

*Embassy of Chile*  
*Office of the Ambassador*

Washington D.C. April 15, 2024

Honorable  
Senator Tim Kaine  
Chairman Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security,  
Democracy, Human Rights, & Global Women's Issues  
Washington DC

It has come to our attention the statements made by Senator Marco Rubio, Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, during the hearing entitled "Countering Transnational Criminal Networks and Corruption in the Western Hemisphere", held on April 11th, 2024, in which he questioned Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Wells of the Bureau of Western Hemispheric Affairs at the U.S. Department of State about supposed activities of terrorist groups in different Latin American Countries.

On the occasion, Senator Rubio singled out Chile pointing that "We've seen multiple instances of these Transnational Criminal Organizations partnering with foreign terrorist organizations, adding that "Chile has had it particular". Senator Rubio said later "We have, I believe, sanctions on Chile-based Hezbollah run companies", inquiring moreover on "Hezbollah-run companies in (in Chile)". In another part of the hearing he implied that "President Gabriel Boric pretty harsh rhetoric about Israel" "translates to a lack of willingness to confront Hezbollah as a foreign terrorist organization", to finish with the extraordinary question "Are (the Chileans) willing and cooperative when it comes to confronting Hezbollah and Hezbollah-run companies in their own country?"

Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, these statements are devoid of any basis in fact and seriously misleading.

Chile has never had companies sanctioned by the United States for being linked to Hezbollah or any other terrorist organization.

Chile has not Hezbollah-run companies. Today the Investigative Police - PDI, through its Specialized Brigades, and also through permanent coordination with the FBI and other services from the hemisphere maintains constant monitoring of illegal activities or actions that may threaten the sovereignty of our country, which, if credible, are reported to the prosecuting entity

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to begin the investigative process. There is at present no investigative process on any activity in Chile linked to the terrorist group mentioned by Senator Rubio.

I can assure you that we would be extremely grateful if Senator Rubio's office would give us the information supporting his allegations.

What I consider unacceptable and insulting to Chile is the Senator's statement that our government and our President's opinion on the present war and the violation of humanitarian law in Gaza by the Israeli Government might mean the opening of our territory to the activities of Hezbollah or any other terrorist group. This statement contradicts a history of many decades of friendship and trust between our two democracies.

It is also necessary to clarify that Chile does not have a sizable Muslim population, as was expressed during the meeting, but a very large and vigorous Palestinian community that is of Christian origin.

Finally, we would like to appreciate the intervention of DoS Principal Deputy Assistant Mark Wells in the hearing underlining the strong and long-term cooperation in security matters between our two countries.

Rest assured of our commitment to continue working together on this and other matters.

I would respectfully appreciate this letter being circulated among members of the Subcommittee you chaired.

Yours sincerely,



Juan Gabriel Valdés