

# Trump Appoints Disgraced Iran-Contra Hawk Elliott Abrams as Iran Envoy

By [Alan MacLeod](#)

Global Research, August 10, 2020

[MintPress News](#) 7 August 2020

Region: [Middle East & North Africa, USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

In-depth Report: [IRAN: THE NEXT WAR?](#)

*Activists, the UN, and even mainstream news outlets expressed dismay at the Trump administration's decision to appoint regime-change champion Elliot Abrahams to the role of Special Representative for Iran.*

\*\*\*

The Trump administration has appointed disgraced neoconservative hawk Elliott Abrams to the new position of chief advisor on Iran after former insider Brian Hook handed in his resignation earlier this week.

"Special Representative Hook has been my point person on Iran for over two years and he has achieved historic results countering the Iranian regime," [said](#) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday, "Following a transition period with Brian Hook, Elliott Abrams will assume the position of Special Representative for Iran, in addition to his responsibilities as Special Representative for Venezuela."

Anger and disbelief appeared to be the chief emotions stirred by the decision.

"Elliott Abrams appointment as Special Representative for Iran is as ludicrous as his failed career as Venezuela envoy," [reacted](#) United Nations Special Rapporteur Alfred de Zayas.

"Convicted war criminal Elliott Abrams gets to try and destroy Venezuela and Iran at the same time. He certainly does have a great track record in dealing with Iran and Latin America all at once," [wrote](#) journalist Anya Parampil, referencing his participation in the [Iran-Contra](#) scandal.

Activist group CODEPINK was equally condemnatory, [claiming](#) the appointment was "another low point for the Trump administration's disastrous policy towards Iran."

"The dangerous conflict resulting from Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear agreement will be exacerbated by a man committed to Washington's failed policies of regime change, including in his present-day position as Trump's representative for Venezuela," they added.

Even mainstream, corporate-funded outlets could not hide their skepticism at the decision. "Elliott Abrams, convicted of lying about Iran-Contra, named special representative for Iran," read [CBS News'](#) headline.

Abrams' first day on the job in the Reagan administration as Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs could hardly have been more conspicuous. The previous day, a U.S.-backed and trained death squad in El Salvador had conducted a massacre in the village of El Mozote, killing at least 800 people and raping girls as young as 10. Survivors testify that the soldiers threw a three-year-old boy in the air and impaled him on their bayonets. Abrams immediately led a cover-up, [telling](#) the Senate that eyewitness reports were "not credible" and the massacre was being "significantly misused as propaganda against their side. In total, around 75,000 people were killed in what is misleadingly described as a "civil war," but was, in reality, a campaign of extermination directed at anyone who dissented against the U.S.-backed dictatorship. Abrams [lauded](#) what happened in El Salvador as a "fabulous achievement" for democracy. Investigative journalist Jon Schwarz [described](#) Abrams as "supporting Latin American democracy pretty much like [serial killer] Jeffrey Dahmer supported all the people that he brought to his apartment."

Throughout the 1980s, Abrams was a chief architect of the genocides and dirty wars plaguing the region. In Guatemala, he pushed for arms sales to the dictatorship of General Efraín Ríos Montt, claiming he had "brought considerable progress" to human rights in the region. "We think that kind of progress needs to be rewarded and encouraged," he [said](#). While General Ríos Montt was later [convicted](#) of genocide and crimes against humanity, Abrams faced no consequences for his role in the killing over [200,000](#) people, nor did he suffer serious repercussions for his role in the Iran-Contra Affair, where government organizations sold weapons to Iran in order to fund far-right death squads in Nicaragua. Abrams pled guilty to lying to Congress about the affair but was quickly pardoned by George H.W. Bush.

#### New regime change opportunities

"The failure of Trump's obscure government hawk character, Elliott Abrams, was evident in the U.S. Senate today. His criminal record and his arrogant vision of the Cold War has caused him to crush the dignity and courage of a free people time and again," [wrote](#) Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, on hearing the news about Abrams' new position. Since January 2019, Abrams has been tasked with overthrowing the Venezuelan government, constantly encouraging the country to rise up, and placing crippling sanctions on others who trade with the Caribbean nation. Yesterday, he [confirmed](#) that he has been attempting to bribe military generals to rebel and overthrow the country's elected leader.

The appointment of perhaps the most hardline neoconservative hawk to the new position of Special Representative for Iran is the latest in a long line of escalatory measures the Trump administration has taken. In the last two years, the president has abandoned the nuclear deal, greatly increased sanctions on the country, supported anti-government protests in Tehran, assassinated Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, and prevented the importation of COVID-19 medicines and supplies. Given his record, it is doubtful whether many in Iran will be celebrating the return of Elliott Abrams.

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

[Alan MacLeod](#) is a Staff Writer for MintPress News. After completing his PhD in 2017 he published two books: [Bad News From Venezuela: Twenty Years of Fake News and Misreporting](#) and [Propaganda in the Information Age: Still Manufacturing Consent](#). He has also contributed to [Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting](#), [The Guardian](#), [Salon](#), [The Grayzone](#), [Jacobin Magazine](#), [Common Dreams](#) the [American Herald Tribune](#) and [The Canary](#).

The original source of this article is [MintPress News](#)  
Copyright © [Alan MacLeod](#), [MintPress News](#), 2020

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Alan MacLeod](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.  
For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)