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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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July 24, 2021

Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Non-Responsiveness to Questions of Status of Investigations Related to January 6th

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We, the undersigned, are writing today to let you know that we would like to meet with you in person on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 anytime between noon and 3:00 p.m. at your office to discuss the status of the January 6th prisoners and related investigations. Many letters inquiring into their status from Members of Congress have gone unanswered.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) reports that 535 people have been arrested arising out of events on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol Building. We are seven months into these matters and answers are not forthcoming.

For example, on July 6, 2021, the DOJ stated that it has released “11 new videos” related to these investigations. The undersigned offices in one form or another have been requesting the release of all 14,000 hours of raw footage from surveillance cameras. This is a matter of extreme public importance.

Several defendants have already made plea agreements, yet it does not appear that either they, or their counsel, have had access to this potentially exculpatory evidence. Every American citizen has a constitutional right to all the evidence before making any decision to go to trial, plead no contest, or plead guilty. In our oversight capacity over the DOJ, we have asked multiple times for information only to have our inquiries ignored.

In addition, we have concerns about reports of the conditions of the prison where these detainees are being held and whether, in fact, there have been instances of abuse inflicted by other prisoners or guards. We also have questions regarding whether some have been or are currently being imprisoned in solitary confinement for the purpose of punishment or as a means of cruel and unusual punishment.

We are disturbed by reports such as attorney Joseph McBride having called Amnesty International because he claims the DOJ and prison officials have allowed guards to beat his client. Mr. McBride has also stated, on the record, that dozens of those currently held for January 6th matters have been held in solitary confinement 23 hours a day.

Again, in our capacity as the people's elected officials duly sworn to conduct oversight in these matters, our inquiries have been ignored. A partial list includes:

On February 23, 2021, Rep. Paul Gosar sent a letter to Acting Capitol Police Chief Pittman asking for information and facts, including production of the surveillance video. That letter is attached hereto. No reply was received.

On May 20, 2021, Rep. Paul Gosar followed up and renewed his request. That letter is attached. No reply was received.

On May 13, 2021, and again on July 15, 2021, Rep. Chip Roy sent a letter to you seeking information and a briefing regarding the status of the investigation. Again, these letters attached hereto and cosigned by Rep. Thomas Massie were ignored.

On June 16, 2021, Rep. Matt Gaetz sent a letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) asking for information and assistance. We joined him in that request. That letter is also attached. No reply was received.

On April 22, 2021, Sen. Ron Johnson sent a letter to Ms. Pittman. It is also attached. No reply has been received.

On June 24, 2021, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene sent a letter, attached hereto, and she also has not received a response.

Rep. Louie Gohmert has taken to the floor of the House as far back as March to address his concerns with the lack of factual information being provided and requesting the DOJ and the FBI to inform the public of all the circumstances.

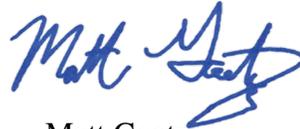
We would also like to discuss why we were not warned that "armed extremists were planning mayhem" on January 6th? Ms. Pittman testified on February 25th this year that her office was notified in advance that "armed extremists" were targeting the peaceful rally, and potentially targeting us, as members of Congress. Yet we received no notice of this threat.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday and talking with you about these critical issues.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress

Cc: Lisa Monaco
Deputy Attorney General
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