

Why did Bari Weiss censor 60 Minutes CECOT segment?

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal reveals a deeper layer of the scandal over the deportation of Venezuelan migrants to the notorious Salvadoran CECOT prison, explaining the role of Secretary of State Marco Rubio in orchestrating the deal in order to shatter negotiations with Caracas. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

#Aaron

Can't air that. It's not ready for broadcast. No.

#Max

The “super Jew” of journalism won’t let anyone hear about a concentration camp, because Zionism, in this reality, demands that Jews support concentration camps.

#Aaron

It's true. It's really true.

#Max

So there's a lot just in that two minutes. The designation of anyone as a Tren de Aragua member because they have tattoos is absurd. The more sophisticated cartels today know their members shouldn't have easily identifiable tattoos like the old-school MS-13 guys—the OGs you see in Cúcuta have—because it's just too easy for them to be captured and rounded up. So when the influencers come and line all those people up—like Kristi Noem showing up there—it's a very disturbing scene. They line these guys up behind her, and those are guys from a long time ago in the streets. They all have tattoos. Tren de Aragua is a Venezuelan gang, and only about 3% of the Venezuelan migrants who were sent to Cúcuta had ever been convicted of a violent crime in the U.S. So... there's that.

Then they were also tortured. But they were never supposed to be sent there. They didn't know they were going to be sent there. And Stephen Miller has really been out front, calling for everyone at 60 Minutes to be fired. He's the face and voice of Trump's deportation policy. But he's not the main figure behind the CICOT policy. The main figure behind this policy of sending Venezuelans to El

Salvador's CICOT is Marco Rubio. And Marco Rubio is close friends with Nayib Bukele—he has a much better relationship with him than with other pro-U.S., comprador figures in Latin America. It was Rubio who personally arranged for those Venezuelans to be sent there, rather than to be sent to Venezuela.

And this is the key point. Trump's special envoy to Venezuela last March, Richard "Rick" Grenell, was negotiating a deal with Maduro's government to allow Chevron to have extended drilling rights inside Venezuela. In exchange, Maduro would accept direct flights of Venezuelan migrants—a key priority for Trump's deportation policy. These 250 guys were supposed to be sent directly to Caracas. Marco Rubio did this to sabotage the negotiations with Venezuela and advance his regime-change mania. He didn't want Venezuela to get revenue from Chevron.

He didn't want negotiations with Maduro at all. He wanted to paint him as someone who was rejecting the deportation flights. So the 250 men who were sent to be tortured in CICOT were collateral—they were tortured just for Rubio's regime-change fantasies. This never had to happen. Venezuela was ready to accept them in exchange for Chevron drilling rights. And this is where it's really key: it answers the question of why CICOT went from being something Bukele was proud of to something the Trump administration now wants to hide.

Rubio kneecapped Trump's Department of Justice and the career professionals there who had been cultivating several very high-level MS-13 leaders from El Salvador as assets and informants to break up the gang structure in the United States. And Rubio betrayed the Department of Justice and the agreements those MS-13 informants had signed, sending them back to El Salvador to be disappeared into CICOT, where they could be silenced. Why? That was something Nayib Bukele wanted, because Bukele had been carrying out secret negotiations with MS-13 and those particular leaders early in his administration to reduce violence in the streets.

So he says, "Oh, my iron-fisted mano duro approach is the real reason there's no violence in El Salvador." No—actually, he was taking the same approach that Mexican administrations like Sheinbaum's and AMLO's have taken, and that Petro in Colombia has taken, which is negotiating treaties. And he doesn't want the press to know that. So these guys have to be disappeared, silenced, and the DOJ has to be screwed over in order to get those Venezuelans into CICOT to fracture negotiations with Venezuela and satisfy Rubio's regime-change mania. That means the CICOT piece has to be spiked, because it exposes at least the surface-level scandal—which is that these guys were all tortured for no reason. But this is a super scandal.

#Aaron

It has to be spiked, even though it doesn't go into the regime-change aspect you just detailed. And that's why it's so important for people to understand you can't just view these stories as an issue of human rights—though of course they are. I mean, the torture you see laid out there—it's not just about violence or abusing these people. It's also about serving a broader agenda of regime change.

It's really amazing how often you look at a story, and when you look under the surface, it all goes back to regime change. There are so many stories where you think it's just about horrible abuse and torture, but no—there's actually an underlying agenda to it. And that's why, I mean, to toot our own horn, The Grayzone is so important, because we go there where other places just don't. What you just laid out isn't explained anywhere else, and it's so critical to understanding this story and what these people went through. They had to suffer not only because of the Trump administration's contempt for undocumented immigrants, but also because of its zeal to overthrow a major Global South country.

#Max

Yeah, I mean, you have to synthesize it, but it's out there. You have to look for it, and you can find scattered pieces of this information in the mainstream media, but no one synthesizes it into a broader meta-narrative about Marco Rubio's ultimate goal of toppling Venezuela and Cuba, and all the collateral damage that causes.