager. In 2019, he was arrested with three other men in Maryland and detained by federal immigration authorities.

He was subsequently granted protection from deportation on the grounds that he might be at risk of persecution from local gangs in his home country.

Trump told reporters this week that if the Supreme Court said "bring somebody back, I would do that".

"I respect the Supreme Court," he said.

His meeting with Salvadorean President Nayib Bukele is due to take place at the White House on Monday.

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform that he was looking forward to it and thanked Bukele for accepting "some of the most violent alien enemies of the World" - referring to those being deported as "barbarians".

"Their future is up to President B and his Government," Trump added. "They will never threaten or menace our Citizens again!"

US deports more alleged gang members to El Salvador
US judge scolds Trump officials for failing to return man deported in error

RELATED

Judge allows Columbia graduate Mahmoud Khalil's deportation

3 days ago | US & Canada

Trump to end protected status for Afghans and Cameroonians

3 days ago | US & Canada

Supreme Court rules Trump officials must 'facilitate' release of man deported to El Salvador

3 days ago | World

MORE

55 mins ago

Key immigration moments from Trump and Bukele meeting

The meeting comes after the Trump administration mistakenly deported a Maryland resident due to an 'administrative error.'

55 mins ago | World



3 hrs ago

Police say Pennsylvania arson suspect would have attacked governor

Authorities are still investigating a possible motive as the suspect's mother says he suffered from mental health issues.

3 hrs ago | US & Canada



4 hrs ago

Katy Perry says she feels 'super connected to love'

The pop star says the flight was "all for the benefit of Earth" after touching back down as part of an all-women crew.

4 hrs ago | US & Canada



4 hrs ago

Watch from launch to landing: All-female crew travels into space

The flight, carrying celebrities like Katy Perry and Gayle King, reached a height of about 60 miles (96.6km) above Earth.

4 hrs ago | US & Canada



5 hrs ago

El Salvador's leader visits Trump as US deports more alleged gang members

Nayib Bukele has won praise from his counterpart for imprisoning some "very bad people" deported from the US.

5 hrs ago | World





[Home](#) [News](#) [Sport](#) [Business](#) [Innovation](#) [Culture](#) [Arts](#) [Travel](#) [Earth](#) [Audio](#) [Video](#) [Live](#) [Weather](#) [BBC Shop](#) [BritBox](#)

BBC in other languages ▼

Follow BBC on:      

[Terms of Use](#) [About the BBC](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Accessibility Help](#) [Contact the BBC](#) [Advertise with us](#) [Do not share or sell my info](#)

[Contact technical support](#)

Copyright 2025 BBC. All rights reserved. The BBC is *not responsible for the content of external sites*. **Read about our approach to external linking.**