

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

June 8, 2021

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 May 28, 2021, journalist Andy Ngo was attacked and severely beaten by Antifa and other left-wing extremists while reporting on the ongoing violence in Portland, Oregon.¹ Mr. Ngo was able to barely escape the extremists after seeking refuge in a nearby hotel and receiving an escort by a Portland Fire and Rescue first responder to an ambulance, which transported him to a nearby emergency room.² We have repeatedly urged the Biden Administration to address the left-wing violence in Portland. Your refusal to do so has only emboldened these radical agitators to the degree that they feel comfortable targeting and viciously attacking a member of the press.

On February 24, 2021, Mr. Ngo provided testimony to our Committee about how the actions of Antifa and left-wing anarchists in Portland, Oregon have “resulted in a murder, hundreds of arson attacks, mass injuries, and mass property destruction.”³ In his testimony, Mr. Ngo stressed to the Congress the importance of not “downplaying Antifa’s violent extremism.”⁴ Following his near-death experience at the hands of Antifa, Mr. Ngo called on “Portland Police and federal authorities to act on this before Antifa operatives hiding behind their masks succeed in murdering an American journalist on their watch.”⁵

After the Committee received Mr. Ngo’s testimony, Ranking Member Jordan wrote to you with questions about how the Justice Department would enforce federal law and protect federal property from left-wing violence in Portland, Oregon.⁶ You ignored this inquiry. When

¹ Andy Ngo (@MrAndyNgo), Twitter, (Jun. 2, 2021, 9:42 PM), <https://twitter.com/MrAndyNgo/status/1400266501601513475>; Lee Brown, *Author Andy Ngo, who exposed Antifa, says he was beaten by ‘masked mob,’* N.Y. POST (Jun. 3, 2021).

² *Id.*

³ *Rise of Domestic Terrorism in America: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. On Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security of the H. Comm. On the Judiciary*, 117th Cong. (2021) (statement of Andy Ngo).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Andy Ngo (@MrAndyNgo), Twitter, (Jun. 2, 2021, 9:42), <https://twitter.com/MrAndyNgo/status/1400266593377165313>.

⁶ Letter from Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Judiciary, to Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General, U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Mar. 29, 2021) (on file with Committee).

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Ranking Member Jordan wrote to you again to emphasize the seriousness of the issue, you again failed to respond.⁷ The Biden Administration's tacit acceptance of left-wing political violence in Portland and the accompanying attacks on journalists is unacceptable and dangerous. Your acceptance of left-wing political violence in Portland will only incentivize further violence and attacks.

The Biden Administration has an obligation to protect Mr. Ngo and other journalists from Antifa's orchestrated campaign of violence and intimidation.⁸ To better understand the Department of Justice's efforts to protect the civil rights of Mr. Ngo and other journalists reporting on left-wing political violence in Portland, we respectfully request the following information:

1. Please explain the Justice Department's current efforts to identify and prosecute individuals involved in the assaults of Mr. Ngo and other journalists in violation of federal statutes securing their civil rights.
2. Please explain how the Justice Department, in coordination with other relevant federal and state law enforcement agencies, is working to prevent individuals from engaging in violence and intimidation designed to impair the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges that Mr. Ngo and other journalists possess under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2021. After you have provided this information in writing, we ask that you provide an unclassified staff-level briefing.

The House Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction over matters concerning "subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States" as well as "criminal law enforcement and criminalization" under House Rule X.⁹

To schedule the briefing or if you have any questions about this request, please have your staff contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Dan Bishop
Member of Congress


Jim Jordan
Ranking Member

⁷ Letter from Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Judiciary, to Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General, U.S. Dep't of Justice (Apr. 27, 2021) (on file with Committee).

⁸ See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. § 241; see also 42 U.S.C. § 1986.

⁹ House Rule X(1)(l), 117th Cong. (2021).

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Andy Biggs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism
and Homeland Security



Mike Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution,
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism
and Homeland Security
The Honorable Steve Cohen, Chairman, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights
and Civil Liberties