

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

October 28, 2024

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

On September 25, 2024, the Committee wrote to you requesting documents relating to the Department's public release of a letter in which the man who sought to assassinate President Donald J. Trump in Florida on September 15, 2024, offered a \$150,000 bounty on President Trump.¹ Despite the Committee's attempts to follow up with Department staff, to date, you have failed to comply with our requests. We write to reiterate our September 25 requests and ask for your voluntary cooperation with our oversight.

As we previously noted, the Department's decision to broadcast the attempted assassin's bounty on President Trump seems to contravene the Department's stated policy that the release of "legacy tokens," more commonly known as manifestos, "will contribute to further attacks" by "spark[ing] incredibly intense interest and study."² This deviation from protocol raises significant concerns, particularly in the context of the Department's ongoing, aggressive, and unconstitutional³ prosecution of President Trump.

Accordingly, the Committee reiterates its request from its September 25, 2024 letter—which is enclosed and incorporated herein. We ask that you produce the requested documents and communications immediately, but not later than 10:00 a.m. on November 12, 2024. The Committee is prepared to resort to compulsory process to obtain compliance with our requests.

¹ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Hon. Merrick Garland, Att'y Gen, Dep't of Justice (Sept. 25, 2024); Written Factual Proffer in Support of Pretrial Detention at 8, *U.S. v. Routh*, No. 24-mj-08441-RMM (S.D. Fla. Sept. 23, 2024).

² Tom Pappert, *FBI Memo on 'Protection of Legacy Tokens' Sent to Nashville Police in May 2023 Opposed Release of Covenant Killer Documents, Cited Destruction Precedent*, TENN. STAR (June 5, 2024).

³ *U.S. v. Trump*, No. 9:23-cr-80101-AMC (S.D. Fla. July 15, 2024) (order granting motion to dismiss superseding indictment based on Appointments Clause violation).

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Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to conduct oversight of the Department of Justice.⁴ If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

Enclosure

⁴ Rules of the House of Representatives R. X (2023).

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September 25, 2024

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

The Committee on the Judiciary continues to conduct oversight of political bias and politicization within the Department of Justice. During your tenure as Attorney General, the Department has generally refused to release details about so-called “manifestos” written by the perpetrators of high-profile crimes.¹ Yet, earlier this week, in a public court filing, the Department released a letter in which the man who sought to assassinate President Donald J. Trump in Florida on September 15, 2024, offered a \$150,000 bounty on President Trump.² This decision seems to contravene the Department’s stated policy that “public access to legacy tokens,” more commonly known as manifestos, “will contribute to further attacks” by “spark[ing] incredibly intense interest and study” by potential copycat offenders and providing a blueprint for future attackers.³

The Department’s decision to broadcast the attempted assassin’s bounty on President Trump—at the same time that the Department is aggressively and unconstitutionally⁴ prosecuting President Trump—raises significant concern that the Department could cause additional harm to occur. To further the Committee’s ongoing oversight to ensure that the Justice Department is upholding its standard of impartiality, we request the following documents:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the FBI’s May 2023 “Protection of Legacy Tokens” memorandum; and

¹ Tom Pappert, *FBI Memo on ‘Protection of Legacy Tokens’ Sent to Nashville Police in May 2023 Opposed Release of Covenant Killer Documents, Cited Destruction Precedent*, TENN. STAR (June 5, 2024) (hereinafter “Pappert”).

² Written Factual Proffer in Support of Pretrial Detention at 8, *U.S. v. Routh*, No. 24-mj-08441-RMM (S.D. Fla. Sept. 23, 2024).

³ Pappert, *supra* note 1.

⁴ *U.S. v. Trump*, No. 9:23-cr-80101-AMC (S.D. Fla. July 15, 2024) (order granting motion to dismiss superseding indictment based on Appointments Clause violation).

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2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the release of the would-be assassin's letter to "The World" as part of the Department's Written Factual Proffer in Support of Pretrial Detention filed on September 23, 2024.

We respectfully ask that you produce these documents and communications as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 9, 2024. Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has jurisdiction to conduct oversight over the Department of Justice.⁵

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Jordan". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and "D".

Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

⁵ Rules of the House of Representatives R. X (2023).