

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr:

Extremist groups and violent rioters have seized on the legitimate protests of law-abiding Americans as an opportunity to commit violence across our country in recent weeks. We write to you to urge you to use every tool at your disposal at the Department of Justice to stop these criminals and restore order to our streets.

As we continue to watch many of America's communities become overcome with lawlessness that endangers life, liberty, and property, we call on the Department of Justice to act. While we obviously respect states and localities to carry out the majority of the duty to keep order on the streets, where criminal activity becomes organized, targets federal property and memorials, or targets religious entities, there is an appropriate role for greater action by federal law enforcement.

Just yesterday a violent mob gathered in Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. and attempted to drag down the historic statue of Andrew Jackson. Police arrived just in time to stop it. As proof that only violence was on their mind, with no particular message to convey, they shifted their target to a nearby church. They assaulted anyone standing in their way, including journalists, and defaced the church with spray paint. This is just the latest example of the violence, vandalism, and hate perpetrated by these criminals in locations across the country.

Specifically, we are calling on the Department of Justice and the FBI to coordinate with all appropriate federal agencies and state governments to address the following:

1. Stop the desecration or vandalism of any memorials, of any kind, on federal property, in federal parks, or otherwise within the jurisdiction or purview of federal authority. Prioritize the prosecution of these crimes through U.S. Attorney's Offices, and seek significant jail time, for anyone involved with such activity.
2. Defend America's churches, synagogues, and all religious organizations under all applicable federal laws. Investigate and prosecute all threats, conspiracies to commit crimes, and crimes committed in destruction of our valued religious institutions. Prominent leftists have called for the specific destruction of property, including religious monuments. Please investigate if

any crimes were committed by them or any other entities in coordination to attack Houses of Worship, as well as the vandalism of historic St. John's Church or any other churches.

3. End organized criminal activity by ANTIFA or any other group associated with the rioting, lawlessness, murder, intimidation, looting, destruction, vandalism, and all activity that is undermining order on our streets and in our community. There is almost certainly coordinated activity with intent to carry out crimes that should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law under our organized crime statutes or otherwise.

Much of the violence is on video, from journalists and the rioters themselves, because they have little fear of being caught and facing consequences. We urge you to use the full resources of your office to prove them wrong and arrest, charges, and prosecute the perpetrators under all applicable and appropriate federal laws.

As you know, the first order of our government under the Constitution is to secure the blessings of liberty we recognize as inalienable. There can be no liberty without order. The Department of Justice must ensure our laws are enforced.

Sincerely,



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CHIP ROY  
Member of Congress



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TED BUDD  
Member of Congress



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STEVE KING  
Member of Congress



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ANDY HARRIS, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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LOUIE GOHMERT  
Member of Congress



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JEFF DUNCAN  
Member of Congress



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RON WRIGHT  
Member of Congress



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PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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BEN CLINE  
Member of Congress



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MATT GAETZ  
Member of Congress



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RANDY K. WEBER  
Member of Congress



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RUSS FULCHER  
Member of Congress



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JODY HICE  
Member of Congress