

From: Home and Security Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chairman Thompson Statement on CBP Investigation into the Mistreatment of Migrants in Del Rio, Texas
To:
Sent: July 8, 2022 6:10 PM (UTC-04:00)



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chairman Thompson Statement on CBP Investigation into the Mistreatment of Migrants in Del Rio, Texas

July 8, 2022 (WASHINGTON) – Today, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement on U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Professional Responsibility releasing [the findings of its investigation](#) into the [mistreatment of migrants](#) in Del Rio, Texas, on September 19, 2021:

“The disturbing findings issued by CBP’s Office of Professional Responsibility raise serious questions about command, control, and communications within CBP. Particularly troubling is the Office’s finding that Border Patrol agents, in support of a State law enforcement entity, engaged in activities that ‘directly contravened USBP operational objectives and resulted in the unnecessary use of force against migrants.’

“These activities were not in line with CBP’s mission or values. All migrants encountered in the United States should be processed humanely – including those subject to Title 42. In the coming days, I look forward to engaging with DHS and CBP Leadership on not just the disciplinary recommendations stemming from this incident, but broader action to prevent future violations.”

#

Media contact: Adam Comis at 202-225-9978



From: White House Press Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, May 16, 2022
To: Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: May 16, 2022 7:39 PM (UTC-04:00)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2022

Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

3:08 P.M. EDT

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Good afternoon, everybody. Hello. I know that was a long two minutes. I apologize.

Okay, let's get started. So, before we start the briefing, I want to take a moment to recognize the lives lost and forever changed in Buffalo.

Former Buffalo Police Lieutenant Aaron Salter, 55, is a hero -- a security guard who engaged the suspect to save lives and was killed in the process.

Ruth Whitfield, 86, was mother of Buffalo's Retired Fire Commissioner Garnell W. Whitfield. Ruth was the rock of the family, devoting her life to taking care of her four children and husband. Ruth was visiting the former commissioner's father in a nursing home, as she did each day, and she stopped at the supermarket to buy some groceries.

Katherine Massey, 72, was a well-known community figure who wrote for her local newspapers, assisted in elections, and dressed up in costume as "Mr. Broccoli" to teach local school children to eat -- to "eat right."

Pearl Young, 77, was a substitute teacher and a "true pillar in the community," who volunteered at a church food pantry every Saturday.

Heyward Patterson, 68, a driver and church volunteer. Hayward worked as a driver who gave rides to residents to and

from the grocery store and would help with their groceries when he was killed.

Celestine Chaney, 65, a grandmother to six. Celestine had been visiting her sister, and they went to the supermarket because she wanted to get strawberries to make shortcakes, which she loved. Celestine prized her role as a grandmother, survived cancer, and was a regular churchgoer.

~~Robert~~ [Roberta] Drury, 32, a resident of the Syracuse area. She was at the supermarket to get food for dinner while in town visiting her brother. "She always was the center of attention and made [the] whole room smile and laugh," her sister said.

Geraldine Talley, 62, was doing her regular grocery shopping with her fiancé on Saturday when she was shot and killed. According to her niece Lakesha Chapman, "She was the person who always put our family reunion together...and mother of two beautiful children".

Andre Mackneil, 53. Andre was going to the supermarket to get a birthday cake for her [his] son when she [he] was killed. Jahon Smith, Mackneil's cousin, said he was a loving father and grandmother [grandfather] who used to check in on everyone.

Margus D. Morrison, 52. Margus was a father of three and a Buffalo resident.

We recon- -- we recognize their lives today and those lost and affected by gun violence this weekend in Houston, in southern California, Milwaukee, and communities across the country.

And we honor the bravery of those in law enforcement who responded quickly and with professionalism in Buffalo, and who risk their lives every day to protect and serve their communities.

Tomorrow, as you all know, the President and the First Lady will travel to Buffalo to meet with families of the victims, first responders, and community leaders. They will comfort the families of the 10 people whose lives were senselessly taken in this horrific shooting. And they will express gratitude for the bravery of members of law enforcement and other first responders who took immediate action to try to protect and save lives.

A couple more toppers for you here -- items for the top -- at the top.

In just under an hour, the President will host Prime Minister of Greece and a senior delegation, including their Minister for fair- -- Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Defense, for a bilateral meeting. The two leaders will discuss the U.S.-Greece bilateral relationship, which both our governments agree is at a historical high point.

The President and the Prime Minister will discuss our defense partnership, efforts to bolster energy security while also combatting climate change, our shared commitment to democratic values, and efforts to provide Ukraine with the support it needs to defend itself.

The two leaders will also discuss ways to further expand the bilateral trade relationship and U.S. investment in Greece, where several U.S. tech and renewable energy companies have made significant investments.

The President and the First Lady, Jill Biden, will then host the Prime Minister and -- and his wife for a reception honoring the conclusion of the Greece -- Greece's bicentennial year of March -- on March -- March 25th.

Also today, the administration announced an Action Plan to Ease the Burden of Housing Costs, taking a series of actions to address one of the largest items in a typical family's budget and one of the largest drivers of inflation in our economy.

As President, Biden has said tackling inflation is his top economic priority. The best thing we can do to ease the burden of housing costs is to boost the supply of quality housing, including building more new homes and preserving existing federal

support and market-rate affordable housing.

Today's action plan includes legislative and administration -- administrative actions that will help close America's housing supply shortfalls in five years, starting with creation -- the creation of preservation of hundreds of thousands of affordable housing units in the next three years.

This is the most comprehensive all-of-government effort to close the housing supply shortfall in history when aligned with other policies that the President has proposed to reduce housing costs and ensure affordability, such as rental assistance and down payment assistance. Closing the gap will mean more affordable rents and more attainable home- -- homeownership for Americans in every community.

Also today -- we have a lot -- we have a lot. Today marks six months since President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Since then, the team has hit the ground running to deliver results for communities across the country. In six months, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has already begun helping fight climate change, advancing environmental justice, boosting domestic manufacturing, strengthening critical links in our supply chain, and lowering costs for working families.

To date, the Biden-Harris administration has announced over \$110 billion to rebuild roads and bridges, modernize ports and airports, replace lead pipes to deliver clean water, and high -- and expand high-speed Internet.

This includes funding for -- for over 4,300 specific projects touching over 3,200 communities across all 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico as well.

Fifty-three states and territories have appointed state infrastructure coordinators, responding to the call from Infrastructure Coordinator Landrieu to appoint an individual to coordinate efforts in a state -- in a state, along with serving as a single point of contact for the White House Infrastructure implementation -- Implementation Team.

The President, Vice President, and Cabinet have traveled on more than 125 trips to over 40 states, as well as D.C. and Puerto Rico, to demonstrate how the President is delivering on this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

The last thing -- I promise -- and then we'll go to your questions. But before I do that, I just want to say a few words about how honored I am to be here with all of you today in this role, in this room, standing behind this podium.

I am obviously acutely aware that my presence at this podium represents a few firsts. I am a Black, gay, immigrant woman, the first of all three of those to hold this position.

I would not be here today if it were not for generations of barriers -- barrier-breaking people before me. I stand on their shoulders. If it were not for generations of barrier-breaking people before me, I would not be here.

But I benefit from their sacrifices. I have learned from their ex- -- excellence, and I am forever grateful to them. Representation does matter. You hear us -- you hear us say this often in this administration. And no one understands this better than President Biden, which is why his administration is not only the most diverse in history, it is filled with barrier-breaking women and men, from the Vice President, to the Cabinet Secretaries, to his Supreme Court nominee, to senior staff throughout this administration.

When I did my first briefing as Principal Deputy

Press Secretary last year, almost a year ago, I said at this podium that this podium, this room, this building belong to the American people. We work for them. It's not about me. It's about them. It was true then, and it is very true indeed today.

On Jen's first briefing, she made clear that the President's and her priority was to bring truth and transparency back to this briefing room. Jen did a great job at that. And I will work every day to continue to ensure we are meeting the President's

high expectation of truth, honesty, and transparency.

I also have tremendous respect for the work that you all do, which I know it's not easy. The press plays a vital role in our democracy, and we need a strong and independent press now more than ever.

We might not see eye to eye here in this room all the time, which is okay. That give-and-take is so incredibly healthy and it's a part of our democracy. And I look forward to engaging with all of you on that.

With that, please kick us off.

Q Thanks, Karine. And congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q While you've been here before, it's your first as Press Secretary, so on that -- in that vein, I just want to ask you: Do you view your primary role here as speaking for the President and promoting his interests? Or are you -- you know, or are you committed to providing the unvarnished truth to the American people so that they know what their government is doing on their behalf?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I actually think that's hand in hand. I don't think there's -- that there is any separation to that.

As I said at the end of my opening here, the President believes in truth and transparency. That's what he expects from us. Clearly, we are here to talk about his platform and what he is doing to deliver for the American people. But he wants to make sure we're doing this trans- -- in a transparent way, in a truthful way, and an honest way.

Q And just on a housekeeping note, I know the pool has to gather at 3:30 for the event, but I'm hoping you might be able to stay here to take questions from more folks.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah. Absolutely.

Q And then, on a substantive note, this weekend's attack in Buffalo -- the shooter professed ideology, echoed in some ways the hate -- the hateful rhetoric espoused by the Charlottesville white supremacist protesters almost five years ago that motivated the President to run for this office back then, as he's often talked about.

What more does the President believe he has to do and the country has to do to combat that sort of hatred?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So let me just say we still need to learn more about the motivation for the shooting as law enforcement do -- does their work. But we don't -- we don't need anything else to stay -- to state a clear moral truth -- right? -- which is: A racially motivated hate crime is abhorrent to the very fabric of this nation. Hate must not have a safe harbor.

This is something that the President says very often, especially in these horrific incidents that we have seen time and time again. We must do everything in our power to end hate-fueled domestic terrorism. And we must reject hatred and extreme -- extremism ideologies that seek to divide Americans, whenever we find it in our society. It is antithetical to who we are as a country and fuels -- and fuels violence as well.

Q Thanks, Karine. Congratulations also.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q In that vein, there's polling that shows one in three Americans believe in some element of "replacement theory." You just spoke in very broad brushstrokes there. Are there specifics that this White House is willing to do, willing to take in

order to stop this form of thinking from further seeping out of the fringe and into the mainstream?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, you know, we're going to continue to call this out. As we have talked about many times, the President, at every chance he's had -- when we've seen a violent attack like this that is -- that is -- as we, you know, say "with hatred and racially motivated" -- he calls it out and calls it what it is.

So, one thing I do want to touch on is, like, domestic terrorism a little bit, which kind of hopefully touches on your question.

You know, we have been working to implement the government-wide national strategy to counter domestic terrorism, which President Biden directed his national [sic] -- national security team to develop on his first full day in office, recognizing that has -- that has evolved into the most urgent terrorism threat the United States faces today.

That work includes improving information sharing throughout federal, state, and local law enforcement on domestic terrorism threats and analysis; adding resources to prevent domestic terrorism's recruitment and mobilization to violence, including online by increasing information sharing with the technology sector; increasing our support for federal, state, and local law enforcement in addressing domestic terrorism nationwide; confronting long-term contributors to domestic terrorism and rooting out hate and bigotry.

This weekend's terrible events in Buffalo are just another vivid reminder of the urgency of that work and continuing to move towards that.

Q But on this notion that immigrants and others are believed to be, by some, taking over and pushing white people out of positions of authority in this country, which is at the heart of so much of this terror that is being spewed online, does the White House believe these views are being amplified by Tucker Carlson?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, you know, like I said, we are still figuring out the motivation of all of this. And we are very clear -- look, you know, as you all know, watching what happened in Charlottesville was a major factor in the President deciding to run -- right? -- and back in 2017. You know, many of those dark voices still exist today, and the President is -- is determined, as he was back then. And he is determined today to make sure that we fight back against those forces of hate and evil and of -- and violence.

So that's what we're going to keep doing. That's what we're going to continue to call out.

But we reject hatred and extremism ideologies.

Q But just in the interest of -- I apologize. In the interest of time -- I know you've got to go --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q -- but are there elected officials that this administration views as threatening in this way?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, it's the -- what we're going to continue to do -- anyone -- any one person -- right? -- doesn't matter who they are, who spews this type of hate -- hatred, we are going to -- we're going to call out. We're going to condemn that. I'm not going to speak or call out any individual names. I'm saying that this is something that we need to call out.

And so this is what the President has been doing and will continue to do that. You saw him say that in his statement over the weekend. And that's -- you know, now he's going to go to Buffalo and visit with the victims that were affected by this violence that we saw on Saturday.

Go ahead, Jeff.

Q Thanks, Karine. And congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q President Putin said today that Russia has no objections to Finland and Sweden joining NATO, which seems to be a shift in policy for them. What is the White House's reaction to that? And can you give us an update on U.S. efforts to help bridge the gap between Turkey and Finland and Sweden over NATO?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, on the Turkey part -- I'll take that first -- I know that there was a question about how they were feeling or what they -- what the Turkey government -- Turkish government said about Finland and Sweden.

The Secretary spoke to this again, as I just said, yesterday during his press conference in Berlin -- a meeting with his counterparts in NATO. And so, what he said is, we are "confident...we will reach consensus" as an Alliance on an entry process should they decide to apply. That was what Secretary Blinken said yesterday.

I cannot speak for the Kremlin. You know, this is -- this -- we believe -- when it -- we believe in NATO's open-door policies and the right of each country to decide its own future -- foreign policy and security arrangements. That's what we believe.

And so, we welcome the recent statements from governments of Finland and Sweden on their intention to seek NATO membership. We will strongly support these applications when they are formally presented in Brussels. Both Finland and Sweden are close and valued defense partners of the United States and of NATO.

Q Secondly, when and why did the President decide to have additional troops sent to Somalia?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, I know that was just announced I believe today -- earlier today.

So the President has approved a request from the Secretary of Defense to reestablish a persistent U.S. military presence in Somalia to enable a more effective fight against al-Shabaab, which has increased in strength and poses a heightened threat.

This is a repositioning of forces already in theater who have traveled in and out of Somalia on an episodic basis since the previous administration made the decision to withdraw. That was back in January of 2021, as you might recall.

As we've emphasized throughout his administration, we're approaching counterterrorism in a manner tailored to the particular terrorist threats that we see emerging from particular countries.

Today in Somalia, we face al-Qaeda's largest and wealthiest global affiliate, and one that holds substantial territorial safe haven. The decision to reintroduce a small but persistent presence was made, first and foremost, to maximize the safety and effectiveness of our force and enable them to provide better support of our partners.

Additionally, our partners can benefit from our more consistent support and engagement in addressing the threat posed by al-Shabaab by having a small but persistent U.S. military presence. And while there is risk, it is manageable. That's the way that we are seeing this approach.

DOD is working to elevate local conditions, including those following the Somalia presidential election yesterday, and is engaging partners in the region, including the Somali government, to determine the best way forward.

Go ahead, MJ.

Q Thanks, Karine. Two questions for you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q One, there are some elected officials and media figures who are publicly espousing xenophobic, racist, and extremist views that may be helping to spread white nationalism. You just told my colleague here that you don't want to call out any names. Why don't you want to do that? Does that come from the President himself?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, I think because it doesn't matter who it is. What -- if a person espouses hatred, we need to call that out. I'm not going to get into a back-and-forth on names and who said what.

We're just saying: If someone does that, if there's an individual that is espousing hate, xenophobia, you know, has -- you know, has just white supremacy-type of extremism, we need to call that out. And this President has done that. He's done that at every -- at every unfortunate -- every unfortunate, violent event that we have seen.

As we know, Charlottesville, as I just mentioned, was the reason that he decided to jump in, into this election, back in 2020 -- 2019.

Q One more thing -- I'll just wait a second.

(Press pool departs for the President's bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Greece.)

Q Can we just explain for people who are watching: The pool is departing.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yep. Yep. For folks who are watching, the pool is departing. They're -- the President is getting ready to have his event.

Q We don't want anybody to think they're walking out on you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Laughs.) No, no. It's okay.

Q We're not walking out on you, Karine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, you know -- you know, that would be a great -- that would be a great first day, one for the books: The press gets up and walks away. (Laughter.)

Q But they did.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: They -- well, for -- yeah. They -- they -- the President is much more important than I am, for sure.

Q And those of us who stayed will be rewarded, correct? (Laughter.)

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, I will -- you guys all deserve rewards. How about that? (Laughter.)

Go ahead, Nancy.

Q I have to leave.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, I'm so sorry. I'm sorry, MJ. I'm so sorry. Go ahead.

Q On a separate topic.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q The President told my colleague Jeremy Diamond on Friday, when he asked if the administration should have acted sooner on baby formula shortage: "If we d been better mind readers, I guess we could have." This doesn't seem like a situation that would have required mindreading. As you know, the recalls date back to February. I believe Politico reported months ago that the FDA was first warned about the suspected bacteria issue as early as September.

Are there any specific actions that this administration took -- meetings, phone calls, briefings -- in February or any earlier to begin addressing this potential shortage?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, you've heard us talk about this. You've seen my colleagues on your networks talking about what we have done. Since -- you know, since February, we've been working aro- -- on this 24/7.

But I do want to give you a little bit of an update of where we are: So, getting more safe infant formula onto shelves across the country is one of the President's top priorities. Right? This is something that he is focusing on very acutely. And again, I said 24/7 we have been working on this since we have -- since we learned about this back in February.

It's important to remember this shortage exists because Abbott closed the facility -- closed a facility because of safety concerns from the FDA. The FDA is working closely with Abbott to bring the facility back online safely. That's the key here: safely. We want to make sure that this is done in a safe way.

We're very -- we are very close to having a path forward to safely reopening the facility. We can -- you can expect a -- an announcement from FDA later today on that that will go into more details.

We're also moving as quickly as possible to safely bring in additional product from other countries. As soon as today as well, we will be able to make an announcement on the expedited process to bring additional safe condu- -- product to the American stores shel- -- to American store shelves.

And throughout the weekend, we've been working closely with manufacturers and retailers to identify transportation and logistical needs to increase the amount and spread of FDA-approved formula being shipped into the country and ensure that formula is quickly moving from factories to retailers.

The President understands. He gets this. He gets how stressful it is for parents trying to feed their children, which is why we're leaving no stone unturned to make more safe formula available.

If parents need help finding formula, I encourage them to consult their pediatrician or visit [HHS.gov/formula](https://www.hhs.gov/formula). But we have been working on this from the -- from February -- our administration has been.

Q As -- we were just curious whether there are specific meetings, briefings, you know, phone calls that you can point us to.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have anything specific for you to point to. I'm -- I'm happy to go back and -- and get that -- you know, make sure that we are fully transparent on what we've been doing.

But this has been -- this is an important, you know, this is an important priority, a top priority for the President. He is -- his team has been working overtime to make sure that we get formula back on the shelves. And we want to do this in a safe way.

And again, we cannot forget how we got here. Abbott closed the facility because of safety concerns from the FDA. The FDA wanted to make sure that we -- formula was going out in a safe way. And that is the job of the FDA, and that is the job of this administration as well.

Q And just very quickly, on Abbott: Secretary Becerra said today, in terms of when things would be back to normal, that, "Abbott is the one that could tell you the timeline...We don't run their plants." Do you know if anyone from the federal

government is currently at the plant or has visited the plant to get a sense of where things stand?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have any information about if anyone is on the plant. Again, I can go back to our team and figure that out more specifically, but there are a lot of -- what I can say is there are a lot of dates floating around out there. But at the end of the day, the infant formula market is tight because the Michigan Abbott facility is offline currently, which is what we're trying to do -- this is the -- the announcement that you guys will hear from FDA later today on how we're helping them to do that.

We're taking a range of steps to get more supply onto shelves from domestic and international locations, and offering a suite -- a suite of resources to move supply onto the market.

As the Secretary said, Abbott can speak on it -- to an exact timeline for reopening, but FDA is and will be prepared to effectively and quickly certify moving out safe products onto shelf, as it is obligated to. And so that is going to be our focus. FDA is going to work closely with Abbott and make sure that we get them running again.

Go ahead, Nancy.

Q Thanks, Karine. Congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q When you talk about bringing -- importing more product imminently, what is the criteria going to be for which formula can be imported? Will the administration allow formula that was not produced in FDA-approved factories overseas to be imported or European brands, for example, that aren't currently sold in the U.S.?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Okay. So, as Dr. Califf was on -- on various networks today, the FDA have said that it will release guidance as soon as today on how major formula manufacturers can bring in product that is not currently being produced for the U.S. market, as you're alluding to there, Nancy, and to your question.

Companies will need to apply with the FDA, and FDA is prepared to review applications quickly and respond to them rapidly. FDA will prioritize review of applications that are most likely to be successful and will get the most formula to U.S. shelves as quickly as possible.

All companies will meet the FDA's gold standard for quality control, and only safe products will come to America's shelves as -- as the FDA Commissioner said and explained in detail this morning.

At the White House, what are our -- our role, what we'll be doing, is we will have alerted embassies, retailers, and manufacturers to identify potential companies that would make use of the new FDA import- -- importation process.

Once FDA has finalized its rules, we will be ready to provide information to the public on using the new system quickly and safely and bring new supply to the market.

Q And New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand says the President should be invoking the Defense Production Act to increase supply more quickly. Is the President still considering that? And if not, why not?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, we're pretty much where we were before on the DPA. We're leaving no stone unturned and every option is on the table, as we have been saying for the past several days.

I have no update on the DPA and where we are. But what we're -- what we're taking action is to make more supplies available as soon as possible, as you've been hearing me say. That is our prior- -- our priority, our main goal. That's happening by increasing imports, as I just laid out how we're going to do that process, and working closely with manufacturers to help them quickly ramp up production. And so that's going to be our focus.

Q And then finally, when you say that you're offering these retailers and producers more assistance, what kind of assistance are you talking about? What kind of assistance can the White House or the administration provide to get supply to store shelves more quickly?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, we're talking about logistical needs and -- and any technical help is what we were talking about. But since the President calls on Thursday to manufacturers and retailers, which we -- which we read out, the White House has been in close communication to follow up on those conversations.

The White House is having ongoing conversations with the four major infant formula to work with them to identify transportation, logistical, and supplier hurdles to increasing production of formula at their U.S. and FDA-approved facilities to expand the amount and speed of FDA-approved formula being shipped into the country and ensure that formula is quickly moving to retailers from factories.

We are also in ongoing communications, as we talk about retailers here as well, with Target and Amazon and Walmart and other leading retailers for baby formula to identify parts of the country that may be at risk of critically low supply of infant formula, and have offered to work with manufacturers and retailers to bring more formula to those parts of the country, including the U.S. government transportation and logistical support.

Last, we are also contacting suppliers to infant formula manufacturers to inform them that their materials are critical for boosting U.S. infant formula production and they should prioritize their production and delivery.

So, essentially, in short, we want them to know we're standing ready to provide the resources or support needed to move safely to get -- to get this to the shelves as soon as possible.

Go ahead.

Q Yeah. COVID cases are up 61 percent in the last two weeks. Hospitalizations are up almost 25 percent. Is the White House concerned that the pandemic has not moved on from us?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, you know, Dr. Jha was here not too long ago. I think he -- very, very early in his -- in his tenure, he stopped by and answered all of your questions. And he said this is a -- this is tricky -- right? -- when it comes to COVID.

And the thing that we have to remember and we keep saying from here is that people have to get vaccinated; they have to get boosted. That is the way to really start moving forward from -- from COVID. And that's been the President's focus in putting together a comprehensive strategy to make sure that that is happening. And that's why you've seen that success of more than 200 million people who have been vaccinated.

And so we're going to continue to have that message. Again, it's -- it's a -- COVID is tricky, right? This is a once-in-a-generation pandemic, you know. And so -- but what we're going to continue to do is do the job of the federal government and make sure that we -- you know, we keep the American public as safe as possible and communicating on what we need to do to move forward.

Q Just in terms of that communication, Dr. Jha did come here but it was a while ago, and the regular COVID briefings with the CDC director and other health advisors have fallen off a cliff. What is your view on whether these briefings should be happening?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, I think they will be happening. I don't have anything -- any update for you on that. Dr. Jha is happy to come back. I think he's asked to come back to the briefing to speak directly to you -- to all of you.

I'm sure that they will be having a briefing pretty soon. I don't have any -- any list in front of me to read out to you.

But yes, it is important to continue to communicate to the American public. And we're going to continue to do that.

Go ahead.

Q A couple of questions on Buffalo. We understand that the shooter did purchase his guns legally, but he did have a history of mental health issues and was held for an evaluation last year. So does the White House believe he should have been prevented from owning a gun because of that history? And how does the administration propose doing so in the future?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So just me a second, because I -- I really want to touch on this. It's really important.

Our nation is facing a mental health crisis, so it's important to call it that -- one that is worsened by acts of violence, like the one we saw in Buffalo, that can traumatize communities, especially communities of color.

And anyone seeking support in the wake of shootings like this should contact Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990. Help is available 24/7, 365 days a week -- day of the year, I should say -- for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or -- or human-caused disaster.

We are committed to expanding access to mental health for all Americans. The American Rescue Plan made historic investment in mental health and substance use -- substance use care.

And, in his first State of the Union, the President unveiled his vision for transforming mental health in the United States.

His comprehensive strategy focuses on building a system that works for everyone by increasing the supply and diversity of the mental health workforce, connecting more people to care by lowering costs and other barriers, and creating environments that help prevent mental health problems and support recovery.

While we are committed to this work, I want to also underscore that the overwhelming majority of individuals with mental health problems do not commit acts of violence.

And so, comments that make this about mental health only further stigma -- stigmatizing mental health issues and detract from the other issues, like gun violence, that must con- -- that must be confronted in our society.

So, just want to make that clear that we are not stigmatizing.

Q But should he have been prevented from owning a gun?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, this is -- this goes back to making sure that, you know, we have gun reform. Right? This goes back to making sure that we -- we -- you know, the President is going to continue to call on Congress to make that happen.

And so, you know, when it comes -- I just wanted to make sure when we talk about mental health, we talk about it in its fullness. And like I said, not every -- it's not -- it -- you know, not every individual that has a mental health problem commits -- commits acts of violence. So, I just want to make sure that we don't stigmatize it.

Q And just a quick -- another one.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q Would the President support the death penalty for the shooter if he's eventually convicted?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, this is being -- this is being investigated by -- by the Department of Justice. I don't have -- it's not -- it's not my place from here -- this podium -- to go be- -- to go beyond that.

Go ahead.

Q Yeah. Regarding gun violence, does the President plan to use his remarks tomorrow in Buffalo to push for gun control and gun reform? And will that be a key part of what his message is tomorrow in Buffalo?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, the President, you know, is going to go -- you know, he really wanted to go to Buffalo. He made it sure that -- that he went there before he -- he went to Asia. He wants to go there and comfort the people who are -- who -- who went through this violence on Saturday, and wanted to offer -- you know, offer some comfort and listen to them, talk to them, see how they're doing. And so that is going to be his priority with the First Lady.

I don't want to get ahead of what he's going to say. I will let the President speak for himself when we get there tomorrow.

Q Does he plan to use this moment, though, to call on Congress to pass gun reform measures, or is there recognition that that's just not something that's possible right now in Congress? He's obviously pushed for these things here in the past, during his first term in office.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, I think the President, as he's done for this past year, is going to continue to call for gun reform. That is not going to -- you know, that's not going to change. That is something that -- that he has done this past year every time we have heard of this gun violence.

You know, our country is facing an epidemic on gun violence that is costing lives every day. We saw that in Buffalo, as we're talking about, and in examples every day that might not make the news but tear up families and communities. This is a top priority for the President, and it's been through- -- has been throughout his career.

I do want to say that, you know, what we saw in the country this weekend are an urgent reminder of how important it is to have confirmed leadership at ATF [ATF]. So I want to -- do take that moment to say ATF [ATF] agents are playing a key role in the investigation in Buffalo, and they are risking their lives every day to combat domestic terrorism and crack down on gun traffickers to keep our streets safe from violent crime.

If the Senate wants to get their -- get their back, and -- they should confirm Steve Dettelbach to lead the agency. Dettelbach is a career prosecutor who has confirmed -- who was confirmed uni- -- unanimously last time he was before the Senate. He was the support of former federal prosecution -- he has the support of former prosecutors from both parties, including the team that prosecuted the deadly Oklahoma City bombing domestic terrorism case. He has the backing of major law enforcement groups, including one that represents many of the rank-and-file ATF agents he's going to lead as ATF director.

So, that is something that is really important that we make sure that we get that done, and we're calling on Congress to do that.

Q All right. Thank you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q Karine, congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thanks.

Q Nice to see you up there.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q The President's Twitter account posted the other day, "You want to bring down inflation? Let's make sure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share." How does raising taxes on corporations reduce inflation?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, are you talking about a specific tweet?

Q He tweeted, "You want to bring down inflation? Let's make sure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share?"

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, you know, we have talked about -- we have talked about this this past year, about making sure that the wealthiest among us are paying their fair share. And that is important to do. And that is something that, you know, the President has been, you know, working on every day when we talk about inflation and lowering costs. And so it's very important that, you know, as we're seeing costs rise, as we're talking about how to, you know -- you know, build an America that is safe, that's equal for everyone, and doesn't leave anyone behind, that is an important part of that as well.

Q But how does raising taxes on corporations lower the cost of gas, the cost of a used car, the cost of food for everyday Americans?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, look, I think we encourage those who have done very well -- right? -- especially those who care about climate change, to support a fairer tax -- tax code that doesn't change -- that doesn't charge manufacturers' workers, cops, builders a higher percentage of their earnings; that the most fortunate people in our nation -- and not let the -- that stand in the way of reducing energy costs and fighting this existential problem, if you think about that as an example, and to support basic collective bargaining rights as well. Right? That's also important.

But look, it is -- you know, by not -- if -- without having a fairer tax code, which is what I'm talking about, then all -- every -- like manufacturing workers, cops -- you know, it's not fair for them to have to pay higher taxes than the folks that -- who are -- who are -- who are not paying taxes at all or barely have.

Q But was does that have to do with inflation? The President said, "You want to bring down inflation? Let's make sure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share."

Jeff Bezos came out and tweeted about that. He said, "The newly created disinformation board should review this tweet." Would you be okay with that?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, it's not a huge mystery why one of the wealthiest individuals on Earth -- right? -- opposes an economic agenda that is for the middle class, that cuts some of the biggest costs families face, fights inflation for the long haul -- right? -- and that's what we're talking about; that's why we're -- we're talking about lowering inflation here -- and adds to the historic deficit reduction the President is achieving by asking the richest taxpayers and corporations to pay their fair share. That is what we're talking about.

Q Okay. And then just one on the trip tomorrow: How come the President is visiting Buffalo after a senseless tragedy there, but he couldn't visit Waukesha after 6 were killed and 61 injured in an attack on a Christmas parade there?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, he's visited many communities. Buffalo -- he was -- we -- you know, he was -- he's able to go tomorrow to Buffalo before the trip. That is something that was important for him to do. But he has visited many -- many other communities. This is not -- Buffalo is not the first community, sadly, that he has to go up to because of a violent attack. So, you know, that's not -- that's not the first one. So he's been to many others, sadly.

Q You outlined some steps that the administration has taken related to baby formula.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Do you have any sense of the timeline for the imports that the FDA is considering? Obviously, for parents, this is a hour-by-hour, day-by-day concern. And is the President expressing any worry about how quickly this can be resolved, since parents are dealing with this on an urgent basis?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah. Like I said, this is something that -- this is incredibly important to the President. We want this to happen as soon as possible, as quickly as possible. That is why we're working with manufacturers and retailers, as I just laid out. That's why FDA is working with Abbott to open up that facility.

So we want to get this done as quickly as possible. And that's why our -- we've been working 24/7 to make that happen.

Q Do you have a sense of the timeline when FDA announces? Does that mean the production will be up and running in a matter of days? Do you know when imports would be approved?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, I don't have a timeline on that. I know, again, we want to make this happen quickly. FDA, again, is going to be working with the Abbott facility. They're going to have an announcement later on how that's going to happen. They're going to work closely with them to make sure that we do it as quickly as possible. We know how urgent and important this is to parents who need to make sure that they have safe formula for their babies and infants.

Q To the back?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Karine. Two questions, please. Does the President see any link to the white supremacist theories that -- like the replacement theory -- and what he started calling "ultra-MAGA" or sometimes he just refers to as "extreme Republican" politics? Does he see that as part of it?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, look, I think what the President believes and has done is call it out. Right? I think, you know, this is -- this is not about politics. This is about people's lives.

What we saw on Saturday and many times -- you think about El Paso in Texas, you think about the Tree of Life in Pittsburgh, you think about the Pulse nightclub in Florida, the Mother Emanuel in South Carolina. These are events that are very -- that have been led by some dark forces that still exist today. And so, it is important to call that out.

We understand that there is still a lot of work to do. And so that is -- when you talk about people's lives in this way, it's not about politics. It's about making sure that we're doing everything that we can, you know, to uproot this evil that we're seeing, this hatred that we're seeing. And so that's what the President is going to continue to do to make sure that we're working -- we're working towards that.

Q Okay, but when he talks about "ultra-MAGA," as he has started to a lot, is he -- would he include that in the bundle of what he considers "ultra-MAGA"?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, again, this is about the lives of people who were taken in a violent way, in an abhorrent way. And so, the focus for the President is to make sure that, you know, we call this out -- we call out white supremacy, we call out hatred.

As I've said before, this is still being investigated. This is still being looked at. But the moralness -- right? -- the moral center of this should be called out.

And that's going to be the focus. That's what you're going to see the President do tomorrow. He's going to meet with the victims. He's going to have conversations. He's going to offer them comfort. He's going to listen to them and hear what it is that they want to share with him.

And he's going to continue to work with Congress and call on Congress to call for -- to work on gun reform, which is really important here as well.

Q And, sorry, I had a second question.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q A very quick one, I promise. Is there any update on whether Cuba, Nicaragua, or Venezuela will be invited to the Americas Summit? And, generally, when are you going to be announcing invitations?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I don't have any update for you on that -- on invitations or when we're going to announce invitations or who's been invited. As soon as I -- as soon as we have that, we'll promise to share.

Okay. Go ahead.

Q Hey, congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q Two questions on internal policy review or internal government reviews that have actually fallen out of the headlines. The first is on the investigation of Border Patrol agents that -- in the -- I guess it was September of last year -- who were there for the Del Rio arrival of thousands of Haitian migrants.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q It's been eight months at this point, and we don't have a conclusion of that review. The President had wanted accountability; he demanded it at the time. Secretary Mayorkas said that there would be a conclusion to that review within weeks.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q So why is it taking so long? And is there any urgency, given the fact that you're going to -- you're -- the administration is now preparing for the arrival of potentially new surges of migrants?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, it's a -- it's a very good question. I don't have an update on that. The Department of Homeland Security -- that's where -- you mentioned Secretary Mayorkas -- that's where that review sits. And as soon as we have an update, I promise to share that, or we -- or they will share that. That won't -- that would not come from here. I just don't have an update. But I -- I understand the question.

Q And the second review that hasn't concluded, it appears: The administration said that after the terrorist attack in Fort Worth at a synagogue, they were going to review how an individual that was a British-born citizen, who had been on a watchlist 10 years prior, somehow was able to enter the United States, and that they were going to look at lessons learned.

You mentioned how there are increased threats of foreign-born terrorism as well as domestic-born terrorism.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Where is that review? What lessons have been learned? And is that a priority for the administration?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I don't -- I don't have an update on that. I will have to check in with our team to see if we have something to share on -- on that particular review. And so, I'll do that; I'll check in with the team. And you should reach

out to us afterwards and see what we can do.

Go ahead. Hey, Jenny.

Q Thanks, Karine. Two on the economy. China's industrial output and consumer spending came in at the worst level since the pandemic began. Are you worried that this will cause a global recession, and including here?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Can you say that again? What -- what came back?

Q China's industrial output -- which, of course, has an impact on the global economy and the U.S. economy -- came in at the worst level since the pandemic began. And I'm worried -- wondering if you're worried about a global recession.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, you know, I -- the one thing I can tell you is that I know that there's always a question about the economic strategy around China. I can give you that update.

I have not seen that specific data that you're speaking of. But the United States has strong economic trade ties in the Indo-Pacific. And so -- but we agree it is essential for us to stop -- to step up economically in the region and to do it fast.

We need a new model of economic engagement and trade when -- as we're talking about that region specifically. The past couple of years have highlighted real gaps in global economy, like vulnerable supply chains and corruption and tax havens and lack of innovation and creative -- creativity holding us back.

The old models did nothing to address these issues that underpin our growth. And we will -- and will define the coming decades and our ability to deliver for our people.

That's why we're working intensely on develop -- developing an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. We've gotten a lot of interest from countries in the region. We've also spent months engaging Congress and labor.

So, as it relates to our economic framework, it's going to focus on building agreements with Indo-Pacific partners and, one, developing -- one, developing a modern digital economy, including opening the door for small and medium businesses; reducing -- two, reducing supply chain vulnerabilities and diversifying our supply chains to drive investment that will create good jobs for people at home and Indo-Pacific; three, treating climate change like the economy issue it is by investing together in the green economy; and also, building a fairer economy with tax and anti-corruption practices that level in the playing field not just for workers, but also for businesses too.

And that's kind of our strategy -- economic strategy in the region. That particular data I have not seen yet, so I would need to check in with our team.

Q And then one more, overall on the economy. The dollar is very strong right now, and all indications are that it's damaging the domestic and global economy. And I'm worri- -- wondering if you share that view and if it's time for the Biden administration to address this.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Again, that -- I would just -- going to have to check with our team. I've not seen that report, but I'll check in with our team on that.

Q And quickly, the follow-up on the economic strategy in the Indo-Pacific.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Is the President expected to lay that out on his trip there?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have anything new to share or preview for you on his trip. As you know, Jake is going to be

here -- Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor -- the President's National Security Advisor is going to be here on Wednesday. And he'll talk more and give a little bit more depth on what's happening and what we're going to be doing -- the messaging and the goals in Asia.

We'll also have calls. As you know, we tend to do these background calls leading up to the trip. And those background calls will give you a little bit more information on Indo-Pacific. Kind of -- you know, what we're -- the goals and de- -- what we're delivering, I don't have anything specific on that.

Go ahead, Steven.

Q Just a quick one. Probably a good question for Jake, but I'll ask you because it's timely. Does the White House have a response to the Indian move over the weekend to block wheat exports?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have an update. I don't have anything for you on that. Yeah.

Q Karine, yes. On the -- several civil rights groups are calling for a forum, a summit on hate crimes. Is that something you all are considering?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, we've heard -- we've heard of this -- of the summit. I don't have anything for you to preview or to confirm on if we're going to have that summit here at the White House.

Clearly, we're constantly talking to organizations and leaders in the communities and having constant dialogue, but I just don't have anything new on that.

Q And one more quickly.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q This morning, the Supreme Court ruled against a man who immigrated from India. And he -- they ruled that he was deportable essentially because he checked the wrong box on his driver's license application. Is that a case that the Biden administration might try and intervene on? Or what do you think of that decision?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I -- my guess is it's going to go to -- that would be a Department of Justice for it to decide, not for us to decide on. And so, I would refer you to DOJ.

Go ahead.

Q Thank you. And congratulations. I was hoping you could offer a little more of an explanation about something you said earlier, where you said that they were -- did not want to call out by name individuals who had been espousing racist theories that could be fueling violence. I guess my question is: Why not, particularly if they're individuals who have very large platforms and theoretically carry a lot of influence? This would be -- people accused of doing so include the number three Republican in the House and the host of the number one cable news show on television. Why not call them out by name?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, what we saw on Saturday was devastating and horrific. You know, it is -- what we want to do is making sure that we send a very clear message that hate must have no safe harbor. And we must do everything in our power to end hate-fueled domestic terrorism. And we must reject hatred and extreme -- extreme ideologies that seek to divide Americans, wherever we find it in society; it is antithetical to who we are as a country. And that is what we want to make sure that we're doing.

It doesn't matter who it is. This -- this is something, like, morally -- like, mor- -- the moral truth of this is that, you know, it is a racial-motivated hate crime, and it's a -- abhorrent.

And so, that's what we need to call out. It doesn't -- it doesn't matter who that is. And that's what we're trying to make clear here. We're not -- we're not going to get into politics here about this. We want to make sure that we're calling out what we're seeing. These are people's lives.

At the top of this -- of the briefing -- I talked about 10 people -- 10 people who are doing what many of us might be doing on a Saturday -- is going shopping. You know, I know I go to the supermarket with my -- with my seven-year-old very often. If it's not on a Saturday, it's on a Sunday, before the week starts, to get the needs -- to get what we need for the week.

I mean, this is what happened to everyday people, from 20 years old to 86 years old. That's what we saw on Saturday. And so, we need to call that out and do everything that we can to really deal with this issue.

And we know we have a lot of work to do.

Q But you know it matters to some, right? It does matter to some people who it is that's calling it out. And when you don't call the -- when you don't call out the individual, they feel as if you're backing away from the issue.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, but we're not.

Q (Inaudible) to the point.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, we're not backing. How are we backing away from the issue?

Q Well, because you won't name who it is.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: But here's the thing: We're calling out what is happening. We're going to the heart of the issue, the hatred of the issue. Why -- but I guess my point is, you know, we are -- this is a President -- right? -- who decided to run because of what he saw in Charlottesville -- right? -- and he talked about the soul of the nation. And it was something that propelled him to jump into the 2020 primary -- because of what this showed, because it was, again, against who we are as a country, as he believed it to be.

And so, you know, it is something that is important to remember. And this is a President that calls it out every time we see this horrific violence.

And it's not about -- once you get into calling out people's names, then you move away from that issue, right? You move away from that issue. So, that's why I'm not going to do that from here. I'm going to focus on -- as I did when I started -- the 10 lives that were murdered. Everyday people doing everyday things. And that is why the President is going to Buffalo tomorrow.

Go ahead. Go ahead, April.

Q Karine, first of all, congratulations. Two polar opposite questions.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Laughs.)

Q I know.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, boy. (Laughs.)

Q One on the issue, Saturday. But I'm going to take it in another vein, which you just mentioned.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q The President ran on the issue of the soul of this nation.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Charlottesville. He speaks now of equity and inclusion. He has strengthened civil rights in DOJ. He's strengthened civil rights in other departments in this White House. But where are the teeth when it comes to changing this hate that has been plaguing this nation since the inception of this nation? Where s the teeth for the President people are expecting when it comes to these issues?

And on the summit issue, is the White House looking at what Bill Clinton did -- the precedent of having the Race Initiative, which brought people from all walks of life together to discuss issues of race -- the browning of America? Is the President looking at that as well?

And then I have another question.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, okay. You stopped there. Okay.

You know, now, this is a President that has been very clear about race in this country. Right?

When he walked in, he talked about the multiple crises that were facing us as a country. He talked about COVID, the economy, climate, and where we are with -- with race. And he s called it a crisis.

And he made it a point in his administration -- what he can do on the federal level -- to really deal with that in a way that we ve not seen before.

You know, one of the first things that he signed when he walked into the -- this presidency is an executive order to make sure that there s fairness, equality, and representation in -- in the federal government and federal agencies. And that is something that Susan Rice and her team, the Domestic Policy Council, has taken on, and they ve made that a priority.

Look, I know, April -- and we all know -- there s still so much work to be done. This President is committed to that work, and he has not shied away from it. He has called out the hatred that we have seen, the violence that we have seen when it comes to racially motivated attacks. He has been very, very clear on that.

Is there more work to be done? Absolutely. It is our -- is the team here looking to see what else we can do? Absolutely. And so, we re just going to continue to do that work.

But I do want to say, you know, tomorrow -- again, tomorrow, you know, the President wants to go to a community, he wants to grieve with them, and he wants to send a message to the entire country that we stand behind them and with them. And that is so important, as well as the President. He will try to bring some comfort to the community, particularly to those who lost loved ones. And, you know -- you know, we hear him discuss some of things he said Saturday about "hate must have no safe harbor." You heard me say that. It s probably the third time I ve said this in this briefing. And it really does -- it doesn t in this country.

And so any -- any racially motivated hate crime is abhorrent to the very fabric of this nation. And so that s what you re going to see him do. And that is going to be the focus tomorrow.

Q And the second other opposite of the question. You re making history --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q -- on so many levels. So many communities are so proud of you, and we're hearing it on social media everywhere. You're the first. What does that mean for the broader community, particularly Washington -- white male-dominated still, even though we had the first Black president -- and the broader society that is -- majority does not look like you?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I know.

Q What does this say? Because it's not window dressing; it's more than that.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: It's a very good question, April. I'm going to answer it in a -- in a kind of a personal way, if that's okay, since you asked it in a personal way.

So, I have not read a lot of the things that have been written about me because I wanted to focus on the work at hand. And I do believe it's not about me, it's about this place. It's about what -- the work that I have to do every day, that we all have to do as a team to make sure that we communicate with you and communicate with the broader -- the broader public.

But there was something that moved me, and I think this speaks to -- to what you're asking, which is: There was a story about my elementary school. I went to Franklin Middle School -- Elementary School in Hampstead, New York. And they did a story, and they went to the class -- I think I was in sixth grade when I went there; I went for one year -- and they talked to the students about me and this moment -- and this administration too, which is very important, because I don't think I would be here -- yes, I stand -- I stood on so many shoulders, but it does matter who sits in the Oval Office as well. That is very, very real.

And these kids wrote me a letter. And in the letter, they talked about how they can dream bigger because of me standing behind this podium. And that matters. You know, as I started out at the beginning: Representation matters. And not just for girls, but also for boys.

And so, what I hope is that young people get to dream big and dream bigger than they have before by seeing me stand here and answer all of your questions, you know, and have a healthy dialogue, as I discussed.

And so I think it is important, and so I appreciate the question. Thank you.

Q I have to follow that, unfortunately, with some questions about Somalia and Ukraine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Okay.

Q But, first, happy first day. Let me just ask you -- (laughter).

Q And now --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: And now -- (laughs). Okay. All right.

Q It's a bit of hard left, sorry.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, it's okay. That's what this is all about. It's okay. It's okay.

Q Has President Biden spoken to Somalia's new leader? Did he or does he plan to congratulate him? And has there been any leader-to-leader discussion about the new troop deployment?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Okay. So, I'll say this -- and I think I said earlier that, you know, having -- making sure that we're work- -- that we're working, we're having -- engaging with partners in the region, including the Somalia -- the Somali government. So, I did say that about the announcement about what -- what you're asking me here.

But on the election -- I want to get back to that -- we congratulate the Somali people and their new president who was sworn in last evening, as you know. Somalia now has an opportunity to focus on the political, economic, and security reforms necessary to advance the interests of the people of Somalia.

We encourage their new president and all the Somalian leaders to prioritize strengthening democratic governance and institutions, developing security forces to defeat terrorism, enacting economic reforms, and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the millions of Somalis -- Somalis suffering from devastating drought.

We look forward to the timely formation of a new government and to partnering with the Somalis -- with Somalia's leaders to achieve our shared goal to a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Somalia.

Q Before I move on to Ukraine, so have the two presidents spoken yet?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have -- I don't have a conversation or call to preview for you.

Q On Ukraine, the President has said he wants to go to Ukraine for a visit. Any movement on that issue?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I know that -- to your point, he wants to -- to visit Ukraine, clearly in the future. But there's no plans to go at that -- at all at this -- at this time, I should say.

He sent Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin to Kyiv to demonstrate an -- our unwavering commitment to Ukraine. And the First Lady, as you all know, went for Mother's Day to send an important message that the American people stand with the people of Ukraine.

You know, the President, as you -- as you guys know, because we've read out some of these calls -- speaks to President Zelenskyy and leaders around the world regularly as we organize the world's response to Russia's invasion.

Q Thanks, Karine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, okay. Thank you so much, guys.

I'll see you on Wednesday, if you -- and hopefully I'll see some folks in Buffalo, and we'll do this again.

Q Thanks, Karine.

Q Thank you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you all. Thank you. Thank you, everybody.

Q (Inaudible) congratulations.

Q Welcome to the soup.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Laughs.) Thanks, guys.

4:12 P.M. EDT

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | press@who.eop.gov

White House Press Office · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington DC 20500 0003 · USA · 202 456 1111

From: Home and Security Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chairman Thompson Statement on Additional Allegations Against Border Patrol in Lawsuit from Haitian Migrants
To:
Sent: December 20, 2021 7:17 PM (UTC-05:00)



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chairman Thompson Statement on Additional Allegations Against Border Patrol in Lawsuit from Haitian Migrants

December 20, 2021 (WASHINGTON) – Today, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement on additional [allegations](#) made against U.S. Border Patrol in Del Rio, Texas in a lawsuit filed by Haitian migrants.

“The allegations in this lawsuit – including new claims that Border Patrol agents used horse reins as whips on Haitian migrants – are appalling. It is also troubling that these allegations run counter to what senior CBP officials have told Congress about what transpired in Del Rio. I urge the Department of Homeland Security to include these allegations in their ongoing investigation into the mistreatment of migrants and demand that those responsible be held accountable. We cannot tolerate the inhumane treatment of migrants.”

#

Media contact: Adam Comis at (202) 225-9978



From: Heinze man, Kate (OAG)
Subject: FW: Wray testimony transcript
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: October 25, 2021 12:52 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: House Home and Security Cmte Wor dwide Threats 09222021.pdf, Senate Home and Security & Govt Affairs Cmte Threats to the Home and 09212021.pdf

From: Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Heinzelman, Kate (OAG) (b) (6) Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)
(b) (6)
Cc: Gaeta, Joseph (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Wray testimony transcript

Here you go.

[Back to Results](#)

< 1 of 1 >

Hearing - Hearing Transcripts

Contents ▾

 Add to selected items

Title Info

Title:	House Homeland Security Committee Holds Hearing on Worldwide Threats to the Homeland
Date:	September 22, 2021
Committee:	Homeland Security;HouseCommittee on Homeland Security. House
Source:	Transcript
Permalink:	https://congressional.proquest.com/congressional/docview/t39.d40.tr09220121.o46?accountid=14740

Body

House Homeland: Worldwide Threats To The Homeland: 20 Years After 9/11.

September 22, 2021 09:00 A.M.

SPEAKERS:

REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (D-MISS.), CHAIRMAN

REP. SHEILA JACKSON LEE (D-TEXAS)

REP. JIM LANGEVIN (D-R.I.)

REP. DONALD M. PAYNE JR. (D-N.J.)

REP. LOU CORREA (D-CALIF.)

REP. ELISSA SLOTKIN (D-MICH)

REP. EMANUEL CLEAVER II (D-MO.)

REP. AL GREEN (D-TEXAS)

REP. YVETTE D. CLARKE (D-N.Y.)

REP. ERIC SWALWELL (D-CALIF.)

REP. DINA TITUS (D-NEV.)

REP. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN (D-N.J.)

REP. KATHLEEN RICE (D-N.Y.)

REP. VAL B. DEMINGS (D-FLA.)

REP. NANETTE BARRAGAN (D-CALIF.)

REP. JOSH GOTTFIMMER (D-N.J.)



REP. BOB GOODEN (D-N.C.)

REP. ELAINE LURIA (D-VA.)

REP. TOM MALINOWSKI (D-N.J.)

REP. RITCHIE TORRES (D-N.Y.)

REP. JOHN KATKO (R-N.Y.), RANKING MEMBER

REP. MICHAEL MCCAUL (R-TEXAS)

REP. CLAY HIGGINS (R-LA.)

REP. MICHAEL GUEST (R-MISS.)

REP. DAN BISHOP (R-N.C.)

REP. JEFF VAN DREW (R-N.J.)

REP. RALPH NORMAN (R-S.C.)

REP. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS (R-IOWA)

REP. DIANA HARSHBARGER (R-TENN.)

REP. ANDREW CLYDE (R-GA.)

REP. CARLOS GIMENEZ (R-FLA.)

REP. JAKE LATURNER (R-KAN.)

REP. PETER MEIJER (R-MICH)

REP. KAT CAMMACK (R-FLA.)

REP. AUGUST PFLUGER (R-TEXAS)

REP. ANDREW GARBARINO (R-N.Y.)

[*]BENNIE THOMPSON: The Committee on Homeland Security will come to order. The committee is meeting today to receive testimony on Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: 20 years after 9/11. Without objection, the Chair is authorized to declare the committee in recess at any point. Good morning. I want to thank Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas; FBI Director, Christopher Wray; and National Counterterrorism Center Director, Christine Abizaid for coming before the committee today and for your service to the country.

This month, Americans observed the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We will never forget the heroic first responders who ran into the twin towers to save others, the brave Flight 93 passengers who fought back against the hijackers, or the servicemembers killed at their post in the Pentagon.

We remember all of those who lost their lives or their loved ones on 9/11 and those who have suffered ground zero-related health effects in the days since. This committee was created in the aftermath of the attacks. And earlier this month, we met on hallowed ground in New York to mark the 20th anniversary.

We visited the 9/11 memorial and museum and laid a wreath in remembrance. We met in One World Trade Center with first responders to discuss how far we've come in the last two decades and what more remains to be done to secure our nation while upholding our American values. Today, the committee is meeting to examine worldwide threats to the homeland, 20 years after 9/11. It is the committee's longstanding practice to meet annually with national security leaders to discuss the global threat landscape and the US response.

This year, especially, we reflect on the incredible transformation of our national security apparatus and expansion of the Homeland Security Enterprise over the last two decades. We recognize the success we've had in preventing another 9/11-style attack, but are sobered by the challenges posed by long-standing and emerging homeland security threats.

Some of these threats include the recent rise in domestic terrorism, more frequent cyber attacks from increasingly sophisticated actors and the security implications of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan. With respect to domestic terrorism, our witnesses have testified before this committee previously about the grave nature of the threat.



Secretary Mayorkas called it the greatest threat in the homeland. I hope to hear from the panel today about their current domestic terrorism threat assessment in the wake of the January 6 attack on the United States Capitol. Regarding cyber security, over the past year, we've seen our adversaries burrow into federal networks through a sophisticated supply chain attack, exploit one-day vulnerabilities in Microsoft Exchange Server, and refuse to rein in cybercriminals working to extort millions of dollars from US critical infrastructure owners and operators through ransomware attacks.

I commend the administration for its sustained commitment to securing federal networks and making the federal government a more valuable security partner in the private sector. We still have a long way to go. I'm interested to learn today about how DHS and FBI coordinate as they execute their shared cybersecurity missions.

Regarding Afghanistan, this committee has been and will continue to engage on threats to the homeland emanating from Afghanistan, while recognizing that the terror threat has metastasized across the world in the last two decades. We are conducting careful oversight of the US efforts to screen and resettle our Afghan allies in this country and we'll continue to do so. Finally, I want to address the situation at the southern border.

The Biden administration inherited an immigration system badly broken by the previous administration. Trump's cruel policies led to families being separated and children dying in custody. Those immoral policies did not represent who we are as a people and the Biden administration was right to reject them.

I've spoken with Secretary Mayorkas on a regular basis about the border and even more frequently in recent days as events unfolded in Del Rio, Texas. The administration has committed to enforce the laws and processing migrants in a safe, orderly, and humane manner. And this committee will hold the administration to its commitment.

Finally, I want to say a word to the men and women working to secure the homeland. Their jobs have never been at ease and they are particularly difficult right now with the COVID-19 pandemic and worsening natural disasters caused by climate change threatening their health, disrupting travel, and diverting homeland security resources.

Please know that this committee greatly appreciate those working on the frontlines and behind the scenes to secure the homeland on behalf of the American people. As we learned in 9/11, nothing short of a well-coordinated, whole-of-government effort will protect the nation against urgent evolving threats.

Twenty years on, the Committee on Homeland Security remains committed to working with federal, state, and local partners on that critical effort. Again, I thank our witnesses for joining us today and the members for their participation. With that, I recognize the ranking member, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Katko for an opening statement.

JOHN KATKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the witnesses for being here today. I'm pleased that the committee is holding this very important hearing as the United States finds itself facing increasingly dire threats on a number of fronts impacting our homeland security. From the Biden administration's chaotic and deadly withdrawal process in Afghanistan to the ongoing humanitarian and security crisis along our southwest border to the unprecedented cyber threats facing our American way of life, the American people are deeply troubled by what they are seeing.

These threats are, of course, all happening in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in which clarity from the administration related to vaccine boosters has been absent, similar to the Department of Homeland Security's mitigation of the pandemic at the southwest border as was recently confirmed by the DHS Inspector General's Office.

What is most troubling to me is an overwhelming lack of accountability this administration is willing to accept. Nearly 10 months after President Biden's inauguration, the prevailing narrative coming from the administration's political class continues to be one which blames the last administration for the current administration's shortcomings.

This is just tired and it's inaccurate and these talking points have been repeated consistently alongside scenes of Americans and Afghan allies he left under Taliban rule. And all well-known terrorist operatives were inaugurated into the Taliban's cabinet on the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Let me repeat that.

Known terrorist operatives were inaugurated into the Taliban's cabinet on the 20th anniversary of 9/11. That is significant. But that is not the only crisis where the Biden administration's blame game shows up. What we also hear when officials blame the last administration for the deadly and increasingly untenable crisis along



our southern border.

Last month, we saw the sixth straight month of more than 170,000 encounters along the southwest border, a trend that has never been recorded before. These numbers are part of the overall 1.5 million illegal border encounters that have occurred just this fiscal year. While the recently departed border chief is on record stating that known or suspected terrorists are crossing the border at "a level we have never seen before." This administration continues to avoid the American people's demand for transparency.

This issue hits home for me. This year, my district in Central New York has seen a very big increase in opioid-related deaths. This trend is repeated in communities across the country, proving that, in 2021, every state truly is a border state. Customs and Border Protection has seized more than twice the amount of lethal fentanyl this year compared to last year, and that's just what we seized, and more than three times more than in 2019. We all know that everything -- that for everything we interdict, more is flowing undetected into American communities as the drug cartels exploit the administration's failings.

On the issue of cybersecurity, the American people are facing unprecedented threats to their livelihood, their privacy, and their overall way of life. In this year alone, we've seen a number of high-profile attacks aimed at America's critical infrastructure, leading to important conversations in Congress around the merits of incident reporting and identifying systemically important critical infrastructure.

Two issues I would like to hear the panel's thoughts on today. Last but certainly not least is a rapidly increasing challenges facing the homeland from adversarial nation-states overseas, namely China. As the Chinese Communist Party aims to undermine the United States at every turn, I see aggressive moves on Beijing's part to increase its investments in the Western Hemisphere.

Threats posed by China underpin supply chain security challenges that are leading this country into new economic security oversight efforts. I recently traveled to New York City with a number of my colleagues to observe the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11. And I thank the chairman once again for making that happen.

As we spoke with individuals at NYPD and FDNY, two things became clear. First, that our first responders and law enforcement, our true heroes on the frontlines of our homeland security, risking their lives every day to protect the American people. And secondly, that these same first responders are troubled by what they see, our many accounts concerning how troubled our front law -- front-line law enforcement is about the homeland security implications of al-Qaida and ISIS having a safe haven in Afghanistan once again, along with consequences in their communities stemming from the porous southern border.

These threats, combined with low morale and retention caused by the shameful defund the police movement is putting American communities at greater risk at a time when we can least afford it. Today, I hope to hear solutions rather than talking points from our panelists, who each play a truly critical role in securing the US homeland.

I'm grateful to each one of them for their service to this country in these trying times, and I look forward to working with them in our efforts on behalf of the American people. But make no mistake about it. It's very, very frustrating right now, especially with respect to the southern border, and I will pull no punches and neither are my colleagues when it comes to that.

And I'm looking forward to having this discussion today. And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will yield back the balance of my time.

BENNIE THOMPSON: All the members of the committee are reminded that on the committee rules, opening statements may be submitted for the record. Members are also reminded that the committee will operate according to the guidelines laid out by the chairman and ranking member in our February 3rd colloquy regarding remote procedures.

I welcome our panel of witnesses. Our first witness is The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, the secretary of homeland security. Our next witness is The Honorable Christopher Wray, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Our third and final witness is The Honorable Christine Abizaid, director of the National Counterterrorism Center in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Without objection, the witnesses' full statement will be inserted in the record. I now ask Secretary Mayorkas to summarize his statement for five minutes.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Katko, and distinguished members of this

committee, good morning and thank you for inviting me here today to discuss the threat landscape facing our homeland 20 years after 9/11, alongside my colleagues from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Counterterrorism Center.

Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, I may ask for a minute more of time. I do want to address the images that emanated from Del Rio, Texas over the last several days and correctly and necessarily were met with our nation's horror because they do not reflect who we are as a country, nor do we -- do they reflect who the United States Custom and Border Protection is. I want to share with you, with Ranking Member Katko, and this entire committee the fact that we are addressing this with tremendous speed and with tremendous force.

I have ordered an investigation to be conducted of the events that are captured in those images. The Office of Professional Responsibility's leaders are conducting the investigation. We have ensured that the individuals during the pendency of the investigation are not conducting law enforcement duties to interact with migrants but rather are conducting only administrative duties.

I have informed through the appropriate channels our Office of Inspector General. The facts will drive the actions that we take. We, ourselves, will pull no punches, and we need to conduct this investigation thoroughly but very quickly. It will be completed in days and not weeks. And I wanted to assure this committee and you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Ranking Member of that fact.

During the past few weeks, I have attended numerous events to remember the tragic assault on our democracy that occurred on 9/11. Each commemoration was a powerful reminder of why we serve: in memory of those whom we lost and in pursuit of our noble mission to protect the homeland. Today, we face a diverse and evolving threat landscape that includes domestic and international terrorism, malicious cyber activities, and ongoing global pandemic transnational crime, climate change, and more.

Through the extraordinary talent and dedication of the more than 250,000 individuals who comprise our department, we are meeting the challenge to protect our homeland and keep our communities safe. Every day, our department's personnel make tremendous sacrifices to achieve this mission. I would like to take a moment to describe the major threats facing our country today and the work we are doing to combat them.

First, we have built a multilayered security and screening and vetting architecture to combat the evolving terrorist threat. We remain ever vigilant in protecting the homeland from foreign terrorists seeking to do us harm, the very reason for the department's creation while combating the most significant and persistent terrorism-related threat facing our country today, which stems from both homegrown and domestic violent extremists, were inspired by a broad range of ideological motivations.

To meet this challenge, DHS has established a dedicated domestic terrorism branch within our Office of Intelligence and Analysis, launched the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships to provide communities with evidence-based tools and resources, to address early risk factors and redouble our efforts, to share timely and actionable information and intelligence with our partners across every level of government.

This year for the first time, we designated combating domestic violent extremism as a national priority area in FEMA grant programs, resulting in at least \$77 million being spent on capabilities to detect and protect against these threats in communities nationwide. Second, as cyberthreats have grown, so have our efforts to increase our nation's cybersecurity resilience and protect our critical infrastructure.

Ransomware incidents are on the rise. Last year, victims paid an estimated \$350 million in ransoms, a 311 percent increase over the prior year, with the average payment exceeding \$300,000. In July, DHS launched StopRansomware.gov to help private and public organizations of all sizes combat ransomware and adopt cybersecurity best practices.

Our experts at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, stood up the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative to bring together partners from every level of government and the private sector to reduce cyber risks to better protect our critical infrastructure. TSA recently issued two new security directives to strengthen the cybersecurity and resilience of our nation's pipelines.

CISA and our Office of Intelligence and Analysis are also working with all 50 states, local jurisdictions, and election technology experts to keep our elections secure. To further lead the way, we are building a top-tier cybersecurity workforce by investing in the development of diverse talent pipelines and building the expertise to keep addressing changing threats.

Third, we continue making risk-based investments and keep our borders secure, including from threats posed by transnational criminal organizations. We are collaborating with our international partners to disrupt these

by transnational criminal organizations. We are collaborating with our international partners to disrupt these groups, combat their illicit activities like drug trafficking and human smuggling, and hold accountable those with ties to their logistical operations while streamlining multinational cooperation on investigations and prosecutions.

Fourth, DHS continues to support nationwide efforts to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. FEMA has helped stand up more than 800 community vaccination centers, including almost 200 mobile sites to more equitably increased access to COVID-19 vaccines across vulnerable and rural populations. The Transportation Security Administration acted to protect the health of the traveling public and transportation personnel by implementing a federal mask mandate at airports on commercial aircraft and in various modes of surface transportation.

Meanwhile, the US Secret Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have partnered with other federal agencies to protect Americans from COVID-19-related fraud and criminal activity, including by preventing more than \$3 billion of much-needed COVID-19 relief from fraudulent -- fraudulently ending up in the pockets of criminals.

Finally, we are countering the current and growing existential threat posed by climate change. Hurricane Ida was just the latest manifestation of a devastating reality, natural disasters rising in intensity and destructive reach. However, this threat is not new nor is it unique to any region. To help communities recover and remain resilient, President Biden doubled the size of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, pouring \$1 billion into wildfire resilience efforts, flood control initiatives, and much more.

DHS also authorized nearly \$3.5 billion in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to help states, tribes, and territories adapt and prepare for the impacts of the climate crisis. FEMA revised its policies to overcome historic inequities in its aid programs and ensure a fairer and more equitable distribution of assistance to minority, low-income, and other disenfranchised communities.

Two decades after 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security remains focused on protecting our country from evolving threats. We can execute this critical mission because of our incredible workforce and because of our key partners, the members of this committee, our counterparts abroad, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and local communities.

We will remain vigilant, resilient, and agile. We will do so to continue countering the threats of today and of the next 20 years. Thank you for your leadership and continued support. I look forward to answering your questions.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. I now ask Director Wray to summarize his statement. [Inaudible] I know it might be a little more than five minutes, but just we look forward to your testimony.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to you and to Ranking Member Katko and members of the committee. I'm honored to be here today to discuss the many threats facing our homeland. A week and a half ago, we marked a somber, really sacred anniversary in this country, the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks.

September 11th reminds us of evil and loss, the nearly 3,000 victims taken from us that day and from their families. It also though reminds us of sacrifice and selflessness of a common purpose. It reminds us of the first responders and everyday heroes we lost that day and all those who suffered illness as a result of their selfless work after the attacks, including members of our FBI family.

And still two decades later, our response to September 11th and the lessons learned from those attacks drive our approach to combating all the many threats Americans face today. It was 9/11 after all that turned the FBI into an agency focused on disrupting threats and to building deeper and even more effective partnerships both here at home and around the world.

And good thing, we made those changes because as we'll discuss this morning, there's no shortage of dangers to defend against. Just a flavor before we even get to terrorism. On the cyber front, we're now investigating over 100 different types of ransomware, each of them with scores of victims and that's on top of hundreds of other criminal and national security cyberthreats that we're working against every day.

In our violent crime war, we recently arrested over 600 gang members in a single month, It's just one month. Tackling our nation's innovation, we're opening a new China counterintelligence investigation every 12 hours. And every day we receive thousands of tips to our National Threat Operations Center. Many of which require



imminent action against threats to life.

That list goes on and on and I'm not going to have time to discuss most of them before we get started. But I do want to spend a few minutes on terrorism and the challenges facing those, protecting us against it. Preventing terrorist attacks remains our top priority both now and for the foreseeable future.

Today, the greatest terrorist threat we face here in the US is from what are in effect lone actors because they act alone and move quickly from radicalization to action, often using easily obtainable weapons against soft targets. These attackers don't leave a lot of dots for investigators to connect or time in which to connect them.

We continue to see individuals here at home, inspired by Jihadist ideologies espoused by foreign terrorist organizations like ISIS and al-Qaida, what we would call homegrown violent extremists. But we're also countering lone domestic violent extremists radicalized by personalized grievances ranging from racial, or ethnic bias, to anti-authority, or anti-government sentiment to conspiracy theories.

There is no doubt about it. Today's threat is different from what it was 20 years ago and it almost certainly continue to change. So, to stay in front of it, we've got to adapt to. That's why over the last year and a half, the FBI has pushed even more resources to our domestic terrorism investigations. Since the spring of 2020, so about 16, 17 months ago, we've more than doubled our domestic terrorism caseload from about 1,000 to around 2,700 investigations.

And we've surged personnel to match more than doubling the number of people working the threat from a year before. But we're also surging against threats by foreign terrorist organizations like ISIS, al-Qaida and al-shabaab. Their operatives continue to search for vulnerabilities and have not stopped trying to carry out large scale attacks against us. And we are certainly watching the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

Now, 9/11 was 20 years ago, but for us at the FBI, as I know it does for my colleagues testifying here with me today, it represents a danger that we focus on every single day and make no mistake, the danger is real. Our adversaries are committed and they're working to succeed just once while we're working to bat a 1,000. So, we're working side by side with our partners to identify and stop would-be attackers before they act.

Just within the past couple of years, we've thwarted potential terrorist attacks in areas like Las Vegas, Tampa, New York, Cleveland, Kansas City, Miami, Pittsburgh and elsewhere. Now, we're proud of our successes, but we need to stay on the balls of our feet, relentlessly vigilant against the next plot by our adversaries and their next attempts to attack us. Our workforce has been battling the threat of terrorism and every other threat we face right through the teeth of a pandemic and rising danger to their own safety.

And I had that last part because over the past year, we've seen a sharp and deeply disturbing uptick in violence against the law enforcement community. In just the first eight months of this year, 52 law enforcement officers have been felonious killed on the job. To put that into context, that's an officer murdered every five days and that's more than all of 2020. And of course, that doesn't even count all those who died in the line of duty facing the many other inherent dangers of this job, much less the scores of officers, agents, analysts and other dedicated professionals who lost their lives to COVID-19. We will be forever indebted for their bravery and their sacrifice and are determined to honor them all through the way we do our work, while we remain focused on our ultimate mission, protecting the American people and upholding the Constitution.

Thank you for taking the time to hear from me today and I look forward to your questions.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Director. Now, I asked Director Abizaid to summarize her statement for five minutes or whatever you require Director.

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Thank you very much, Chairman Thompson. Ranking Member Katko and distinguished members of this committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the global counterterrorism environment, and to highlight the tireless work of NCTC professionals and ICE professionals across the board who are working to protect our homeland.

As noted in my statement for the record, 20 years after 9/11, the United States faces a changed threat from foreign terrorist organizations. The threat today is less acute to the homeland, but it continues to become more ideologically diffuse and geographically diverse. The United States continues to have success at degrading foreign terrorist's operations including those directed at the homeland.

Though these terrorists have also proven adaptive over years of CT pressure. Their presence has spread to countries that are often under governed and which offer a permissive operating environment that can be easily exploited, requiring constant vigilance on the part of the intelligence community as we monitor for threats.



Turning first to the international counterterrorism landscape, the 26 August suicide bombing by ISIS-Khorasan at the International Airport in Kabul, which tragically killed 13 US servicemembers and scores of Afghans, illustrates that these groups continue to place a premium on attacks against the United States.

ISIS-Khor [Ph] in Iraq and Syria maintains a strategic interest in attacks in the west, even as it remains committed to the long-term goal of establishing an Islamic caliphate. It is fomenting sectarian discord and exploiting security gaps in Iraq and Syria to create conditions favorable for seizing territory again.

For its part, al-Qaida has changed significantly since 9/11. The group and its affiliates and allies have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to adapt to changing environments. And part of this adaptation has included shifting from its core leadership in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region to a more geographically dispersed network of affiliates and veteran leaders across Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

While years of CT pressure has degraded the al-Qaida network, the group and its affiliates remain intent on using individuals with access to the United States to conduct attacks. This was most recently demonstrated by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula as probable approval of a 2019 attack in Pensacola, Florida where a Saudi air force officer killed three and wounded eight US servicemembers.

Here in the United States, the primary threat in the homeland comes from individuals inspired to violence either by foreign terrorist or by motivations more domestic in nature. US-based homegrown violent extremists, HVEs, are largely inspired by al-Qaida or ISIS and will likely continue to attempt attacks because of their personal and ideological grievances, their attraction to foreign terrorist messaging, and their access to weapons and targets.

One of the most pressing terrorist threats to the homeland also comes from domestic violent extremists, DVEs, in particular, racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists and militia violent extremists, often mobilized to violence independent of direction from a formal organization. Since 2015, the threat from these individuals has increased, and since 2018, DVEs have posed the most lethal threat inside the homeland.

We assess that DVEs will continue to pose a heightened threat in the coming years. We also remain vigilant against Iran: its MOIS; and Quds Force agents; and its proxies, principally Lebanese Hezbollah; but also, the Iraqi Shia militants it has allied with in the region. We remain concerned about plotting against the United States for the January 2020 killing of former IRGC Quds Force commander, Qassem Soleimani, and we face an increasing number of indirect fire and unmanned aerial systems attacks against US facilities in Iraq, especially over the last several months.

Now, looking ahead, we will continue to face a diverse range of threats that play out against the backdrop of complex global trends, including the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, great power competition, the disruptive effects of a changing climate, and rapidly evolving technology. More than 17 years after its establishment, the National Counterterrorism Center is uniquely positioned to lead in this moment, alongside our partners in the FBI and DHS, as we move into the next phase of the counterterrorism fight.

We will continue to discover, analyze, and warn about ongoing and future threats as part of a broader set of foreign policy challenges that the United States will face in the 21st century. We will continue finding innovative ways to synthesize, manage, and exploit our unique access to terrorism data across a spectrum of sources to identify threats that might, otherwise, go unnoticed.

We marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, recognizing the remarkable CT successes of the last two decades and with great gratitude to the military, law enforcement, diplomatic and intelligence professionals who have made them possible. Working together, we have succeeded in preventing another major 9/11-style attack on the homeland.

But we must not be complacent. NCTC and the larger intelligence community must continue to collaborate and maintain the ability to innovate to stay ahead of the next evolution of the threat. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

BENNIE THOMPSON: [Inaudible] for that testimony. I remind each member that he or she will have five minutes to question the witnesses. I now recognize myself for questions. Director Wray, you testified before this committee two years ago that domestic terrorism threats were the most concerning terrorism threats in terms of lethality.

More recently, you testified that the threats of domestic terrorism is metastasizing. Secretary Mayorkas, you testified before us earlier this year that domestic violent extremism represents the greatest threat in the homeland right now. Despite these acknowledgments, it appears that warning signs were disregarded or the



homeland right now. Despite these acknowledgments, it appears that warning signs were disregarded or the domestic terrorism threat was not prioritized appropriately in the lead-up to the January 6th attack on the Capitol.

Director Wray and Secretary Mayorkas, what is your current assessment of threats posed by domestic terrorists to the homeland?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I'd be very pleased, Mr. Chairman, to answer that at the outset. We in the Department of Homeland Security, of course, with our partners across the federal government and state and local law enforcement, consider domestic violent extremism to be the most prominent terrorism-related threat to the homeland right now.

I think our response, in anticipation of what could have materialized on September 18th, demonstrates the lessons learned from the January 6 insurrection. We gathered a great deal of intelligence and information from public-facing sources, as well as leveraging academic and other third-party institutions.

We disseminated that information and intelligence to state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. We focused on the national capital region, and we were far more prepared should anything have materialized on September 18th than was previously the case, Mr. Chairman.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Director Wray.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, I guess I would say a few things. First, starting back in June of 2019, I elevated racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism to a national threat priority, which is our highest threat priority level. And I think that has already shown fruits in the fact that we have effectively doubled the number of domestic terrorism investigations and arrests.

Since that time, we had about 180 domestic terrorist arrests last year. We've had over 600 now in connection with January 6 alone. I would say that we have also created a domestic terrorism, hate crimes Fusion Cell to help increase the level of intelligence and information flow that goes out. Certainly, from a lethality perspective, as you noted, Mr. Chairman, we have seen those kinds of domestic violence extremists responsible for the most lethal activity over recent years.

Although, I would add that in 2020, we saw a significant uptick in lethal action and violence by anti-government, anti-authority violent extremists to go along with the racially motivated violent extremists. And from a perspective of pushing out intelligence as we did before January 6, we've been pushing out dozens of intelligence products to our federal, state, and local partners to highlight the threat.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Thank you much. Director Wray, Congress passed the DATA Act. And as you know, we have been trying to make sure that the FBI produce information on domestic terrorism in a manner that not just members of Congress but the public at large can understand what's going on. We finally got a report subject to the NDAA displacement, but there are some -- still some gaps in terms of data missing from 2009 to 2019. Can you commit to helping close those data gaps in that report so that members of Congress and the public at large can have the understanding necessary about the growing problem with domestic terrorism in this country?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you can count on us to work with you and your staff and the committee staff to try to produce more information, to be more responsive to those requests. Certainly, as I understand it, some of the information requested, and this gets overly involved for this setting, involves information that, at least, wasn't maintained in our earlier years in the form that would be, I think, most useful.

So, we're trying to work through that with your staff. And certainly, I recognize that the earlier report took longer to get to you than it should have. Some of that, in all fairness, was in part due to the pandemic and the fact that the people that we really needed to rely on for that work were both strained by the pandemic but also working on the significant domestic terrorism caseload that, as I testified a few minutes ago, mushroomed last year.

So, we're going to work with you, and we will try to see if we can get you more complete information.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Thank you very much. The chair recognizes as a ranking member of the full committee, gentleman from New York.

JOHN KATKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you all for being here. Director Wray, it's nice to see you again, and I appreciate your service to your country and your candor. Just a very brief question because I got a lot of questions for Secretary Mayorkas. Does the situation in Afghanistan give you concern about the



possibility of terrorist networks reconstituting there and, in effect, trying to incite violence in the homeland?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Yes. Actually, there are a number of reasons why we're concerned, and recognizing the time, I'll just tick them off real quickly. One, we are, of course, concerned that the -- that there will be an opportunity for a safe haven to be recreated there, which is certainly something that we've seen in the past, and allowing foreign terrorist organizations to operate more freely in the region.

We're concerned that ISIS-K can take advantage of a significantly weakened security environment to operate more freely. We're also concerned that the events there could serve as a catalyst or an inspiration for terrorists, whether they be members of FTOs, foreign terrorist organizations, or homegrown violent extremists, to conduct attacks.

And then most importantly, we're concerned that foreign terrorist organizations will have an opportunity to reconstitute plot, inspire -- in a space that's much harder for us to collect intelligence and operate against than was the case previously.

JOHN KATKO: Well, thank you very much, and I wish I had more time to spend with you on this, but perhaps a cup of coffee or breakfast soon is in order, so I can talk to you more about that. Secretary Mayorkas, I want to commend you on many of the things that you've done at Homeland Security since you've been there, particularly in the cybersecurity area.

The people that are appointed to leadership positions are doing a tremendous job, and we have a very difficult task ahead of us. And as you know and as Chairman Thompson knows, I pride myself on being one of the most bipartisan members of Congress and one who is, hopefully, seen as a gentleman. But I got to tell you, Secretary Mayorkas, there's one major problem that I have, and I've just got to unburden myself with it, and that is the southern border.

I started my career as a federal organized crime prosecutor in southern border, and I spent my adult life trying to keep this country safe. And what's happening at the southern border is absolutely out of control. And you and the administration have repeatedly referred to this border situation as a "rebuild." You need to rebuild the border.

Well, let me -- you know, some things I'm just wondering about. Is rebuilding the border having an unprecedented level of alien seized at the border it would last six months -- more than 170,000 a month over the last six months? Is rebuilding the border releasing many individuals, tens of thousands, into our communities without vaccinations for COVID? Is rebuilding our border not testing people in Customs and Border Protection custody for COVID because you don't have the facilities to keep them there?

Is rebuilding our border allowing more aliens to die in custody this year than in any time in recent memory? And as a matter of fact, in 2018, six people died in custody; 2019, 11; 2020, 13. This year, that number has quadrupled to 51. Is that rebuilding the -- our immigration system? Let me ask you. Is rebuilding our immigration system allowing cartels to get fentanyl across our border in record numbers?

There's been more fentanyl seized this year than all of last year, and last year was a record number. And the fentanyl seized this year is enough to kill every man, woman, and child the United States six times over. And many of those deaths have reached my doorstep, an underdog a county, where 45 people in the first half of this year died of heroin overdoses laced with fentanyl.

That's just my one county, and it's what's going out across the country. And I guess the other thing, too, is the number of known or suspected terrorists seized at the border this year, caught, not the one that got away, caught at the border this year, obviously, is in unprecedented numbers. And you know that, and I know that.

Is that rebuilding our immigration system? Is it? So, you come to the inescapable conclusion from a letter from September 11th from a career Customs and Border Patrol agent who was running Customs and Border Patrol, Rodney Scott, who said, "In my professional assessment, the US Border Patrol is rapidly losing the situational awareness required to know who and what is entering our homeland." He goes on to say, "Amongst many other things, it is important to remember that the border is not the destination but only a transit port and route to cities and towns throughout the United States and that these gaps in the border are exploited to easily smuggle contraband, criminals, or even potential terrorists in United States." Now, this is not from some political hack that's appointee by the Trump administration.

This is from somebody who has served 29 years under five different Presidents. And so, I -- to me, it is unbelievable, what is going on at the border. And now we have the deflection about saying Haitians and the border is closed. and now we know the border is not closed because the Haitians are -- some Haitians are



being sent home.

Some are being sent here, and we don't know what the distinction is. And that's -- that goes for every other type of person coming across the border as well. So, Mr. Chairman, before I ask one simple question of Secretary Mayorkas, I ask unanimous consent to enter this letter into the record, September 11th, 2021 letter from Rodney Scott.

I'm sorry, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Without objection.

JOHN KATKO: Thank you very much. Now, one very simple question.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The gentleman time has expired, but we'd be happy to let the secretary answer some of the questions you presented.

JOHN KATKO: Well, I just want to ask him if he can answer, Mr. Chairman. And also what I was going to ask is why the actual number of known suspected terrorists seized at the border is considered law enforcement sensitive? We're not asking about the details, just that simple number. We asked for that information on August 10th and we still haven't got it.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Ranking Member Katko, you and I have discussed the southern border, and I respectfully disagree with a number of the statements that precede your question. I should also say that I have tremendous confidence, not only in the United States Border Patrol but in its new leader, Raul Ortiz, who is a three-decade veteran of law enforcement and the United States Border Patrol.

And so, I look forward to discussing more with you some of the statements that precede your question. We are indeed addressing security at the border. We are exercising and enforcing both the laws of enforcement, the laws of accountability, and the humanitarian laws that this country and this Congress have enacted and recognized.

Thank you.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The chair will now recognize other members for questions they may wish to ask the witnesses. I will recognize members in order of seniority, alternating between majority and minority. Members are reminded to unmute themselves for -- when recognized for questioning, and to then mute themselves once they finish speaking, and to leave their cameras on so they may be visible to the chair.

The chair now recognizes for five minutes the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. Jackson Lee.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member. And let me express my appreciation very quickly to all of the men and women represented before us, and all of your teams and the entire team that have provided us with a safe journey post-9/11, and to relate to international threats coming to the United States.

We have not had that kind of attack. My time is short and I'd appreciate your quick response. To Director Abizaid, can you provide me with the interaction and the potential of a new ally and friend, or an expanded online friend, with Pakistan in light of the circumstances with Afghanistan and the potential rise of ISIS? Are we looking to use assets and collaborate as relates to domestic security?

And my time is short, would you give me a brief answer, please.

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Yes, thank you very much for the question. Pakistan has been a longtime CT partner. It is a complicated partner, given some of the dynamics in the region. But we will absolutely look to collaborate with them on CT, whether emanating from Afghanistan, Pakistan, or elsewhere in the region, consistent with our shared interests.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE: Thank you. You've been eloquent, Director Wray, on advising us about domestic terrorism. I would like to get in writing, again, the protocols that you put in place post the January 6th very devastating insurrection attack against democracy. And I'd prefer to have that in writing to the committee and direct it to me as well.

Let me indicate that many of us know that your responsibilities for national security is large. And so, as I think of Aly Raisman, Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, and Maggie Nichols, they deserve the protection of the United States and the attention of the FBI. I know that you've provided an apology, but as well, I also noted in the testimony of these young women, Simone Biles from Texas, all of them contributing to the national pride, if you

testimony of these young women, Simone Biles from Texas, all of them contributing to the national pride, if you will, throughout their lives, indicated that they had seen no prosecutions, no extensive investigations.

My time is short and I have questions for the secretary. What is your singular comment about moving forward on further investigations of agents who ignored these young women and caused additional harm and violence against them and other athletes?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, thank you for the question. As I said last week, I consider what happened, or what more importantly, did not happen back in 2015 at the FBI to be totally unacceptable. And I am deeply sorry on behalf of the entire FBI for what happened there. We have fired the one individual featured probably in the report that we could fire.

As far as prosecutions go --

UNKNOWN: [Inaudible]

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I'm sorry. It's just a second, please. As far as prosecutions go, as you may know, that's really the responsibility of the Department of Justice, not the FBI. We have done what we have the power to do. So, I would refer you really to the department on the latter.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE: Thank you. Will you be presenting the case or information to the DOJ for them to go further?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, on that issue, the inspector general, as you may know, took over the investigation. So, it's really a conversation between the inspector general and the Justice Department. If we can be helpful in that regard and that's appropriate, we'd be happy to do that.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE: Thank you so very much. I'll pursue that. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for your heart, and as well your commitment to serving the United States. I think the narrative about immigration is so wrong. First of all, the southern border is 1,954 miles, it is not out of control. Thank you to those who are protecting it. I have many people who acknowledge that.

It quickly raises the point that we should refrain from these kinds of accusatory attacks against migrants. We are a nation of laws and immigrants. And so, let me, first of all, raise the question of the terrible scenes that are all over the internet now, and also the mockery of Haitians who are taking water or washing in the water.

First of all, how much did race play a part in these actions? Are you looking into that as well? And also, have you considered this Trump relic of Title 42, not eliminating but a suspension of it, in light of the fact that Haitians have been determined to be no national security threat. There are Haitians in my district right now, migrants who have come from NVOs on the border.

We welcome them. I will be visiting them over the weekend. But I want to know how we can do better in this particular instance. You've answered all the other questions of asylum opportunities, the opportunities for them to be taken by sponsors or fanning them, which they have. We can do better. I know you want to do better.

Can you give me those answers? Thank you.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, thank you very much. The investigation is going to be all encompassing. We're not going to cut a single corner or compromise any element of thoroughness. It will be a sweeping investigation, number one. Number two, with respect to Title 42 and its exercise, that is in authority of the Centers for Disease Control.

It is not a matter of immigration policy. It is a matter of public health policy driven by the situation of COVID-19, and where the trajectory of that pandemic is. It is based on the data that CDC analyzes, and it is a CDC order that determines the applicability of the Title 42 authority.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The gentlelady's time has expired. Chair recognizes gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Higgins, for five minutes.

CLAY HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for holding this hearing today to discuss worldwide threats to the homeland as we move beyond the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Americans watching this hearing today are all wondering why the focus of our narrative is not on the obvious threats as we look at the immediate future of our nation and the security of our homeland, being the threat of jihadist terror coming into our country due to the abhorrent failure in Afghanistan and the disintegration of our Southern border. ^

It -- our national sovereignty is -- has been lost at the Southern border. We've been invaded. My colleagues refer to scenes on the internet. You don't have to look very far to see imagery that we -- none of us have ever seen in our lives. I'm 60 years old, I've never seen anything like this in America. And you know, we have witnesses before us. With all due respect, good Lord, step away from your talking points and let us share truth as Americans.

After the Biden administration's disgraceful retreat from Afghanistan, the Pentagon is actively warning Congress of the increased likelihood of terrorist attacks on US soil. That's a fact. Regardless, this committee's recent markup of the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion reconciliation monstrosity bill didn't include a single dime for counterterrorism efforts despite these warnings.

And Republican amendments to attempt to correct that were voted down by a party line vote by Democrats and -- on the -- with the majority control. Further, during this time, the security crisis at our own Southern border has gotten worse and worse. We didn't think it could get worse, but it has, and we have witnesses.

They consistently stick to these talking points like Baghdad Bob, say there is nothing wrong here, move along. And America is wondering exactly when will Congress embrace the truth and have honest discussion of the actual threats to our homeland on the Homeland Security Committee. We've had 170,000 documented interactions.

Now, based upon known formulas of estimated, what we refer to as got aways, this means you have a quarter of a million illegal crossings or attempted illegal crossings a month. This -- we've never seen numbers like this and yet, we keep getting told, oh, it's all cool, the border's under control. And I don't know how you would define failure of securing our Southern border if it's not what we're witnessing right now.

But to no one's surprise in the Republican party, there was zero funding in the majority's \$3.5 trillion bill for border security. We face significant national security threats that have been made worse by this administration's own policy. There's no shame in admitting that, but we're responsible to deal with it. And that begins with honest communications, which we're seeming -- we're avoiding this right now from -- with all due respect, my colleagues across the aisle, very -- in a very disciplined manner, sticking to their talking points.

Director Wray, I'm going to ask you, yes or no, did 19 terrorists execute the 9/11 jihadist terror attacks on America? Not the planning, the execution.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: There were 19 hijackers, yes.

CLAY HIGGINS: OK, there you go. So, that's the number -- that's a number I'm referring to. Now you won't tell us, although we're members of Congress, we have the very highest security clearance, we have confidential briefings all the time, but we can't get a answer on how many known or suspected terrorists have been detected crossing our Southern border.

But my sources tell me, it's in -- our conservative estimate is 200. Now with the -- a percentage of undetected being 20 to 25 percent, that means 40 to 50 known terrorists have very likely entered country through the Southern border. And yet, my colleagues across the aisle want to talk about, you know, Americans wearing Trump shirts.

It's unbelievable. Secretary Mayorkas, good sir, all of this is --

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman's time from Louisiana has expired.

CLAY HIGGINS: I'll have a question I'll submit in writing to the secretary, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for having the courage to convene this hearing today.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Chair recognize gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. Langevin, for five minutes.

JIM LANGEVIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank our witnesses for their testimony today and everything they're doing to keep the country safe. I'd like to start with you, Director Wray. Yesterday, you testified before the United States Senate about a Washington Post story that the FBI did not distribute a key to help victims of the Kaseya ransomware attack for three weeks.

In your response, you emphasized the need to "maximize impact against an adversary." So, you know, I appreciate that as the lead agency for direct response, the FBI is responsible for going after the bad guys. However, I have to say I'm deeply concerned that your response to Chairman Peters did not reflect the harm withholding a decryption key could do to victims.



I think you just kind of consider this analogy, if you would, Director. A business is on fire, there's a strong reason to suspect arson. The police argue that letting the firefighters in to put out the fire risk damaging forensics that could be used to catch the arsonist. So certainly, that argument is valid.

But I don't think anyone here would suggest we should not put out the fire or even if it does not maximize your impact against an adversary. So, I understand these decisions are difficult and complex in that you may not be at liberty to discuss the specifics of the Kaseya case. However, I'd like to give you the opportunity now to correct the record and affirm that asset response is a critically important factor when responding to a significant cyber incident.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, thank you, Congressman, for the question, especially knowing your long-standing interest in this subject. Again, I'm somewhat constrained about what I can say about an ongoing investigation. But what I would say is that speaking in general, that encryption keys are something that is just one of many kinds of technical information that we provide to the private sector.

And turning those things into decryption tools that can actually be used and not have unintended consequences is actually a lot more complicated than a lot of people realize, and that itself takes time. So, part of what I referred to when I talked about maximizing impact is making sure that – to use your analogy of the house that what we would be supplying is actually just water and not water that might have some trace of, say, gasoline or some accelerant in it, it would actually have all kinds of unintended consequences.

So, that's one of many considerations that goes into it. But absolutely, we recognize that asset response has to go hand in hand with threat response, and that's why we have such a close partnership with DHS and CISA. And these kinds of decisions are made in consultation with a host of interagency partners.

JAMES LANGEVIN: Well, Director, I would just push back and say that I think that asset response has to be higher on the priority list. So much could have been prevented had those decryption keys been given to businesses that were impacted. I understand you can't comment specifically on Kaseya, but I think there's going to be a greater emphasis on asset response and not just preserving the crime scene, so you gather forensics.

Secretary Mayorkas, I want to commend you for your leadership and for the success of DHS on its cyber hiring initiatives. I do have to say, however, I remain concerned about the significant vacancies that remain in the cybersecurity workforce, particularly at CISA. So, I'm hopeful about the Cybersecurity Talent Management System set to start in November.

However, given that these authorities have existed since 2014 and have not been used, I'm concerned about how effectively they will be used. So, I'd appreciate an update on the status of the Cybersecurity Talent Management System and how the DHS headquarters plans to coordinate its activity with CISA to match the cyber talent that it needs.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, thank you so much for your support of CISA. I actually had a meeting yesterday on staffing and the prioritization of staffing for our cybersecurity portfolio. Specifically, I look forward to speaking with Director Easterly. I very well know that she has prioritized the staffing of the directorate and the talent initiative to which you refer.

We're incredibly proud of our cybersecurity hiring initiative, which is frankly the biggest in the department's history. This is assuredly a priority of ours, and I'd be very, very pleased to update you on it regularly because I know how important it is to you in light of your tremendous support of CISA and the criticality of our nation's cybersecurity writ large.

JAMES LANGEVIN: Thank you. I know my time has expired. Chairman?

BENNIE THOMPSON: Thank you very much. The chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi for five minutes. Mr. Guest?

MICHAEL GUEST: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank our witnesses for the dedication that they have provided in service to our country, particularly to make sure that they are keeping our homeland safe each and every day. Before I begin, I would like to ask the clerk if she would pull – please pull a chart from Customs and Border Patrol that outlines the encounters on the southwest border that we have currently seen.

My concerns today are many. My time is limited, so, I will focus those on the current situation that we have seen along our southwest border. In front of each of our witnesses should be statistics put forth by Customs and Border Patrol that shows recent encounters along the southwest border. Secretary Mavorkas, I know that



you have recently visited the southwest border in response to the surge that we've seen and the number of Haitian immigrants that have recently crossed.

I know Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee recently said in her questioning a few minutes ago that she felt that the border is not out of control, and I will tell you that I completely disagree with her statement. I think the figures that are before the witnesses here today clearly show that the situation along our southwest border is a situation that has continued to deteriorate month after month after month.

Taking out from those figures, the month of October, November, December, and January, just starting from the numbers, February going forward when this administration has been completely in control of Customs and Border Patrol, those numbers are 1.25 million encounters along the southwest border. Looking at that and comparing that to the population of our states, that number is greater than the population of Montana; greater than the population of Rhode Island; greater than the population of Delaware; greater than the population of both North and South Dakota; greater than the population of Alaska, though not a state; greater than the population of the District of Columbia.

It is greater than the population of Vermont. It is greater than the population of Wyoming. And soon, when figures become available for this month, I believe that we will quickly surpass the population of Maine, New Hampshire, and Hawaii. I think, clearly, these figures show that what we are doing along our southwest border, what the current administration has done, that is not working.

And not only do I believe that, but I believe that that is clearly the sentiment of the American public. POLITICO, an article that was actually published yesterday, they cited recent polling that said 38 percent of the United States' adults approve of Biden's – President Biden's handling of immigration.

And so, Secretary Mayorkas, I want to kind of now turn that to you. And it was reported in August that you met with a group of Border Patrol agents. And in a closed-door meeting, you stated, if our borders are the first line of defense, we're going to lose, and this is unsustainable. My question is, one, did you make that statement?

And then, two, do you still stand by that statement, and do you believe that what currently is happening on our borders today is unsustainable?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, thank you very much for your question. In fact, I did make the statement. And a very important fact underlying it is that our border is not our first line of defense. We have a multilayered strategy that includes our partners to the South, not only Mexico, but the countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

So, in fact, our border is not our first line of defense. It is a statement that I made, and I stand by it. And, in fact, it does not reflect the strategy that we have been employing and executing.

MICHAEL GUEST: And Mr. Mayorkas, you see those figures there in front of you, I believe. Hopefully, those are visible to you. And I think you say that month after month, we continue to see a rise. We saw a recent small dip from July to August. But those figures are extremely troubling, particularly when you look at year-to-date figures when you compare the numbers from FY21 to FY20 and comparing them to FY 2019, FY 2018. You know, when you're looking at a total of – when you look at the fiscal year, it's 1.5 million, again, giving the administration the benefit of the doubt, the fact that October, November, December and just credit all of January to the prior administration, the numbers month after month continued to grow.

And so, I guess my question to you, Mr. Mayorkas, is how would you rate the administration? How would you rate the job that has been done to secure our border since the president was sworn into office? Would that be A, B, C, D, F? Just – if you could give me a grade, and then I'd be happy to let you explain your answer from there.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, it's interesting you mentioned a – what you described as a small dip in the latest month's data. I cannot see the visuals that you presented. That dip is actually a decrease, that it is a decrease of – because of some of the enforcement tools that we have employed in execution of our plan.

I have been quite clear that we do have a plan to address migration at the southern border. We're executing it. It takes time, and we're starting to see the results. I'd be very pleased to meet with you and discuss with you some of the tools that we have employed to actually drive the results that we saw this past month and we expect to see in the ongoing months.

Those tools are not met with unanimous approval, but we are using those enforcement tools to help secure our border, which we are doing.



MICHAEL GUEST: Could you answer the question as giving a grade of A, B, C, D, or F?

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman's time has expired. The chair recognizes --

MICHAEL GUEST: Mr. Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent to enter the chart that was previously published into the record.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Without objection. Chair recognizes the gentleman from California for five minutes. Mr. Correa?

LOU CORREA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Can you hear me OK?

BENNIE THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

LOU CORREA: Yes, I want to thank you and the ranking member for this hearing this morning. I want to thank our guests also for your time. And I was also in New York to remember 9/11. We met with our first responders, our heroes. And I remember back 20 years ago, watching those images on TV as those first responders ran into the burning buildings, knowing that we're probably going to lose their lives while civilians ran away.

We will not forget. Gentlemen, your witnesses, your testimony, thank you very much. And as I hear my colleagues on this committee talk, it kind of brings out a universal truth that I've learned in Congress, which is we're always in management crisis. We manage by crisis. We never seem to move beyond yesterday or today to the big [Inaudible] I agree with my colleagues that fentanyl is a major issue.

But I would propose to all of you that if you seal off the southern border, you seal off the northern border, you seal off the ports of entry, we're still going to have that major issue, which is a medical issue called drug addiction in our country. As long as people want to do fentanyl, they're going to do it. Forty years ago, I saw my neighbors dying from heroin overdoses.

Challenge that we have that's not going away. And, Mr. Mayorkas, I would ask you, are you prepared to deal with a social issue of drug addiction in our country? Yes or no?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yes, I am, in collaboration with our partners across the federal enterprise and across the [Inaudible]

LOU CORREA: You can deal with the medical issue called drug addiction in the United States. That's not really a homeland security issue, that's a societal issue. But we're going to expect you to stop drug addiction at the border. Thank you very much. And, Mr. Wray, thank you very much for the good job you're doing, you know, defending our country like you, Mr. Mayorkas.

You all have to hit 100 percent. You can't let anything happen in this nation. Yet, the universe of threats keeps multiplying. Terrorists, domestic terrorism, I hear experts now telling me that it's no longer is essential for the bad guys to import the bad guys, to import terrorists but rather they're homegrown terrorists that keep being inspired by these radical ideas are the big issue now.

So, you know, trying to figure out how to protect our nation against domestic terrorists, it's a major challenge. And I think the big issue here becomes intelligence. How do you figure out -- how do you stop something from happening before it stops? And my question would be, do you gentlemen get enough support coordination from our foreign partners?

Mr. Mayorkas, when you talk to Mexico, are you able to get enough intelligence coordination, cooperation from them to do your job? And I would ask the same question to our FBI director, do we have enough intel internationally to be able to coordinate your intelligence services? You're trying to find a needle in the haystack.

Mr. Mayorkas?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Information sharing, Congressman, is one of our highest priorities in the international domain. We have a very significant footprint in many countries around the world. We have information-sharing agreements that a number of our component agencies and offices lead: Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Customs and Border Protection; our Office of Policy, Strategy, and Plans; our International Operations, which is a part of that last office I mentioned.

Information sharing --

LOU CORREA: Mr. Mayorkas, is there anything we can do to make sure that you, your job is more effective?



LOU CORREA: Mr. Mayorkas, is there anything we can do to make sure that you, your job is more effective? Meaning, is there anything we can do to talk to you to address our foreign partners to make sure that they have a -- you have a better level of cooperation with folks overseas?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, thank you very much for the question. We would greatly appreciate and have greatly appreciated the support that this committee has provided to us in funding the Department of Homeland Security's requests for support to execute our mission. We're greatly appreciative.

LOU CORREA: FBI Director Wray?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, thank you, Congressman. Certainly, we benefit a lot from information sharing from our foreign partners. You mentioned Mexico. Of course, our legat office in Mexico City is I think our biggest and oldest overseas office. We can always use more and, certainly, with the kind of terrorist threats we're facing right now, both homegrown jihadist-inspired and domestic violence extremists, each benefit, unfortunately, from being -- there being fewer dots to connect.

So, if there are fewer dots to connect and less time in which to connect them, it puts a real premium on making sure that we're able to find the few dots that are out there as quickly as possible. And that's why we appreciate this committed support for more agents, more analysts, more data analytics, and other tools, which we desperately need to stay ahead of the threat.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman's time for California has expired.

LOU CORREA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman

BENNIE THOMPSON: Yes. Chair recognizes gentleman from Florida for five minutes. Mr. Gimenez?

CARLOS GIMENEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate it. And I'm going to read some excerpt from Chief Scott's letter that's dated 9/11/2021. "The Biden administration's team at DHS is laser-focused on expediting the flow of migrants into the US and downplaying the significant vulnerability this creates for terrorists, narcotics smugglers, human traffickers, and even hostile nations to gain access to our homeland." Later on, he says, "The experienced civil service staff within CBP, ICE, and DHS have provided multiple options to reduce the illegal entries and reestablish some semblance of border security through proven programs and consequences.

Yet, every recommendation has been similarly rejected. Secretary Mayorkas is choosing to ignore the sound recommendations of career government leadership despite his own admissions that he agrees with them. A grave concern is the fact that the secretary and other political appointees within DHS have provided factually inaccurate or incorrect information to congressional representatives and to the American public.

Furthermore, they have directed US BP personnel to allow otherwise ineligible aliens to remain in the US consistent with CDC Title 42 order, established legal processes, and law. The professional staff within DHS is left perplexed, wondering who is really in charge and what the objective is." This is a scathing indictment on you, Secretary, and the administration's handling of the border.

So, I have a couple of questions. Secretary Mayorkas, how many immigrants have we apprehended at the border this year?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, Congressman, I respectfully disagree with Mr. Scott, of course, and let me pull, if I can, the data from August, which I think will shed [Inaudible]

CARLOS GIMENEZ: That's not the question. The question is how many immigrants have we apprehended this year, not August, this year?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I believe thus far this fiscal year, Congressman, it is approximately 1.2 million or 1.5 million. But I think the data that I would cite from August reflects the enforcement measures that we are taking, our use of our Title 42 authority, which is not an immigration enforcement authority but is a public health authority, which belies some of the statements that you just made; and also our use of Title 8 authority, which is indeed an immigration enforcement measure.

I think the data from August would suggest the fulsomeness of our enforcement measures, which are not, as I mentioned earlier --

CARLOS GIMENEZ: Sir, with all due respect, I will only got five minutes. I got a couple of other questions I need to ask you. And I'm not really all worried about August. I understand that August, you all now put a focus on it because you've found out the American public really doesn't like what you're doing. So, let me keep on. Let me

ask you [Inaudible]

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: That is not accurate. That's not accurate.

CARLOS GIMENEZ: Of the 1.5 million people that we've apprehended, how many people have been returned, how many people are being detained, and how many people have been dispersed?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I would be pleased to provide you with specific data subsequent to this hearing, Congressman, and your prior statement was inaccurate. But I would look forward and, in fact, [Inaudible]

CARLOS GIMENEZ: Sir, that's my opinion. Sir, that's my opinion, OK? And so, I'm entitled to my opinion, OK?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: No, no, no, I respect that, Congressman, and I'd be very pleased to provide you with the specific data you've requested.

CARLOS GIMENEZ: Well, sir, yesterday, you were asked exactly the same question and you gave exactly the same answer. You'd think you'd be a little bit better prepared now that you've been asked that question that now maybe somebody else is going to ask you the same question. You don't have that information?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, let me share something with you quite clearly. I work 18 hours a day. OK. So, when I returned from yesterday's hearing, I actually focused on mission. We will get that data both to the senator who posed it yesterday and to you, Congressman, today.

CARLOS GIMENEZ: So, you don't have any estimation at all, the numbers that I'm asking for, at all. You don't know how many have been returned. You don't know how many have been released in the United States. You don't have any estimation at all of what those numbers are.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, I want to be precise in my communication of data to the United States Congress and to you, specifically, having posed the question. And I will be precise in the provision of my data to you. Thank you.

CARLOS GIMENEZ: Thank you very much. I yield back. Thank you.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Right. Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Michigan for five minutes. Ms. Slotkin?

ELISSA SLOTKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for holding this hearing and thanks for our witnesses for being here. You know, I think a lot of us are struggling to understand with the withdrawal in Afghanistan sort of what era are we in? You know, now that we've had the 20th anniversary of 9/11, how are we to think differently about the threats facing the country?

And we, of course, have foreign terrorist organizations. We have homegrown folks who are inspired by groups abroad. We have our problem with domestic terrorism and domestic extremism. We have border issues. We have cyber issues. So, I think, at least my constituents, are just trying to understand like where are we and what are sort of the biggest threats that we're facing.

And, Director Wray, you've also always been a really straight shooter about numbers, right, about just being clear about data and cases since that's the bread and butter of the FBI. And so, if you could just help me understand order of magnitude. When it comes to open investigations that you have of foreign terrorist organizations, people connected to an actual foreign terrorist group versus a homegrown guy or gal who was inspired by someone abroad, versus a domestic terrorist or domestic violent extremists, can you just tell me order of magnitude, where do you have the most open cases?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, thank you, Congresswoman. On domestic violence extremists, we currently have, as I said in my opening statement, now up to about 2,700 open investigations, which is up from about, say, 4,500 last year, which was itself up significantly from where it was when I started in this job. On homegrown violent extremists, which is a reference to, as you know, jihadist-inspired or foreign terrorist organization inspired but not necessarily directed terrorism.

We have consistently hovered at around a thousand. I think we're a little under that right now, but it's -- sometimes it's been more than a thousand, sometimes it's been less than a thousand, but it's covered kind of up and down around that range. As far as the third category, true foreign terrorist organization cases, I don't have that number at my fingertips.

The last time I looked, I think, that is probably around 2,000 maybe. So, between the foreign terrorist organization cases and the homegrown violent extremist cases, I think that gets you to, give or take, around 3 000 investigations total



5,000 investigations total.

ELISSA SLOTKIN: Gotcha.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Plus the 2,700 domestic violence extremists.

ELISSA SLOTKIN: Right. OK. So, just help me to get some sense of what your, you know, your level [Inaudible] and how to understand how this era. Representative Abizaid – I'm sorry, Director Abizaid, you know, there are few people in the world that I trust more than you on Afghanistan. You're an expert on the country. You've spent a lot of time there.

You were a deputy assistant secretary in Afghanistan. And I think what I'm getting from my constituents is this question of are we safer now than we were on 9/11? Are, you know, the ability of these terrorist groups to reconstitute something that they – I should worry about at the same level of worry that I had on September 12th? So, help me understand where we are.

Are we safer now? Are we at the same level of safety? With all the investment we've made in 20 years, where are we?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Thank you very much for the question. You know, as I mentioned yesterday, years of CT pressure in Afghanistan and Pakistan had really relegated both al-Qaida and ISIS-K to more regional threats. As I testified today, you know, we've looked at how the threat has changed over time since 9/11. And the al-Qaida network operates in a very different way than it did on that fateful day.

And you have a broader array of terrorist groups that are operating across a broader swath of territory, not just Afghanistan and Pakistan, but Africa, Middle East, other parts of South Asia. In general, this kind of broader diffused terrorist network exemplified by the al-Qaida network and the ISIS, the expanding ISIS network does appear more regionally focused.

That said, that regional focus is something that we in the intelligence community are monitoring very closely to understand at what point it presents a threat to the homeland. When does that regional ambition turn back into a transnational ambition that they're actually pursuing and executing a plan against?

With respect to reconstitution in Afghanistan, in particular, this is exactly what we're focused on as a top priority today, which is how do we understand how the changed circumstances in Afghanistan will affect the trajectory of two groups that had sustained significant losses over the last couple of years.

In the case of al-Qaida, over the last 20 years. And what does that mean for its – their plans and intentions going forward? My own concern is very specifically around ISIS-K and the degree to which ISIS-K, you know, building off of the notoriety it received after the attack on August 26. Will it become more focused on the West, more focused on the homeland than it was previously?

And as we look at the kind of dynamism of what's happening in the region, that's what our analysts are going to be focused on going forward.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentlelady's time, from Michigan, has expired. Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Tennessee for five minutes, Ms. Harshbarger.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: Thank you, Chairman Thompson. And I have a couple of questions, just yes-or-no questions, for Senator – I mean, for Secretary Mayorkas. Sir, we know what happened in Afghanistan with the Taliban being in control with the assumption that al-Qaida can now operate as they did leading up to 9/11. These are some yes-no questions.

Do you know how many terrorists have been apprehended at our southern border, sir?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I do know, have known our suspected terrorists how many, and I'll be pleased to provide that to you in a classified context.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: Thank you. That would be awesome. Honestly, do you think there's a rap opportunity for more terrorists, al-Qaida, Taliban, whomever, to come across the southern border since it's wide open? That's a yes or no.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: No.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: All right. Is the [Inaudible] Mexico policy being implemented and enforced?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: It is being implemented. We are developing the implementation plan as we are



required to [Inaudible] and I would like to mention, Congresswoman, that that requires a bilateral agreement to remain in Mexico [Inaudible]

DIANA HARSHBARGER: But we just need to know [Inaudible] Supreme Court, sir, said that it needed to be implemented. So, if you can give us proof of that? Do you think if we continue to build the wall that that would stop over 208,000 people coming across the border illegally, sir, yes or no?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I do not agree with the continuation of the construction of the wall [Inaudible]

DIANA HARSHBARGER: OK. You don't want to build the wall. Are we still paying the contractors not to build the wall, sir?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, we are meeting our contractual obligations as we are required to [Inaudible]

DIANA HARSHBARGER: So, [Inaudible] OK, thank you, sir. Director Wray, can you give us, as a committee, an update on the [Inaudible] had been arrested from the January 6th?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I'm not sure [Inaudible].

BENNIE THOMPSON: [Inaudible] try it again [Inaudible]

DIANA HARSHBARGER: Yeah, yeah.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Can you hear me now?

DIANA HARSHBARGER: Yeah. Can you give us an update on [Inaudible] January 6th?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, what I can tell you is that we have now made a little over 600 arrests. The status of each of those cases varies. We've had some cases that have been resolved in -- by guilty pleas already, but a number of them are still pending. And that's probably all I could really contribute in this kind of setting.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: So, has everyone [Inaudible] sir?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, the 600, give or take, are all people who have been charged. Obviously, we have other ongoing investigations, and there may be more charges there. And then the ones who have been charged, I think, you could expect to see in some instances superseding indictments. They would add additional charges.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: Can you, in a classified briefing, tell us where they're being held?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I'm not sure whether that's a classified issue. I think it varies from person to person. And I'd have to see what information was appropriate. But if there's information we can provide, we're happy to share it with you. I am mindful of the fact that with those 600 cases, that is quite a number of federal judges who have very strong opinions about what we say about pending criminal cases.

And I learned a long time ago as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney to respect the views of the judges who are responsible for those cases.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: OK. Do you agree that China's one of the biggest threats to our national security, sir?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I believe that the China, and by that I mean the People's Republic of China government, the Chinese Communist Party, not the Chinese people [Inaudible] that there is no country that represents a more significant counterintelligence threat or a more significant threat to our innovation, our economic security, and our ideas.

And that's why, as you heard me say in my opening statement, we're opening a new China counterintelligence investigation about every 12 hours. And I can assure this committee that's not because our agents are looking around for something to do, it's because there's a need. And that's why we have about 2,000-plus open investigations of that sort leading back to different parts of the Chinese government or people acting on behalf of the Chinese government even as we speak.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: I believe that too. And I agree with Representative Correa, that these illegal drugs, the fentanyl, the meth that's coming across the border, we need to hold these cartels accountable. And are we doing that? And, you know, all HSR [Ph] told us when we went to the border to the Rio Grande Valleys, "Let us do our job." Are we letting them do their job?

ALEXANDER MATHIAS: Certainly, we are, Congressman. We most certainly are, Congressman. And we are developing new strategies all the time to meet the threat of the TCOs, the transnational criminal organizations.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: I think [Inaudible] the biggest criminal threat to our country.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentlelady's time [Inaudible] has expired.

DIANA HARSHBARGER: Thank you, sir, and I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. Cleaver, for five minutes.

EMANUEL CLEAVER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate all the witnesses. Mr. Wray -- Director Wray, I want to again -- I said this last time you were here, we just expressed appreciation for how you play your job straight up. Let me go a little bit further and say that I am, you know, very much concerned about people crossing our borders.

But I'm more concerned about the fact that we are a nation that is simply crossed, and it is very disturbing. And I can speak experientially here. There was one gentleman who firebombed my office in Kansas City. His name is Eric King. He is in the Colorado supermax prison. And then there was a gentleman who was just indicted for his little plan to kill me. His name is Kenneth Hubert.

And then you spoke earlier about a guy, Timothy Wilson, who was shot and killed by law enforcement because he had a plan in our community to blow up a hospital with a vehicle-borne explosive. I am very, very much -- I mentioned all of this to the chair -- chairman last night -- Chairman Thompson last night.

I am very concerned about where our nation is and what we are doing in our nation. And frankly, some of it is coming up here in our hearing today. But, Director Wray, is there something that we can do as members of Congress? I'm not asking you to say anything political, you know? But if there are things that we can do, to arrest or reduce the domestic terrorism threat, I'm all in. And if you or any of our witnesses today can suggest something that this body can do, I'm ready to try to do it before lunch.

Director Wray?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, thank you, Congressman, for the question and for your kind words of support. Certainly, as I've mentioned earlier, we need more agents, more analysts, more tools for data analytics, and so forth because the volume of threats as you -- your own experience illustrates is significant. I would also say that more and more across every threat area we contend with, including in the terrorism arena, in particular, the issues of end-to-end encryption and user-controlled encryption both on messaging and on devices is something that is making us in law enforcement increasingly blind to the threats in our ability to protect all of you and your constituents.

And that's a real problem, and it needs to be addressed. If there -- I think a lot of Americans don't understand that we are moving rapidly in a direction where no matter how ironclad your support for a search warrant is, no matter how much the judge vigorously enforces its order, and no matter how heartbreaking or horrifying the criminal activity we're investigating, we're moving in a direction where no matter what that is, we will not be able to see the information and therefore will be significantly hobbled in our ability to protect Americans.

And so that's an issue coming to a place where we have lawful access, lawful access to encrypted information is got to be addressed somehow or we're going to all wake up in a much more dangerous spot than we already are. So that would be one thing. And then the last point, of course, is the more everyone including prominent members of the -- of the public, our politicians, our corporate officials, etc.

EMANUEL CLEAVER: I think my time is running out, I apologize, Mr. Chairman if I went over.

BENNIE THOMPSON: You actually have a little time, but I'll take it if you want to give it up. I recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. Garbarino for five minutes.

ANDREW GARBARINO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, the ranking member for hosting this hearing today. Director Wray my first questions for you. Last week, FBI Deputy Director, Paul Abbate said there has been no indication that the Russian government through President Putin have taken steps to stop the activities of cyber criminals engaging in ransomware attacks against US entities.

In fact, just yesterday there was a attack on the new cooperative, an Iowa based farm service provider, it was hit with a ransomware attack with and we think a Russian linked criminal group BlackMatter is demanding \$5.9 million ransom. This is the exact attack that President Biden had a message to President Putin against



that this is a critical infrastructure, it's a sector and this is off limits.

So, I understand from your testimony, the FBI is working with State Department and the National Security Council to increase pressure on countries that failed to stop ransomware actors in their territory, like Russia. What specific steps is the FBI taking to pressure these groups? What more should the administration be doing to hold these foreign adversarial criminal groups accountable?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, thank you, Congressman for the question. Certainly, it's a topic that is the subject of quite a bit of discussion and planning, and operational activity these days. There may be more that we could share in a more classified setting. But what I would tell you in this setting is that Russia, the reality is that Russia has a long history of being a safe haven for cyber criminals where the implicit understanding has been that if they avoid going after Russian targets or victims, they can operate with near impunity.

And the Russian government has long refused to extradite Russians for cybercrimes against American victims. And worse, their Ministry of Foreign Affairs has long been warning its citizens, publicly been warning its citizens, which other countries, which third party countries to avoid because those countries they say will arrest or extradite those Russians back to the United States to face justice for cybercrimes.

So it's too soon to tell whether any of the things that are underway are having an impact, but in my experience there is a lot of room, a lot of room for them to show some meaningful progress if they want to on this topic.

ANDREW GARBARINO: So, are you saying you talk about these deputy mission that you're putting on Russia it's classified? Is that why we can't talk about it right now?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I think I can provide you potentially a more descriptive answer if I don't have the concerns about what I can say publicly. That's all.

ANDREW GARBARINO: I understand. I would hope that [Inaudible] to do that because this is a huge issue that does not seem to be stopping. It's just getting worse every month. We hear about another, maybe every week now we hear about another ransomware attack from a Russian backed door. If not Russian backed that they're operating freely in Russia, you know these groups.

So, I would very much appreciate if we could have had that meeting, Mr. Wray. Mr. Secretary, I have a question following up on – I don't know if it was brought up already, but it's dealing with the cyber and which is I think a huge threat to our national security. I understand that there reports have indicated that the Secret Service purchased eight drones from a Chinese company called DJI on July 26, 2021. And just three days earlier on July 23rd, the Department of Defense released a statement saying that DJI's products was the threats to national security.

Plus, in 2017, DHS itself stated with moderate confidence that DJI was providing US critical infrastructure and law enforcement data to the Chinese government. Is the fact that Secret Service purchased eight drones. This seems absolutely unacceptable. Why would they purchase equipment from a known foreign adversary, especially in the light of well-documented cybersecurity vulnerabilities?

How can we – how can the American people trust DHS to protect us from cybercrimes and attacks, ransomware attacks, when the federal government is leaving itself open to security risk by buying these, buying equipment from companies like DJI?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman my answer is twofold. Number one, cybersecurity is one of our top priorities in the Department of Homeland Security and we have an extraordinarily talented and dedicated workforce on that critical mission set. And I will look into the Secret Service purchased that you reference and I will get back to you and your staff as soon as possible.

ANDREW GARBARINO: I appreciate that because this is – I hope it's very soon because I don't think we should be using these equipment if our DHS and the Department of Science have already said that DJI and their equipment cannot be trusted. So, I hope we look into this right away before the drones are actually delivered. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman's time has expired. I recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Green for five minutes.

AL GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the witnesses for appearing. And I must say that I have great respect for both of the witnesses having observed them over some time now. I have found them to be persons who seem to genuinely want to do the right thing. They doing the right things at almost as important as doing the righteous thing.

the righteous thing.

So today, I would like to have a friendly over colloquy then the Q&A. And I'm just curious about something because we know that Title 42 allows persons to be quickly removed literally without giving them an opportunity to seek asylum. I suppose you can make your efforts, but Title 42 is for quick removal as I understand it. And then we also know that TPS allows persons to stay because of conditions in the country that they would ordinarily be returned to. Tensions are in a very unique position.

Title 42 allows them to be removed, TPS for those who are already here, does that because of conditions in Haiti. We shouldn't send them back there. So, if we shouldn't send them back because of conditions and we find that we have persons who should be removed under Title 42, I'm asking is there some way to reconcile this?

So that we don't have the appearance of contradicting ourselves, so that we will show that there is some rationale for Haitians remaining here. We had testimony just yesterday, I believe indicating that when the Haitians are expelled back home, some amount of money. Many of them, over 95 percent according to the testimony, haven't been to Haiti in years.

But we're sending people back to a country that they haven't been to in years, and there are others who are going to be allowed to stay because they happen to have been in the country that sort of time. And we're doing this under Title 42, TPS allows for state. Though isn't there some way? I'm just making an appeal for the Haitians.

Isn't there some way for us to reexamine this, on this -- as an appeal, Mr. Secretary, for us to reexamine this? Maybe there's something we missed. And can you give me some hope, please?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman I very much appreciate what you've said, the question you posed and the spirit of your question. I don't think that we can overstate the heartbreak with respect to the vulnerability of the Haitian people who we are encountering specifically in Del Rio, Texas over the last a week and their vulnerability.

There are a number of things I'd like to say. Number one, we did grant Temporary Protected Status to Haitian nationals who were resident in the United States prior to July 29th of this year. We in collaboration with the Department of State, studied the country conditions there and made that determination.

And then we look -- we have looked at the country conditions and made a determination that in fact we can return individuals who have arrived subsequent to July 29th to Haiti. We are working with countries in South America, Chile, Brazil, for example, to see whether they would accept the return of Haitians who've traveled from those countries.

It's complicated for reasons I can explain at a later time when we have more time. And in the Title 42 authority, as I've mentioned earlier, is not a matter of immigration policy. It is a matter of public health policy as determined by the Centers for Disease Control's assessment of in this case, specifically over last year and this year, the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And most recently, of course the delta variant.

AL GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary, I do appreciate what you said. What would you need for us to reconcile this such that the Haitians would be able to -- would get a different result? Because I'm just so concerned about having made a decision that the country is not such that we can send some back. But if you got here at a later time, but your conditions have changed.

I've been to Haiti, I was there after the last earthquake, not the most recent one, but the one before that, and Haiti on a good day can be a place that can be difficult to negotiate. And I'm trying to be very calm because I've got a lot of constituents, they love their country, I love it too. So, my question is, that just seems to me that there must be something that we can do and if it requires something from Congress, I'm willing to be the guy to take the risk and ask that we do. Can you give me some help on this please?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Thank you, Congressman. I'd welcome the chance to discuss that further with you. I know that the State Department, PRM, one office within the State Department, as well as USAID is very focused on resourcing Haiti, and specifically providing greater sustenance to the individuals who are returning there. This is a very complicated and very heartbreaking situation.

I really embrace the spirit with which you posed the questions to me and I would welcome the opportunity to sit down with you and talk it through.



AL GREEN: Thank you. How do I get you to contact you? Will you contact me?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: We will reach out Congressman.

AL GREEN: Thank you. Thank you very much on behalf of the people --

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman's time has expired --

AL GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Chair recognizes gentleman from Texas, Mr. McCaul for five minutes.

MICHAEL MCCAUL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Mayorkas said, when Jeh Johnson was secretary, your deputy and I was chairman of home land, we had the rise of ISIS in the caliphate and I commend your department, and the FBI, and NCTC for stopping probably 99 percent of those threats. And I worry with the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban in Bagram Air Base being taken over.

We have no eyes and ears on the ground. We have no ISR capability. We can't see or hear anymore the threats and we can't sue Russia, China and Iran, as well as we could before the fall Bagram. But I want to go back to the border as Mr. Green was talking about, because in my state of Texas, all these Haitians 14,000 of them in addition to the over million that have come in this year, has caused a crisis.

I think in your words you said it's unsustainable and told Border Patrol agents that we are going to lose, and I agree with you with that. I've also obtained emails from CBP agents stationed in Del Rio, warning and asking for more resources in early June. And then the foreign minister of Panama warned on June the 3rd about this influx that was coming up to the southwest border.

Did you see this threat coming? And if so, what, if anything, did you do?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, if I may, Congressman, thank you, and it's good to see you. Again, I know we worked closely for a number of years. I did not say that we are going to lose. That's unequivocally false, number one. And number two, we have not seen before such a rapid migration, irregular migration of individuals as we have observed and experienced with respect to the Haitians who've crossed the border in Del Rio, Texas.

That has been an unprecedented speed.

MICHAEL MCCAUL: But did you have any warning signs? You know, when the sector chief is being warned about this, when the Panama foreign minister is warning on June the 3rd, and, you know, here we are in September, you know, months later -- did you see this coming?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Well, so we watch the flow of individuals who are seeking to migrate irregularly through Mexico from the Northern Triangle countries and further south. We do indeed track it. And nevertheless, Congressman, as I previously articulated, the speed with which this materialized is unprecedented. And that is why we surged as many resources as we have.

We have deployed as many [Inaudible]

MICHAEL MCCAUL: If I can -- just one last question. And that is -- you said this is the worst in 21 years, and I agree with you. And the speed has been very fast-paced. The Migrant Protection Protocols, the asylum agreements negotiated by the prior administration, I believe, were effective. And unfortunately, this president, on day one, rescinded those agreements, opening up this border.

Then the traffickers know that. They know that if they touch base in the United States, they can stay now. And I think -- and I respect you, sir. I think you've been a federal prosecutor, deputy secretary now. You understand this concept of deterrence but also the fact that these were working. My question is -- this has now been taken up to the Supreme Court of the United States.

And they have held -- upheld the decision that the Migrant Protection Protocols need to be reinstated. I believe that you can call it whatever you want, sir, but it will greatly help in securing this border that is out of control right now. What are you doing to comply with the Supreme Court order?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, as you know, both of us served as federal prosecutors. We have an obligation to abide by the orders of a court. The district court ordered us to implement the MPP program, and that is, indeed, what we are doing. We are in ongoing negotiations with Mexico with respect to that implementation. We rely upon Mexico's agreement to do so, and we are moving with deliberate speed

implementation. We rely upon Mexico's agreement to do so, and we are moving with deliberate speed.

I recognize, and respect, and will abide by a court order.

MICHAEL MCCAUL: I appreciate that. I think it will help tremendously any assistance you need with -- dealing with Mexico, chair of the US-Mexico IPG for, you know, 15 years. And I hope they'll be willing to take the agreement back, to reinstate it because I do think it will make a difference in this crisis that we have in our border.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman's time from Texas has expired.

MICHAEL MCCAUL: I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Chair recognizes the gentleman from California for five minutes. Mr. Swalwell.

ERIC SWALWELL: Thank you, Chairman. My first question is directed to Director Wray. And I have been tracking the public reports of anonymous -- anonym [Ph] list, health attacks worldwide, including public reporting that there may have been attacks domestically in the United States. And so, Director, what are you doing at the FBI, with your agents, to determine who is responsible for these attacks, and what message do you have to those conducting these attacks as to what you will do if you find out who they are?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: [Inaudible] the questions. Thank you, Congressman. Certainly, there is nothing more important to us than the health and safety of our own workforce and the intelligence community's workforce. We are -- we at the FBI are working very aggressively in a very concerted way together with our intelligence community partners, who also have a huge role to play on this issue.

Our role is doing interviews of victims and pursuing the investigation from both potential criminal but also national security type perspective. But again, it's a victim-focused effort at the moment, and we are going to make sure that if we can figure out who is responsible, that we leave no stone unturned in holding them very firmly unaccountable.

Because if this is an attack, it's totally, totally unacceptable.

ERIC SWALWELL: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Director. Moving to ransomware attacks, also something that has affected America's businesses. And John Chambers, former CEO at Cisco, predicts that there will be 60,000 ransomware attacks. The bureau has worked to try and help American businesses. But what additional resources do you need to, one, reach out and work with businesses who have been affected, reach out, provide perhaps a cyber hygiene tools that they may need, and, of course, to try and claw back any keys that have been stolen from them?

And I would also welcome Secretary Mayorkas if he had any insights on this.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, thank you for the question. Certainly, ransomware has mushroomed significantly over the last year, and it's on pace to mushroom again this year. We -- in terms of what we need, we have significant budget requests that have come before the Congress that are pending as part of a five-year cyberstrategy that I unveiled last September, a year ago.

And part of that is designed to make sure that in every field office, we have a true model cybersquad, capable of handling a Colonial Pipeline, a JBS, a Kaseya, whatever happens to be in every field office. We also have the need to be able to improve our training, and we need more technical tools. And I would also say, I know there have been various legislative proposals swirling around about potential pay system -- pay grade modifications for computer trained cyberexpert personnel in a number of agencies.

And if something like that were to go into effect, obviously, we would want it to apply to the FBI as well. And a lot of what those personnel are going to do is not just investigate, respond, and disrupt threats, but engage, to your point, with the private sector, with victims. That's one of the strengths.

One of the things that the FBI can provide to the fight is, with 56 field offices and 250 something RAs, we can put agents on the doorstep of a victim, often within an hour or two, no matter where they are when they get hit. And that's why we need a footprint to be able to make sure that we're doing right by all the victims.

ERIC SWALWELL: Thank you, Director. And Director Mayorkas, actually, I'll follow up with you separately on ransomware. But I do have a question about the Reimbursable Services Program for airports. You know, all politics is local, and I have a local airport in Livermore, California that would like to use this service, pay for itself, so that as international flights come in, they can have border patrol, border agents, or CBP customs agents to receive the flights.



Is that still a program that DHS supports if local airports want to do that?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: It is and it is a -- Congressman, thank you. It is a program that is implemented on a fact-specific circumstance, a specific basis, and we look forward to speaking with you about it in the jurisdiction that you identified.

ERIC SWALWELL: Great. Thank you. Chairman, I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman yields back. Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas for five minutes. Mr. Pfluger.

AUGUST PFLUGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Mayorkas, good to see you. We have a letter that I know has been referenced from outgoing Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott that basically claimed of great concern that he's witnessed any lack of meaningful effort to secure the southern border. And I'd like to ask you. This person was 29 years in the department, a nonpartisan actor, somebody that served five administrations with the only goal of securing this country.

Is the border more secure under your leadership than when you started?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman. The border is secure. We're executing our plan. And I've been very clear and unequivocal in that regard. [Inaudible]

AUGUST PFLUGER: Mr. Secretary, the question is: Is the border more secure now under your leadership?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, it is no less secure than it was previously.

AUGUST PFLUGER: Mr. Secretary, I want to look at something in his letter. Outgoing Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott said that suspected terrorists are entering this country at a level we have never seen before. And I want to know, I know it's been asked, how many known or suspected terrorists have entered this country this year?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I respectfully disagree with Mr. Scott's assertion. And the information that you have requested, we'd be pleased to share with you in a classified context.

AUGUST PFLUGER: He said, "In my professional assessment the US Border Patrol is rapidly losing situational awareness required to know who and what is entering our homeland. The ability of US Border Patrol to detect and interdict those that want to evade apprehension is being degraded daily. Low-level, unsophisticated, and uneducated smugglers are illegally crossing the border and increasingly evading apprehension daily.

To think that well-resourced terrorist networks, criminal organizations, and hostile nations are not doing the same is naive. The current situation is unsustainable and must be mitigated." So, I've received the brief. I went to Del Rio in less than one week. I was actually there on Saturday at the peak, 15,000 people, in what your department said yesterday, bum-rushed the border.

That was -- and there's, by the way, 40,000 to 60,000 on the way. So, is the quote true at a level we have never seen before, that terrorists, suspected terrorists are entering this country at a level that we have never seen before?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, as I've previously articulated, I respectfully disagree with Mr. Scott's assertions. And I should say that that assertion has no relationship to a reference to Del Rio. And the fact that vulnerable Haitians have crossed the border there have been encountered and are being repatriated. Those are [Inaudible] different --

AUGUST PFLUGER: But it tides in because I talked to these Haitians. They got the word that Del Rio was open. They came. And, in fact, I talked to several -- I talked to two Cuban couples, four people total, from Cuba to Panama to the southern border in Del Rio, 40 hours. It took them 40 hours to get to our southern border because what they heard through social media, what they heard through their networks was that it was open.

They paid thousands of dollars to trafficking organizations to get there. So, to think -- like Rodney Scott says, outgoing border patrol chief for 29 years, five administrations, to think that well-resourced terrorist networks, criminal organizations in hostile nations are not doing the same is naive. Mr. Secretary, what -- why -- the American public deserves to know what the threat is to our country.

Why will we not release numbers? Why are you not releasing the number of known or suspected terrorists that have entered this country?



ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, I've been very clear that I'd be very pleased to share that information with you in a classified context. Number one, I don't think that the vulnerable Haitians who are in Del Rio, Texas now would say that the border in Del Rio, Texas is open. And quite frankly, we've seen the heartbreaking pictures of --

AUGUST PFLUGER: It's heartbreaking. I was there. I saw it.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, that reflect that fact.

AUGUST PFLUGER: And in fact, there's all sorts of bad things going on, but it's a drain on resources. We'd had to repurpose border patrol agents from their national security mission all along the southern border to Del Rio. The governor of Texas has had to step in because the federal government has abdicated the duty to protect our country.

So --

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I respectfully disagree. We have never abdicated our duty to protect our country. As a matter of fact, the 250,000 men and women of this department work day and night to protect this country.

AUGUST PFLUGER: And they are doing a phenomenal job. Mr. Secretary, we are calling, as Texans and as Americans, we want to know how many known or suspected terrorists have entered this country. And I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman yields back. The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Nevada, Ms. Titus, for five minutes.

DINA TITUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary, I'd like to start by thanking you, too, for your work to extend the TPS visas for several countries. This was something I asked you about the last time you were here in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. This is a large part of my district, which is the most diverse in Nevada and one of the most diverse in the country.

So, we certainly appreciate your recognizing the importance of that TPS, and thank you for that extension. Well, you've heard a lot about the concern about the Haitians at the border, and I'd like to expand on that. But I'd like to go back to where they came from. We know that the cartels and some of these people who prey on the immigrants have taken their money.

They've sold their possessions. They've come up here. Could you describe how your department in this kind of all-of-government approach is working with the State Department and maybe with NGOs and some of the countries of origin to counter this false information or to deal with these people who are preying on folks who just want a better life?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, thank you so much, and your point goes directly to something the congressman who preceded your question addressed, which is are these individuals, vulnerable individuals, are being exploited by smuggling organizations and are receiving false information with respect to the border. We are in collaboration with the Department of State and other agencies within the government countering that false information, that false messaging, both from the United States and in the countries of origin themselves.

You know, this past Sunday, I spoke to journalists, Haitian journalists, and the messages that I communicated were blasted throughout social media and in Creole, as well as Spanish, to make sure that we reach the desired and needed populations. This is an all-of-government effort, and it's a multilateral effort because we are working with other countries in ensuring that vulnerable populations receive accurate information and do not take the perilous journey north that will not succeed.

DINA TITUS: Well, now that we can take advantage of social media, everybody, even those in the most -- direst of straits, seems to have a cell phone on which they can read this kind of information. So, I appreciate that you all are working across agencies to get this information out and encouraging to use some of the NGOs in the country as well.

My second question has to do with tourism. You know I represent Las Vegas, and we are now starting to see foreign tourists come back. This is a large part of our business. Foreign tourists stay longer, and they spend more. We saw where the -- this is opening up. The president announced this within the last few days.

Can you talk about some of the things that we're kind of doing in advance to accommodate foreign tourists?

We saw the problems after 9/11, but now we get a little bit more time to get ready, and people are obvious to

we saw the problems after 9/11, but now we got a little bit more time to get ready, and people are anxious to travel. And when those borders open up, they're going to come to Las Vegas because where better to go for a holiday after a year of frustration.

Would you outline some of those things you're doing to customs and helping with that issue?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, Congresswoman, thank you very much. The president did indeed announce in the last few days the fact that travel restrictions would be lifted with respect to international travel, travel to the United States, upon certain conditions. And our Office of Field Operations within Customs and Border Protection located at the airports will be ready to receive and process an increasing number of travelers.

We are also working at Transportation Security Administration, TSA, to make the travel from the United States as facile and orderly and secure as possible. We are planning for what we hope to be a resumption of international travel and the influx of tourism -- of the tourism economy here in the United States.

DINA TITUS: Well, that's great because we have the philosophy that a person's holiday begins the minute they leave home, and that includes all that experience through the airport. And we've heard some horror stories about waiting hours on the tarmac or in line to get through customs. So, we want to be ready this time, and we appreciate any effort you can make for that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The gentlelady yields back. Pursuant to today's order, the chair declares the committee in recess for five minutes. Five, four, three, two -- the committee will be in order. The chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Bishop, for five minutes.

DAN BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Mayorkas, first, I'd like to ask you. Congressman Pfluger asked you a moment ago how many suspected terrorists have crossed the border, and you said you'd be glad to answer in a classified context. Why can't you answer that question in public?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, the information is indeed classified, and some of it is also law enforcement-sensitive. On a more general basis, these are determinations that are made across the agency. And I should note, if I may, Congressman, that I believe it was in late July that we provided a briefing to this committee with respect to the requested data, so it is information that we already have provided.

DAN BISHOP: Thank you, sir. Let me ask you this. They -- many have commented, and sometimes it devolves into a debate over numbers, whether it's 1,300,000 illegal crossings, who's recidivist, and how many really come in, whether -- who's really been led, at least, into the country. And of course, we have now the latest thing with the Haitians in the last week or so. Is all this the plan?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I'm not sure I understand your question, but let me say the following. The plan that we have is a multipart plan. One is to address the root causes of irregular migration. Two is to ensure that there are safe, orderly, and humane pathways, so people do not have to take the dangerous, perilous journey to make a claim of asylum that our laws that Congress passed recognize.

And third is to rebuild our asylum system here in the United States. At the same time, Congressman, we do enforce our immigration laws. Those are not only the laws of humanitarian relief but the laws of accountability for those who seek to enter illegally and do not have a claim for relief under law.

DAN BISHOP: Thank you, sir. And I guess what I'm -- maybe I'm getting at is just that. Now that I look back at some of your testimony when you were before us back in March, you went through something very similar. You talked about your plan to address -- you always used the term address migrants at the border and that -- you said you were executing on all fronts to address the situation at the border.

When you spoke before Senate Appropriations Committee in May, you said something very similar. "We have a three-part plan -- or three pillars to our plan." And you gave that again more or less in -- you've done that repeatedly in testimony before Congress, that you have a plan underway to address the surge of migrants at the border.

That comment was before the Senate Homeland Security Committee just in July, July 27. And so, I guess what I want to understand is, are the results that we are seeing, are they the results of your plan? They're the planned results. Is that correct?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, let me give you a very important example of the execution --

DAN BISHOP: Before you go off into an example, sir, could you give me a yes or no? Is it -- are these the results



of your plan?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, the plan is underway and is being executed. And as one of your colleagues mentioned, over the last month, we did see a decrease because we were implementing tools that are part of that plan. Back to my example of a measure that we have taken that is very significant and that, quite frankly, is unprecedented.

What is not unprecedented is recognition of the problem in our asylum system that it takes years and years between the time of encounter and the time of ultimate resolution. And one of the things that we've done --

DAN BISHOP: Yeah. At this point, Secretary Mayorkas, let me ask to sort of just -- not just -- I'm sorry. I just have limited time, and I just want -- I don't want to get into a sort of a down to the granular level of detail. You've made the point to these committees repeatedly that you have a plan and that we're -- and you're executing the plan.

And sometimes, I think we're talking past each other. I just like your confirmation, sir, that the results we're seeing at the border are the results of the execution of your plan. Is that a fair understanding?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: No, it is not as -- it is a mischaracterization. Congressman, as I mentioned --

DAN BISHOP: [Inaudible] is your plan failing?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: No, it is not. And as I mentioned every time I have spoken of my plan -- and I would welcome the opportunity, if not in today's testimony but separately with you, to actually complete the answer that I was providing earlier because it is -- it involves very important information with respect to that plan.

The plan takes time, and we continue to exercise it, thanks to the dedicated men and women of this department.

DAN BISHOP: Did the results that you're seeing and their magnitude suggest to you that your plan is wrong, that your plan is ill-conceived and is plunging the nation into a crisis?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: No.

DAN BISHOP: All right. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman yields back. The chair recognizes the gentlelady from New Jersey, Ms. Watson Coleman, for five minutes.

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN: Thank you, Chairman, for holding this hearing, and I want to thank each and every of the witnesses for sharing your perspectives, your work, and your commitment. I am so touched by something that, as a child, I embraced and believed, and that is the "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuge of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" This country's greatness and true genius lies in its diversity. And I believe that I am motivated by that. That is American to me. And so, the conversations we have with regard to what happens at the border, what happens with refugees trying to get here, what's happening right now on the southern border with the Haitian communities, I -- it concerns me tremendously, Mr. Mayorkas, that we would be sending them back to Haiti, some of them -- sending them for the first time in over 20 or 30 years, sending them to a country that has been just ravaged by earthquakes, ravaged by instability in their political and governmental realm, and dangerous with gangs.

And so, I just need to share that I believe our responsibility is to treat them humanely, to process them in a way that gives them the freedom and the opportunity to live in a healthy environment. Now, that may not just be the United States of America. We need to enlist our friends, our allies all around the world.

And, Mr. Mayorkas, I just need to say, I believe everything you say about your intentions with regard to doing our business humanely and respectfully on the borders and anywhere to keep our homeland free. But the images that I saw with regard to what was happening with Border Patrol employees whipping, I don't care if you do it with your belt or your reins or your what, but whipping Haitians is unconscionable, unacceptable, un-American.

And I know that you're investigating it. But I tell you, there is -- under no circumstances that those individuals ought to be able to interact with other human beings ever again. They need to be released and they need to be held accountable. For all three of you, I want to just ask you a question, which is really may be kind of a bizarre question

question.

Is there a hierarchy of concern with regard to the vulnerability of this country? Is it cybersecurity interfering with our business, and our supply lines, and the things that we need? Is it foreign attacks coming from places that we know we've had folks attacking us before? Is it domestic terrorism? Is it domestic terrorism that represents ethnic and racial motivation?

Is it domestic terrorism that is influenced by foreign terrorists? What are the -- is there a hierarchy of the concern? I want to hear that yes or no from all three of you. And then I need you to tell me, do you have the resources, all of the resources that you need to make us safe as we can humanly be with the work that is under your jurisdiction?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, maybe I'll answer first. We do have priorities if you will, and I think you have accurately identified many of the priorities that we have in terms of protecting the homeland. And I'm sure those priorities are echoed by my colleagues in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Counterterrorism Center.

I also just want to remark that I well understand and appreciate the pain with which you made your initial remarks, Congresswoman.

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN: Thank you, sir. Director Wray.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Thank you. I apologize, I missed probably the beginning of the question with the technical hiccup that we had. But picking up on what I think the question was, I would tell you that we have elevated racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism to our highest threat priority level, commensurate with ISIS and HVEs, homegrown violent extremists.

We did that back in June of '19. And the fact that we now have 2,700 domestic terrorism investigations accumulated over the last year and a half, should speak volumes. As far as whether we have sufficient resources, there is, I think, in the budget pending for Congress, a much-needed request for more resources because at the same time that we are having to increase and surge to domestic terrorism, the reality is, the homegrown violent extremist threat has not subsided.

And now, especially in the wake of events in Afghanistan, we need to be even more vigilant about foreign terrorist organizations. And last, I would add a category that hasn't gotten a lot of discussion at today's hearing, but a point that Director Abizaid made in her opening, which is we can't take our eye off the threat from Iran as well, Hezbollah, Quds Force, etc.

So, we have a full plate, and we need all the help we can get, and we appreciate the committee's support.

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN: Thank you. Director Abizaid, I want to ask you one question.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Your time has expired, but she needs to answer it.

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN: If that's OK, it's a 10-second question. I'm sorry, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The gentlelady has 10 seconds.

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN: Thank you. Can you tell me what the motivation was for ISIS-K to perpetuate that attack on those leaving -- we were evacuating, what was your point? Was your point just to show us that they exist and that they want to be a pain in our behind, or what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that consideration.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Thirty seconds.

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Thank you. Thank you for the question. One, I think ISIS-K targeted our evacuation operations at HKIA in part because of the notoriety they would receive, because of how high profile it would be, but they also sought to embarrass the Taliban. ISIS-K is very focused on the Taliban. And given the Taliban's assertions of its own ability to provide security, they wanted to demonstrate that that was not in fact the case.

That's our assessment as it stands now.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentlelady's time has expired. The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Iowa for five minutes, Ms. Miller-Meeks.

MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary, you testified before this committee back in March. At that time, several members, including myself, ask you about COVID-19 testing protocols at the southern border. You said, "We do support the testing of individuals, and that is indeed our policy, and we



have implemented practices to execute on that policy.” However, on September 10th, the DHS Office of Inspector General came out with a report that stated CBP does not conduct COVID-19 testing for migrants who enter CBP custody.

And indeed, that’s what I found on the two trips I made to the border. Instead, CBP relies on local public health systems to test asymptomatic individuals. According to CBP officials, as a frontline law enforcement agency, it does not have the necessary resources to conduct such testing. I don’t have to tell you that we’re in a pandemic, Mr. Secretary, and I believe that testing of people coming across our southern border is one of the many keys to controlling the spread of COVID-19. That is why back in March, I introduced my first bill, the REACT Act to require COVID-19 testing for all migrants.

The OIG recommendation coming out of the September 10th report said DHS should reassess its COVID-19 response framework to identify areas for improvement to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The report went on to say, DHS leadership must commit to strengthening these COVID-19 preventive measures without stronger measures in place.

DHS is putting its workforce, support staff, communities, and migrants at greater risk for contracting the virus. Additionally, with the predictable surge of Haitian migrants from South America, they may bring with them the lambda variant, which is in South America at this time. These are certainly strong words coming out of the OIG. Additionally, the report makes observations regarding lack of social distancing, lack of mask-wearing, and general overcrowding in facilities at the southern border, which would all combine to facilitate the spread of COVID-19. And not only COVID-19, I understand there is a measles outbreak at Fort Bliss.

This is a huge problem and one that the committee has been trying to get answers for – during this entire year. And every time we ask that question, I feel like we get a different response. So, I’ve got a number of questions, and because time is limited, I’m going to run through them so that you can answer them.

If we’re requiring air travelers to have a negative COVID-19 test before entry, why aren’t we requiring the same of land travelers? If we are able to test Afghan people for COVID and vaccinate them not only for COVID but measles, mumps, rubella, and polio, and other age-appropriate vaccinations, which are required by the CDC, why is there a double standard among our southwest border?

Do you agree with the IG’s report? And the DHS did concur with two recommendations in that report, I believe. Do you agree that it’s your responsibility to ensure that there are strong protocols at the border to mitigate the spread of COVID-19? Do you commit to implementing the IG’s recommendations and identify ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19? And do you commit to report back to this committee within a month on the progress the department has made at the border on testing for COVID-19? Thank you.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, may I seek your indulgence to obtain a transcript of all the questions that you’ve asked and answered them rapidly? I did not catch them all. Now, I will say, Congresswoman, that I do appreciate your focus on other communicable diseases with respect to migration, whether it’s by air or by land, and in fact, by sea.

We have concurred with the inspector general’s recommendations, we have made changes to some of our COVID-19 protocols, and I will provide the requested information to you as rapidly as possible.

MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS: Well, Mr. Secretary, I appreciate your respect for the questions I ask, but I’ve been asking these questions since March, and we’ve seen no policy or protocol changes, and yet, we see a totally different response for Afghan refugees coming to this country than we do for those along at our southern border.

To include which this massive spending bill that is coming out and we’re expected to vote on, doesn’t have adequate resources for CBP to do its job. So, I thank you so much for your testimony. I expect that we will see changes in protocol and policy, and I’ll reintroduce what legislation I can to force those changes.

Thank you so much, Mr. Chair, I yield back my time.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The gentlelady yields back. The chair recognizes the gentlelady from New York, Ms. Rice, for five minutes. Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. Demings, for five minutes.

VAL DEMINGS: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to all three of our witnesses for being here today. Thank you for the job that you do every day to keep us safe. I know you are not perfect, as you are frequently reminded. You have big jobs and awesome responsibilities, but as members of Congress, so do we, and we are the lawmakers.



And so, I just would say to you that we all can work a little harder to be better partners and realize that we are all in the same boat, like it or not. And that boat, especially with this committee, is to lead in keeping our nation safe. We're a nation of laws at the border. We're a nation of laws on January 6. Those were criminals and not tourists.

And doggone, we're a nation of laws regarding foreign entities. And if we would remember that, I think we all could be better partners and never risk our nation being attacked by anyone in such a cruel and vicious way. I want to just acknowledge all the victims of 9/11 and the brave first responders on that day.

And with that, Secretary Mayorkas, by -- as many of my colleagues have noted today, DHS was created in response to 9/11. I remember it well. And over the last several months, we have helped, as you are constantly being reminded, today's hearing is on the mission and structure of the department and its ability to meet the threats of today and tomorrow.

One concern raised on many occasions is that the department's mission has grown incredibly. Indeed, in just 2021, the department has led the federal government's response to the pandemic, every place, every place, natural disasters all over our nation, stunning cybersecurity attacks, immigration enforcement, and resettlement of our Afghan allies.

This is, of course, because as one previous witness noted, DHS is an unmatched connector between federal resources, and state, and local authorities. Secretary, in my understanding, that information and resource sharing to prevent attacks against our homeland is so -- is such an important function of the department as the mission of the Department of Homeland Security and the responsibilities of its components grown too vast for one department, Mr. Secretary?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, I thank you so much for your question. I don't think so. We are fundamentally a department of partnerships. I think we are working now very cohesively across the department, across our different agencies and offices, and I think that we are working more collaboratively and closely with our state, local, tribal, and territorial partners than ever before.

We have, for example, through the office of information -- I'm sorry, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, in disseminating critical products in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to our local first responder community so that they are very equipped and empowered to address the threats that they face in their respective communities.

And I know you know this very, very well, given your lifelong dedication to the law enforcement and public safety mission. I think we're working very cohesively. We have a lot more to accomplish in that regard, and we're very focused on it.

VAL DEMINGS: Mr. Secretary, you know, information sharing certainly was one of the major focuses or, I think, recognized vulnerabilities 20 years ago. How would you say, as the Department of Homeland secretary, we are doing along with the local state and federal level with information sharing?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I think, Congresswoman, if you would ask the state, local, tribal territorial partners that we have, they would echo my assertion that we are doing better than ever before. We have not only issued an NTAS Bulletin and renewed it several times, we've sent out multiple products in different forms. We are focused on real-time actionable information in the hands of our partners to strengthen our homeland security.

I think we're doing better than ever before, and we'll do better tomorrow than we are today.

VAL DEMINGS: Again, to all three of our witnesses, thank you for what you do to keep us safe every day. We are committed to joining you as effective partners in that effort. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The lady yields back. Chair recognizes gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Van Drew, for five minutes.

JEFFERSON VAN DREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Mayorkas, in your written testimony, you stated that DHS confronts complex challenges including international and domestic terrorism, a global pandemic, malicious cyber activity, organized crime, catastrophic impacts of climate change, among others. And I understand that, they all are.

I had to notice immediately that you didn't mention the crisis at our Southern border as a challenge facing the department. Let me say to you, I understand your intentions, but you say that we are doing better today than we were. It seems to me we are doing worse today than we did yesterday, and I almost expect us to do even



worse tomorrow than we are today.

I don't agree with you. I think there are a lot of people using straight commonsense that look at videos, that read reports, that look at information, that have spoken to law enforcement there, and we know that so far in 2021, there's over 1.3 million migrants have been apprehended at the American Southern border, which is a 386 percent increase from this time last year.

Let's call it what it is. This is a disaster. Additionally, August was the sixth straight month where we had 170,000 encounters at the border. That's unbelievable. It's been reported now and we've seen all the pictures that we've got 9,000 migrants, give or take thousands, that have -- that may have entered the United States without being tested for COVID-19, with only being issued a notice to appear at an immigration hearing.

And look what we see under the bridge in Del Rio, people bathing in the water, people obviously lacking hygienic necessities, people who are sick, people who are involved with drugs. This is all there. This is nothing - you know, I sit back and again, as I said to you last time when we had this, it's like I'm in bizarro world.

I see it in front of me, you see it in front of you, but we -- some people pretend not to see it. And I don't mean to be disrespectful to you, sir, but sometimes it seems like you don't want to see it. And the reality is we talk about the underlying causes, so really, let's talk about this. What we're saying is other countries have severe problems with poverty, education, nutrition, a host of areas.

We understand that. But it is naive and arrogant of us to believe that we're going to fix all of that and make that all better, which throughout history, we haven't even been able to do, and then that's going to stop the big push into the United States of illegal immigration in a timely way. That's nonsensical.

The way that you do this is through the rule of law. The way that you do it is that you have a border. And when you have a border, you also have a border fence or a border wall. You have what you need. You have the proper amount of law enforcement to ensure that things don't get out of control. You ensure that you're reducing the amount of drugs that are coming into this country.

And don't tell me that we're not getting more drugs because of this, we are. There are so much fentanyl now in our country. The numbers keep going up. It used to be you could kill every man, woman, and child two times over, then three times over, then five times over. I think the latest number is seven times over, but we really don't know because it's just pouring, and we're using kids as drug mules.

So, we have sick people, we have drug-infested situations, we have a lack of hygiene, we have no rule of law at the border, we do the best we can, and certainly, our men and women who work down there are, and then you say to me it's better than it was when you were here last time. No, it is not better than it was last time.

It's scarier and it's worse than it was last time. Texas can't absorb all these people; America can't absorb all these people. And we don't even know if they're healthy. We don't even know what problems we have. We haven't got -- you know, we really haven't really taken enough care with evaluating each individual that's coming over, and we just can't -- undocumented migration is not appropriate.

It's not how we work in America. We should change the immigration laws, I agree with that, but nevertheless, this is absolutely not the answer. So, respectfully, again, I'm trying to be nice, but I'm angry and I'm tired. And Americans are angry and they're tired. We want to hear real answers. And don't -- please don't tell me we're going to make the whole world better in six months by addressing climate change and all their social problems that they have, and all the military problems that they have.

It's always been that people came to America because almost everywhere else is much worse and America is much better. But we have to have control of the situation. This is nonsensical and it's damaging, and it's disturbing. And it's hurting our people and it's hurting our country, and should be one of our number one priorities.

So, tell me, do you really believe that it's better now? Do you personally take any responsibility for this crisis?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, I think, you know, you've said quite a number of things and I'd really like to speak with you fulsomely about everything you've said. You mentioned something that I think deserves particular emphasis, and that is you referenced our broken immigration system and the need to fix it. And that has been an enduring problem.

The one thing that there is unanimity about is the fact that we have a broken immigration system. It is most unfortunate that we have not fixed it over many, many years. I hope we do because that --



JEFFERSON VAN DREW: Secretary, I --

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: That would make fundamental --

JEFFERSON VAN DREW: Please forgive me for interrupting. I agree with you, but right now, we have an immediate crisis. We have an immediate situation. So, you know, it's like saying if a war breaks out, well, we've really got to work on human nature and ensure that we work together more as human beings. I agree, but the reality is --

BENNIE THOMPSON: [Inaudible] gentleman's time has expired.

JEFFERSON VAN DREW: We have a crisis now.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman's time [Off-mic] Chair recognizes the gentelady from California --

JEFFERSON VAN DREW: Thank you.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Miss Barragan.

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to our panelists and Mr. Secretary for being with us today. I want to follow up with the Title 42 questions. Every day, hundreds of thousands of people cross the border, whether it's students, whether it's businesspeople, whether it's folks seeing doctors, but hundreds of thousands are crossing the border.

Mr. Secretary, what's the difference between those people crossing the border and asylum seekers crossing the border, which we're now signing to Title 2 -- 42 to deport?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, I'm not exactly sure what particular differences you're focused upon, but as you know, we are --

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN: [Inaudible]

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Exercising in between the ports of entry, the CDC's public health authority under Title 42.

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN: OK. So, is there any difference between people that are crossing -- the hundreds of people crossing the border every day, students, business people, and asylum seekers other than they're just asylum seekers?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I'm sorry, Congresswoman, I don't quite understand your question. Yes, I mean, there are many differences between migration, the movement of people through a port of entry and the encountering of an individual in between the ports of entry. There are numerous differences between those two phenomena in a number of respects legally from a public health perspective, a whole host operationally.

I'm just not quite sure what you're focused upon. I apologize.

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN: Well, I'm focused on the fact that this is a discriminatory policy that is implemented because people are asylum seekers, because the public health crisis does not discriminate whether you're an asylum seeker or whether you're not an asylum seeker. So, I just think it's a discriminatory practice, and I just want to continue to encourage the administration to end the use of Title 42 in a day and age where we have vaccines and we have requirements we can put in place for people to get vaccines.

Mr. Secretary, moving on, how does the -- how does CBP choose which Haitians will be expelled via repatriation flights and which individuals will be processed into the United States?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, our policy is to employ Title 42, the CDC's public health authority, to the fullest extent possible in light of the CDC's public health assessment and the public health imperative. It is a matter of, for example, our operational capacity, the willingness of a partner country, and its capacity to receive individuals.

There are a host of factors. In addition, there are very limited exceptions to our Title 42 authority. For example, as I think you recognize, we do not enforce it with respect to unaccompanied children. That was a policy that was implemented very early on. There is a convention against torture exception.

There are individuals who have severe and acute vulnerabilities that we recognize.

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN: [Inaudible]



ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: And I would be pleased to provide more information in that regard.

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I'd like to talk a little bit now about seaports. Nationwide, seaports are seeing record high levels of cargo volumes and increases of container ships, resulting in port congestion. Ships with containerized cargo are stalled in mooring terminals, and vessels spend days at anchor waiting to load or unload at port of terminals.

In fact, the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles in my district this week had 65 ships at anchor waiting to unload cargo. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was uncommon for more than one ship to wait to unload. Unfortunately, port congestion is expected to be an ongoing challenge. Can you describe the challenges that port congestion might pose to maritime port security?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, if I may, Congresswoman, the greatest challenge with respect to port congestion is the obstacle to the very facile movement of goods through those ports and serving the economic engine. This is a consequence, as we all -- we know all too well of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Field Operations, the United States Coast Guard, all our services are very focused on maritime security on the one hand, and of course, the facile movement of lawfully imported goods to the United States.

We're very focused on this.

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN: Mr. Secretary, I have to say I'm a little disappointed. The question was very specific about what challenges that congestion might pose to maritime port security. I hope you will follow up given that I represent a port and ports are very important, that I get an answer to -- that's specific. I want to know what the security issue is from congestion.

I -- what you said to me was just restating the problem. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: The lady yields back. Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Clyde, for five minutes.

ANDREW CLYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To follow up on Representative Miller-Meeks' line of questioning, these are for Secretary Mayorkas. Mr. Secretary, the last time you testified before the committee, you admitted to this committee that your agency --

BENNIE THOMPSON: Elizabeth [Ph]

ANDREW CLYDE: Had released migrants who have tested positive for COVID-19. Since then, multiple reports have indicated that thousands of COVID positive migrants have been released from DHS custody. In addition, the DHS Office of Inspector General released a report highlighting that your department has failed to take sufficient COVID-19 preventative measures at the border, which puts the DHS workforce and communities at unnecessary risk of being exposed to COVID-19. So, to me, it is clear that either your -- that your department either does not have a strategy or it is not effectively executing a strategy that will effectively mitigate the risks of COVID-19 at the border.

Why is that?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, we do have a strategy. We concurred in the recommendations of the inspector general's office. We are implementing those recommendations. We have made changes, and I can walk through the processes that we employ currently with respect to the different populations of migrants whom we are encountering at the border.

[Inaudible]

ANDREW CLYDE: OK. Well, let me ask you this. You say you have a strategy, and you are implementing it. When will final implementation of the strategy be complete? Because -- go ahead.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: We are working as quickly as possible to implement the recommendations of the Office of Inspector General. Let me give you one example --

ANDREW CLYDE: So, what is the time frame? When will it be complete?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I will speak with our chief medical officer, and I will report back to you, Congressman.

ANDREW CLYDE: So, you don't know.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I will speak with our chief medical officer, Congressman, and I will report back to



ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I will speak with our chief medical officer, Congressman, and I will report back to you.

ANDREW CLYDE: OK. OK. So, there is a very -- it's having a plan and executing the plan, all right? Effectively executing the plan is very different. So, it's pretty clear to me that the administration is not truly serious in addressing this matter. And I would like to remind the secretary that according to your website, 11,125 CBP employees have tested positive for COVID-19, and 43 CBP agents have died from the virus so far.

So, I would urge my Democratic colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring my bill, H.R. 2076, the COVID-19 Border Protection Act. And this bill would require DHS, in consultation with HHS, to develop and submit a comprehensive plan of action to test and quarantine every migrant at the southern border and execute on that plan.

And I would also -- Mr. Chairman, I'd like to submit for the record an article dated August the 4th that highlights the number of COVID positive -- the number of positive COVID-19 cases, and it's titled Texas border city says more than 7,000 COVID positive migrants released since February, 1,500 in the last week alone.

Mr. Chairman, I request unanimous consent for that to be added.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: May I say something, Congressman? Because you touch upon a very important subject that we have focused upon, and that is the health and well-being of our workforce. We launched Operation Vaccinate Our Workforce to make sure that vaccinations are accessible to our frontline personnel.

ANDREW CLYDE: OK.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: That yielded tremendous increase in the percentage of our workforce that was indeed vaccinated. The president of the United States has mandated --

ANDREW CLYDE: OK. Well, thank you. Thank you. I appreciate that information. So, let me ask you this. How long will it take you to fully implement the MPP, a Migrant Protection Protocol, program? Can you give me a time frame on that?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I cannot because we are reliant on our partner, Mexico, to implement that program. That is a bilateral agreement. We are working with Mexico to implement that program.

ANDREW CLYDE: So, until -- so what I'm gathering then is that you have no idea when that program will be fully implemented.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, let me be unequivocally [Inaudible]

ANDREW CLYDE: No, no. Just tell me, yes or no? You do or not?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: We are seeking to implement that program and working to implement [Inaudible] required --

ANDREW CLYDE: I'm reclaiming my time. I have a question for Director Wray and Director Abizaid. Do we know the identity of the Kabul airport bomber? And do we have any information that this person was previously incarcerated at Bagram Air Base? If I could get each one of you, Director Wray and Director Abizaid, to comment on that, please.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I know we've identified certain individuals who we believe to be associated with the bombing. I'm not sure, as I sit here right now, whether that's information that is sufficiently developed to be able to share in a public hearing. So, let me see if there's more information we can supply to you as a follow-up because it may require a classified setting.

And then, the second part is there may be an ongoing investigation that might be impacted. So, let me look into that, and we will circle back to you.

ANDREW CLYDE: OK. Director Abizaid?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Now, I mean, I wouldn't associate myself with Director Wray's comments. We do have an assessment along those lines. The ability to share in this forum is something that I don't have information, but I absolutely will follow up and work with our colleagues in the FBI to provide the information whether in a classified setting or if it's declassified after this hearing.

ANDREW CLYDE: OK. Thank you very much. I appreciate your commitment in that.



DENISE THOMPSON: As time has expired, the chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Cammack, for five minutes.

KAT CAMMACK: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to our witnesses for appearing before us here today. My colleagues have discussed a number of US national security concerns, and I share those same concerns. There is no doubt that our homeland faces more threats than any time since 9/11. The list of threats is long and far-reaching.

But today, I would like to focus on the crisis on our southwest border. Now, Secretary Mayorkas, seeing as how this is our third time meeting to discuss this issue, I would like you to answer my questions with a simple yes or no as to not waste time. I would also caution you to refrain from making promises about providing us members of Congress with additional information in a timely manner because we have just recently received information from a March 17th hearing.

In fact, I received the answers to that March 17th hearing on August 24th, 161 days after we requested that information. You can imagine how frustrating that probably is as a member of Congress tasked with oversight of the executive branch. So, with that in mind, I'd like to jump right into a series of questions.

Can you please provide me with the name of the individual who suspended – made the decision to suspend flights to Haiti the first week of September?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, that was a collective decision. And it was temporary, if I may say, not canceled but postponed temporarily of flights and [Inaudible]

KAT CAMMACK: And did you make the recommendation?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I'm sorry, and those were few in number.

KAT CAMMACK: Did you, yourself, make the recommendation to suspend the flights?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: It is my responsibility as secretary of homeland security. I own that.

KAT CAMMACK: So, yes. OK. Thank you. Yes or no, you have committed to briefing my colleagues in a classified setting on a number of known terrorists that have crossed into the United States or attempted to. Now, I think we can all agree that terrorists on the known watch list crossing into the United States is an immediate threat.

So, will you commit to that briefing for this committee before the end of this month?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, we will provide another briefing to this committee. I understand that we provided that briefing previously in July. If I may say --

KAT CAMMACK: By the end of this month?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I will not, myself, be able to do that, but I'm sure my team would be, Congresswoman. May I say something? With respect to --

KAT CAMMACK: Actually, I have a very limited amount of time. So, I need to get through this because there's just a litany of issues. Now, how many DHS personnel, including CBP and USBP personnel, have been pulled from their duties related to the southwest border in order to manage the processing of Afghans into the United States?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, we -- I believe that over 20 individuals from the United States Border Patrol have been directed to the transit countries to assist.

KAT CAMMACK: OK.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I can get you a complete breakdown of the population of DHS personnel that have been dedicated to the screening and vetting of Afghan nationals before they arrive here in the United States.

KAT CAMMACK: I appreciate that. And with regard to the agents that have been pulled off the line to process and essentially babysit, can you give me a percentage of how many of your agents are now engaging in that activity?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Oh, I disagree with that characterization, Congresswoman.

KAT CAMMACK: I didn't ask if you disagreed, I asked for the percentage of how many, given a percentage, of your agents have been pulled off of their primary and law enforcement duties.



ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congresswoman, I just disagree with the question. I'm sorry, you're assuming facts [Ph]. We have multiple [Inaudible]

KAT CAMMACK: Secretary Mayorkas, I'm going to have to reclaim my time, and I can answer that question for you. In one of your busiest sectors, the RGV sector, 75 percent of your Border Patrol agents have been pulled off the line to babysit and process. That is a disgrace. I also want to make mention that, as we are sitting here, several of your agents are watching this hearing, hearing your commentary.

You were exceptionally quick to judge one of your own agents and the mounted patrol, yet you have given zero time to the number of suicides and agents who have passed away because of contact and contracting COVID with their day-to-day operations. That, to me, is shameful. Now, I want to go to my colleague, Representative Pfluger's comments.

He asked you if you thought that the border was secure. In your own words, you stated that the border is, "no less secure than the previous administration." Mr. Guest previously provided data earlier in the hearing that your agency shows that it is, in fact, a historic level. We have 308,000 got aways, 75 percent of your agents are processing and babysitting in one of your busiest sectors, we have a record number of retirements, historic level of narcotics that have come across the border, and you still stand by your statement, yes or no, that the border is secure?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yes, and I -- if I may, your initial assertion, Congresswoman, was profoundly offensive and wrong.

KAT CAMMACK: Well, this is now the second time that you have or basically called me disrespectful. I believe in our first meeting you did, but I was just --

BENNIE THOMPSON: The gentlelady's time has expired.

KAT CAMMACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Recognizes the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Meijer, for five minutes.

PETER MEIJER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Secretary Mayorkas, for being here today. Ms. Cammack touched upon something that I just want to ask briefly about, a follow-up to information. Representative Correa and I sent a letter to DHS addressed to you on September 16th. So, this is from both the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee and Oversight Management Accountability, Mr. Correa, and also myself as ranking member, asking for specific information on how many of the Afghan evacuees that we have brought to the US right now, how many of them are Special Immigrant Visa holders or dependents?

How many are permanent residents or dependents, American citizens or dependents? And how many are [Ph] personnel who assisted in the evacuation, or dependents, the local embassy staff in Kabul or dependents? And how many are there are Afghans? Because I know we've seen some figures floating around that suggest that over 85 percent of those who were evacuated were neither SIVs, American citizens, or permanent residents.

Obviously, it's a very fluid picture. Are you prepared to answer the questions we posed in that letter, or are you prepared to answer that today, Mr. Secretary?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yes, I am. And if I may, I'll provide the answer in percentage form, Congressman. So, we have admitted into the United States over 60,000 Afghan nationals. Approximately seven percent of that population are United States citizens. Approximately six percent are lawful permanent residents. Approximately three percent are Special Immigrant Visa holders.

The balance is a combination, if I may, Congressman, a combination of Special Immigrant Visa applicants whose applications have not been finalized for approval; a locally employed staff; individuals who would qualify under, for example, P-1, P-2 refugee status; and then other vulnerable Afghans, as you have identified, journalists, human rights activists, etc.

PETER MEIJER: Yeah. And if we could get -- I appreciate the specificity and the seven percent, six percent, three percent. Is my understanding that those numbers also in company the dependents of the principal holder?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yes, Congressman. And we do not have a breakdown of the balance of that population, if you will. We do not yet have that, that breakdown, that data.

PETER MEIJER: If you could get that to us by October 1st, as requested in the letter, that'd be greatly



appreciated, Mr. Secretary. And I also -- touching on the border real quickly. I mean, looking at the numbers we have, you're no longer -- or the administration's line is no longer that this is seasonal increases, right?

I mean, we're at structurally different numbers coming across, correct?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yes.

PETER MEIJER: OK. Is that something that you are satisfied by? Are -- is this a tolerable situation? I'd -- I was appreciative of the emotion and enthusiasm you talked about, the investigation you'll be doing in the photos that we saw. Will there be an appropriate attempt to try to close the border or to try to reduce that flow or get us down from again, I mean, just incredibly high numbers.

I'm looking at the fiscal year southwest land border encounters by month. I mean, it was that ramp up in February and it has just stayed above that, you know, 175 level consistently. Are we doing anything to try to get that number back down to try to regain control of the border?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: We most certainly are, Congressman. We are doing a number of different things to address irregular migration and the number of individuals who are traveling north to our southern border, ill-advisedly, perilously, and unsuccessfully. We are doing a number of things and I've spoken about this with respect to the root causes; the safe, orderly, and humane pathways; rebuilding process is here in the United States [Inaudible]

PETER MEIJER: Does any of that have if that have the [Inaudible] impact on being able to reduce those numbers, sir?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Well, we actually have recently seen a reduction in numbers. We hope that trend continues. We are employing tools and we all are also fundamentally hopeful that the broken immigration system will be fixed through legislation.

PETER MEIJER: And just I think that reduction was from July was 213,000, August was 208,000. So, still quadruple what it was in prior years. But I guess the reduction of, you know, a few percent is something. And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman yields back. Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Gottheimer [Inaudible]

JOSH GOTTHEIMER: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Katko for holding this important hearing. Thank you, Mr. Secretary and Director Wray and Director Abizaid are welcomed so much. Thank you for your service and I really look forward to our work together to help protect our great country. As we sit here today, 20 years after 9/11, it's clear that we face a much different threat landscape today than the one that presented itself two decades ago.

We've seen the rise of a diffused domestic and homegrown terrorist movement, especially white supremacists and other racially or ethnically motivated, violent extremists. As of last year, the FBI had more than 1,000 pending domestic terrorism investigations in all 50 states across 56 field offices. And earlier this year, in recognition of these threats, the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, and National Counterterrorism Center, agencies our witnesses today represent were each charged with fulfilling specific goals under the first-ever national strategic for countering domestic terrorism.

Given these pending threats, it's critical that Congress enact reforms to prevent the rising threat of domestic terrorism. Mr. Secretary, in July, this committee approved my bill, the Darren Drake Act. It's named in memory of a resident from my district, Darren Drake of New Milford, a victim of October 2017 New York City West Side Highway terrorist truck attack.

The bipartisan bill will direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate best practices for rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior to law enforcement agencies at the point of sale of a rental vehicle to prevent and mitigate acts of terrorism using motor vehicles. Mr. Secretary, how will these provisions help protect communities in your opinion from future terrorist attacks?

And what other reforms are most needed to prevent domestic terror incidents like those we have seen in recent years?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Congressman, your bill is extremely important because it speaks of a fundamental need, not only the dissemination of information to state, local, tribal, territorial law enforcement, but the dissemination to the private sector and the sharing of best practices. And we are working to implement that



very thoroughly.

I think it's a very important measure and we have designed the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnership precisely to accomplish that mission. To equip and empower all of society to work within the communities to address this increased threat.

JOSH GOTTHEIMER: Thank you so much. I really appreciate that. Director Abizaid, in February, along with Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick, Andre Carson, and Chris Smith, I introduced the bipartisan Saracini Enhanced Aviation Act of 2021 to require the installation of secondary cockpit barriers in all commercial passenger aircraft to prevent terrorist attacks similar to 9/11. The bill mandates the installation of inexpensive lightweight wire mesh gates between the passenger cabin and cockpit door, blocking access to flight decks whenever the cockpit doors open during flight in all existing aircrafts.

Director, looking back on the 20 years since 9/11, how can we prevent measures like this one help further -- and further protect American citizens? And in your view, what more is needed?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Thank you very much for the question. In general, the threats to aviation security are from foreign terrorist organizations, in particular, remain of concern even here 20 years later. The enhancements that have happened in the intervening time have certainly protected us and the establishment of organizations like TSA, like DHS, like NCTC have all contributed to that.

That said, every additional step is -- that would further improve security is something that we think will deter terrorist capability with regard to aviation security or other tactics they may use. And so, we appreciate the effort that you've gone through to do that.

JOSH GOTTHEIMER: Director, do you think we need that secondary barrier on all planes, not just the new commercial ones but existing flights?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: I'm not intimately familiar with the legislation or, specifically, the assessment that would lead us to say that that is absolutely necessary. I would just say, as a general matter, it sounds reasonable. I'm happy to look at it and run it against what we know of terrorist tactics and capabilities and come back to you on that.

JOSH GOTTHEIMER: Thanks. It was in the -- it's the only recommendation of the 9/11 commission report that is yet to be implemented. And it's -- right now, we use drink carts on many planes and the flight attendant to stand there. When the cockpit door is open, there's been several -- there's been plenty of research at the FAA on this and other areas about the threat to our cockpits, into our airplanes about this.

So, yeah, I would love to follow up with you on this because I think it's critically important based on the research and the evidence and the 9/11 commission report that we get this done. And there's absolutely no reason why we leave this vulnerability open. Thank you. I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman yields back. Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas, Mr. Laturner, for five minutes. Gentleman needs to unmute himself. We're having some technical difficulties with you. We're still not able to hear you, Mr. Laturner. Stand by, we're trying to correct it.

JACOB LATURNER: Can you hear me now, Mr. Chairman?

BENNIE THOMPSON: Yes, I can. Go ahead.

JACOB LATURNER: Mr. Chairman.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Well --

JACOB LATURNER: OK.

BENNIE THOMPSON: You're on. Go ahead.

JACOB LATURNER: Secretary Mayorkas, as has been cited throughout this hearing today, Customs and Border Patrol has encountered 208,887 migrants on the southwest border this past August, a 317 percent increase compared to the prior year. CBP is currently encountering over 5,000 more individuals per day than in August 2020 and we have seen six straight months with over 170,000 encounters.

Your inspector general also just released a report highlighting the fact that your agency has failed to ensure sufficient COVID preventative measures at the border. And after nearly three decades of service at CBP, Former Border Chief Rodney Scott stated the DHS is seeing terrorists crossed our border "at a level we have never



seen before." This is absolutely unacceptable and this disaster must be addressed immediately.

What specifically are you doing at DHS to ensure that our borders are secure and that Americans are kept safe amidst all of this chaos?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: If I may, Congressman, I can spell out quite a number of measures that we are taking. Let me focus, if I may, on August, the number of encounters that you identify are – does not reflect the number of individuals encountered because we do have a level of recidivism there. You cited 208,000 figure. In fact, the unique encounters, the number of different individuals encountered in August was 156,641. So, we've taken a number of measures, – enforcement measures.

For example, we've increased the number of lateral flights from one area of the border to another. And then we have the removal flights leave from that second processing area into the interior of Mexico to make recidivism more difficult and to ease the processing line and facilitate it. That is one example of a measure that we have taken.

We have, in fact, instituted a policy to criminally prosecute recidivist individuals who have been removed previously. We are working with the Northern Triangle countries to receive more individuals more rapidly so that we can effect removals more. Those are some examples of the measures that we are taking from an enforcement perspective.

We also have an obligation, albeit in a COVID-19 environment because we are employing the CDCs Title 42 Public Health Authority. We do have an obligation to enforce all laws that is also – not only the laws of accountability but the laws of humanitarian relief. Those are equally on the books as well. And many of the individuals whom we encounter claim asylum and have a right to have those asylum claims heard as our laws provide.

JACOB LATURNER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Could you provide what percentage of migrants have been processed through Title 42 as opposed to Title 8?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, let's take a look, if I may, Congressman, at the August numbers. So, of the numbers that I have indicated, the 93,414 have been processed for expulsion under Title 42, and 115,473 have been processed for expulsion under Title 8.

JACOB LATURNER: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. I yield back.

BENNIE THOMPSON: Gentleman yields back. The secretary has reiterated during this hearing his willingness to provide requested updates to members in an appropriate setting. We will work and coordinate that with the secretary. And if it all possible, Mr. Director, we might try to get you there to give them some of the information you are not able to provide at this hearing so that the members can have as full a view of what the landscape looks like in a classified and unclassified setting.

So, we'll try to work with everybody as well as a third witness who, perhaps, can help us on the international front to task some of the areas together too. We, for sure, will get FBI and DHS, and, obviously, if we need to include others, we will. I thank the witnesses for their testimony and members for their questions.

The members of the committee may have additional questions for the witnesses and we asked you to respond expeditiously in writing to those questions. Without objection, that also include, in the record, a letter from the Jewish Federation on the subject of today's hearing. The chair reminds that the committee's record will remain open for 10 business days.

Without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

Copyright

Copyright 2021 CQ-Roll Call, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Related News

February 12, 2020 (Page A6)
Wall Street Journal . (Feb 12, 2020).

February 9, 2021 (Page A6)
Wall Street Journal . (Feb 9, 2021).

September 15, 2021 (Page A12)
Wall Street Journal . (Sep 15, 2021).

May 14, 2020 (Page A7)
Wall Street Journal . (May 14, 2020).

May 12, 2021 (Page A5)
Wall Street Journal . (May 12, 2021).

Show More 

Navigation

[Legislative & Executive Publications](#)

[Members & Committees](#)

[Regulations](#)

[News & Social Media](#)

[Exit !\[\]\(7d1d6890825e83a6a4a51febe2dcc7f3_img.jpg\)](#)

[About This Database](#)

[Content Coverage Chart](#)

[Congressional LibGuide](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Help](#)

[About ProQuest](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Cookie Preferences](#)

ProQuest is committed to empowering researchers and librarians around the world.



Copyright (c) 2021 ProQuest LLC

Version:@1.50



[Back to Results](#)

< 1 of 1 >

Hearing - Hearing Transcripts

Contents ▾

 Add to selected items

Title Info

Title:	Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Holds Hearing on Threats to the Homeland
Date:	September 21, 2021
Committee:	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs;SenateCommittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Senate
Source:	Transcript
Permalink:	https://congressional.proquest.com/congressional/docview/t39.d40.tr09210121.o52?accountid=14740

Body

Senate Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs: Hearings To Examine The Landscape 20 Years After 9/11, Focusing On Threats To The Homeland.

September 21, 2021 09:30 A.M.

SPEAKERS:

SEN. GARY PETERS (D-MICH), CHAIRMAN
 SEN. THOMAS R. CARPER (D-DEL.)
 SEN. MAGGIE HASSAN (D-N.H.)
 SEN. KYRSTEN SINEMA (D-ARIZ.)
 SEN. JACKY ROSEN (D-NEV.)
 SEN. ALEX PADILLA (D-CALIF.)
 SEN. JON OSSOFF (D-GA.)
 SEN. ROB PORTMAN (R-OHIO), RANKING MEMBER
 SEN. RON JOHNSON (R-WIS.)
 SEN. RAND PAUL (R-KY.)
 SEN. JAMES LANKFORD (R-OKLA.)
 SEN. MITT ROMNEY (R-UTAH)
 SEN. RICK SCOTT (R-FLA.)
 SEN. JOSH HAWLEY (R-MO.)



SEN. GARY PETERS: The committee will come to order. First of all, I'd like to thank each of our witnesses for being
<https://congressional.proquest.com/congressional/result/congressional/congdocumentview?accountid=14740&groupid=95459&parmlid=17BF8F7286...> 1/48

CHAIRMAN PETERS: THE COMMITTEE WILL COME TO ORDER. FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO THANK EACH OF OUR WITNESSES FOR BEING HERE TODAY, AS WELL AS YOUR SERVICE TO OUR NATION. YOU HAVE EXTREMELY CHALLENGING JOBS AND HAVE SHOWN AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO KEEPING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SAFE. EVERY YEAR, THIS COMMITTEE HEARS FROM OUR NATION'S TOP NATIONAL SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS TO EXAMINE CRITICAL THREATS TO OUR HOMELAND SECURITY.

OUR NATION RECENTLY MARKED THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH TERRORIST ATTACKS. AND FROM THE FEARLESS FIRST RESPONDERS WHO BRAVELY RAN INTO DANGER TO SAVE OTHERS, TO FAMILIES WHO WERE TORN APART, WE'LL NEVER FORGET THE SACRIFICE AND THE SORROW OF THAT TRAGIC DAY. WE MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR SELFLESS SERVICEMEMBERS WHO HAVE FOUGHT IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, AND ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

IT WAS OUT OF THE ASHES OF 9/11 THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WAS CREATED WITH ONE PRIMARY MISSION: KEEPING AMERICANS SAFE FROM ALL THREATS. IN THE 20 YEARS SINCE THOSE HORRIFIC ATTACKS, THE THREATS TO OUR NATION'S SAFETY HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND WIDESPREAD. WE MUST STAY VIGILANT TO THE THREAT POSED BY FOREIGN TERRORISM, AND WE MUST DO MORE TO ADDRESS THE GROWING AND DEADLY THREAT POSED BY DOMESTIC TERRORIST.

OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCIES HAVE NOTED THAT DOMESTIC TERRORISM, DRIVEN BY WHITE SUPREMACIST AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT IDEOLOGIES POSES THE MOST LETHAL VIOLENT THREAT TO OUR NATION'S SECURITY. IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN THE TRAGIC AND DEADLY CONSEQUENCES OF THIS THREAT, INCLUDING MASSACRES AT HOUSES OF WORSHIP AND THE SHOCKING ATTACK ON THE US CAPITOL.

WE MUST DO MORE TO ENSURE THAT OUR COUNTERTERRORISM RESOURCES ARE BEING USED EFFECTIVELY TO ADDRESS THIS DANGER AND PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE. OUR NATION ALSO CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF CYBERATTACKS, WHICH JEOPARDIZE SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DISRUPT OUR DAILY LIVES WITH JUST A FEW CLICKS OF A BUTTON.

FROM THE SOLARWINDS AND MICROSOFT EXCHANGE HACKS TO THE RANSOMWARE ATTACKS ON THE COLONIAL PIPELINE, EVERY SECTOR OF OUR ECONOMY AND EVERY LEVEL OF OUR GOVERNMENT ARE AT RISK OF CYBERATTACKS FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES OR CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS. OUR FINANCIAL NETWORKS, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND VITAL INSTITUTIONS ALL REMAIN VULNERABLE TO THESE RELENTLESS ATTACKS, AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE'RE TAKING EVERY POSSIBLE MEASURE TO SECURE OUR NETWORKS, HOLD THESE ATTACKERS ACCOUNTABLE, AND DETER FUTURE BREACHES.

FINALLY, ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING THREATS TO OUR HOMELAND SECURITY DOES NOT COME FROM A FOREIGN NATION OR CRIMINAL GROUP. IT DOES NOT FOLLOW AN IDEOLOGY. YET, YEAR AFTER YEAR, WE SEE THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, WILDFIRES, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS. THESE DISASTERS, DRIVEN BY WORSENING CLIMATE CHANGE, POSE AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO OUR NATION AND TO THE ENTIRE PLANET.

THE SCALE AND SEVERITY OF THE SECURITY THREATS WE ARE FACING TODAY CAN CERTAINLY BE DAUNTING. AND GIVEN THE INCREASING STRAINS PLACED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE THE RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THIS CRITICAL MISSION. FROM SECURING OUR BORDERS, INCLUDING OUR SOUTHERN BORDER THAT IS CURRENTLY SEEING AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF MIGRANTS SEEKING SAFETY AND SECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES TO RESPONDING TO NUMEROUS NATURAL DISASTERS AND TAKING THE LEAD ROLE IN VETTING AND RESETTLING AFGHAN REFUGEES, DHS IS PLAYING A VITAL ROLE IN MANY OF THE MOST URGENT ISSUES FACING OUR NATION.

DHS PERSONNEL ALONG WITH OUR FBI AND OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE ON THE FRONT LINES WORKING TO ADDRESS THESE CRITICAL SITUATIONS. AND WHILE MANY OF US WILL NEVER KNOW THE NAMES OF THE THOUSANDS OF PERSONNEL WORKING TIRELESSLY BEHIND THE SCENES AT YOUR AGENCIES TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE ALL COUNTING ON YOU, AND I APPRECIATE EACH OF OUR WITNESSES FOR TAKING THE TIME TO JOIN US TODAY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO A COMPREHENSIVE AND INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSION OF HOW WE CAN BEST SAFEGUARD OUR NATION. AND WITH THAT, I TURN OVER TO RANKING MEMBER PORTMAN FOR YOUR OPENING COMMENTS.

ROB PORTMAN: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. THANK YOU FOR CONVENING THIS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT ANNUAL HEARING ON THREATS TO THE HOMELAND, AND THANKS TO OUR DISTINGUISHED WITNESSES FOR ATTENDING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FROM YOU TODAY. THERE'S A LOT TO TALK ABOUT. THE THEME OF THE HEARING IS 20 YEARS AFTER 9/11. SO, OUR FOCUS TODAY IS THE EVOLUTION OF THE THREAT LANDSCAPE SINCE THE DEVASTATING ATTACKS ON THAT FATEFUL DAY.

IN 2001, IT WAS THE TALIBAN WHO PROVIDED A SAFE HAVEN FOR AL-QAIDA IN AFGHANISTAN, A SAFE HAVEN TO LAUNCH A DEVASTATING ATTACK ON OUR HOMELAND, KILLING NEARLY 3,000 PEOPLE. THE UNITED STATES RESPONDED. AS OUR NATION BECAME ALL TOO AWARE, WE NEEDED TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE TERRORISTS OVERSEAS SO THAT THEY COULD NOT BRING THEIR FIGHT HERE EVER AGAIN.

WE NEEDED A NEW SECURITY ARCHITECTURE TO KEEP US SAFE, WHICH INCLUDED THE CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF



Homeland Security. It also, by the way, was the recreation of this committee as the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. To a large degree, you have to say we've been successful. We've not had a mass casualty foreign terrorist attack on American soil during those intervening 20 years.

I don't think any of us would have thought that was possible back on 9/11. The reason for that success is not because the terrorists have stopped trying, it is thanks to our armed forces, intelligence community, and law enforcement that we have succeeded in stopping those terrorists. This hearing is timely.

A little more than 20 days ago, the last American troops withdrew hastily from Afghanistan, and the Taliban, once again, took back the government of Afghanistan. The new Taliban looks very much like the old Taliban with terrorists on the United Nations Security Council's blacklist at its highest ranks. In fact, the leader of the Haqqani network, a US-designated terrorist organization, which maintains close ties to al-Qaida and cooperates with ISIS-K was named the acting interior minister.

This means the Taliban official in charge of combating terrorism is on the FBI's most-wanted list. The CIA, Central Intelligence Agency, and Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA, have already moved up the timeline of when terror groups operating in Afghanistan are likely to threaten the homeland from "possibly two years to within one to two years." The DIA noted that this is a conservative estimate.

The CIA has already seen a potential movement of al-Qaida into Afghanistan. The catastrophic way the Biden administration withdrew from Afghanistan, surprising our NATO allies and abandoning our Afghan allies, has left us without eyes and ears on the ground. It has also signaled to the world that the United States is an unreliable partner.

The rushed and unplanned nature of the evacuation also resulted in too many left behind, actually some American citizens and green card holders, and many Afghans who had stood by us as drivers, interpreters, or worked for NATO, or worked for the United Nations. And because of the chaos at the Karzai airport, it appears that many who did get evacuated and admitted to the United States do not have a record of working with the US government or our partners.

And yet, they are not being subject to normal security screening and vetting procedures. We have a moral responsibility to welcome the Afghan evacuees who have stood by us and who've had to flee their country because of the feckless actions of the Biden administration. I agree with that. We also though have a moral responsibility to do everything in our power to ensure the safety and security of American citizens and American communities by doing the proper vetting so we are not releasing terrorists or criminals into our ranks.

I'm disappointed, as the administration knows, that despite my request since September 1st, the day after the withdrawal, members of this committee have yet to receive a classified briefing on vetting procedures, even as we were told that evacuees are being resettled in our states. We cannot do proper oversight without basic information.

I realized there was a classified staff briefing yesterday. A few weeks after the request, I was told by the staff that they did not learn anything in addition to what was presented in a nonclassified setting. So, I repeat my request today that members of this committee be provided a classified briefing as soon as possible.

These recent events have put the heightened foreign terrorist threat top of mind. In fact, the director of national intelligence has stated that "terrorists remain interested in using chemical and biological agents in attacks against US interests and possibly the US homeland." The broader threat landscape, however, has evolved since 9/11. We face an elevated threat from domestic and homegrown violent extremists, including lone actors.

We have experienced a slew of large-scale cyberattacks from both nation-states and criminals. And increasingly, the line between the two is blurred. Cybercriminals in countries like Russia frequently operate with the tacit blessing of the government where, at a minimum, officials turn a blind eye to ongoing crimes.

I would say that China continues to create an issue for our homeland by continuing to recruit US-based scientists and researchers to transfer US taxpayer-funded intellectual property for China's economic and military gain. And further, we cannot ignore the ongoing crisis at the southern border. This also affects our homeland.

The Biden administration's decision to dismantle the previous administration's border policies with no consideration of the consequences and nothing in its place has resulted in a historic surge of unlawful migrants, unaccompanied children, and deadly narcotics like fentanyl coming into our country. And make no



mistake, the Mexican cartels are benefiting from this and gaining strength on both sides of the border.

The trafficking of dangerous drugs across our border has helped fuel an addiction epidemic that has hit communities in my home state of Ohio, particularly hard with overdose deaths increasing over the last year after we made so much progress in saving lives over the few years before the pandemic. We must redouble our efforts to stop these drugs from flooding our communities.

As far as I'm concerned, demand reduction remains the key. But the higher volume reduces the price of these drugs on the streets, expands the number of drugs available, and causes, therefore, more devastation. It is clear that the border is a public health and humanitarian crisis, and has been for months.

But particularly now, just look at Del Rio, Texas, where more than 10,000 migrants, mostly Haitians, who have been living in Latin America, some for years, have been living in squalor under a bridge. This is not new, by the way. It's just a logical extension of what has been happening on the border since the Biden administration came to office and reversed the policies that were in place.

Again, without putting in place policies to deal with what was totally predictable, a surge. It is also a national security threat. More than one in four migrants encountered at the border last month were not from Mexico or the three Central American countries, sometimes called the Northern Triangle. Twenty-five percent were not from any of those countries.

Nearly all of them avoided going to a port of entry, and instead, were apprehended by Border Patrol agents. The Border Patrol has now made more than 1 million apprehensions of unlawful migrants at our southern border since President Biden was inaugurated, and they will tell you a lot of folks got away. So, we have a lot to talk about today.

We certainly have the right people here to talk about all these issues. And again, I appreciate your being here in person to provide answers to the tough questions. I imagine you'll get from both sides of the aisle given all of the crises we face that I mentioned. I look forward, Mr. Chairman, to a productive conversation about the threats we face and about the actions being taken to prevent them.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Ranking Member Portman. It is the practice of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to swear in witnesses. So, if each of you will please stand and raise your right hand. Do you swear the testimony that you will give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I do.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I do.

CHRISTINE ABIZAIID: I do.

GARY PETERS: You may be seated. Our first witness is Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who is the seventh secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Previously, he served as the department's deputy secretary, and as director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, and began his public service at the Department of Justice.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for appearing before this committee today, and you are recognized for your opening statement.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Thank you very much. Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and distinguished members of the committee, good morning, and thank you for inviting me here today to discuss the threat landscape facing our homeland 20 years after 9/11, alongside my colleagues from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Counterterrorism Center.

During the past few weeks, I've attended numerous events to remember that tragic assault on our democracy. Each commemoration was a powerful reminder of why we serve in memory of those whom we lost and in pursuit of our noble mission to protect the homeland. Today, we face a diverse and evolving threat landscape that includes domestic and international terrorism, malicious cyber activities, an ongoing global pandemic, transnational crime, climate change, and more.

Through the extraordinary talent and dedication of the more than 250,000 individuals who comprise our department, we are meeting the challenge to protect our homeland and keep our communities safe. Every day, our department's personnel make tremendous sacrifices to achieve this mission. I would like to take a moment to describe the major threats facing our country today and the work we are doing to combat them.

First, we have built a multilayered security and screening and vetting architecture to combat the evolving terrorist threat. We remain ever vigilant to protecting the homeland from foreign terrorists seeking to do us harm, the very reason of the department's creation while combating the most significant and persistent terrorism-related threat facing our country today, which stems from both homegrown and domestic violent extremists who are inspired by a broad range of ideological motivations.

To meet this challenge, DHS has established a dedicated domestic terrorism branch within our Office of Intelligence and Analysis, launched the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships to provide communities with evidence-based tools and resources to address early risk factors, and redoubled our efforts to share timely and actionable information and intelligence with our partners across every level of government.

This year, for the first time, we designated combating domestic violent extremism as a national priority area in FEMA grant programs, resulting in at least \$77 million being spent on capabilities to detect and protect against these threats in communities nationwide. At the same time, we are working with our partners in the intelligence community to assess the security and counterterrorism threats that could develop over the coming months and years, including those potentially related to the fall of the government of Afghanistan and the risks associated with more permissive environments being exploited to plot attacks against the United States.

Second, we continue to combat counterintelligence and malign threats from nation-state adversaries. These adversaries include the People's Republic of China or the PRC, which continues to engage in intellectual property theft, the exploitation of vulnerable supply chains, and use of economic coercion to threaten our economic security.

During the pandemic, for example, DHS has targeted PRC-based manufacturers to prevent the PRC from exploiting COVID-19 to profit from the production of fraudulent PPE and medical supplies that especially endanger our country's front-line workers. DHS has also prevented goods produced by forced labor from entering our markets and continues to work closely with the Department of State to prevent the PRC's exploitation of our academic system.

Third, as cyberthreats have grown, so have our efforts to increase our nation's cybersecurity resilience and protect our critical infrastructure. Ransomware incidents are on the rise. Last year, victims paid an estimated \$350 million in ransoms, a 311 percent increase over the prior year, with the average payment exceeding \$300,000. In July, in partnership with the Department of Justice and other federal agencies, DHS launched stopransomware.gov to help private and public organizations of all sizes combat ransomware and adopt cybersecurity best practices.

Our experts at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, stood up the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative to bring together partners from every level of government and the private sector to reduce cyber risks. To better protect our critical infrastructure, TSA recently issued two new security directives after soliciting industry feedback to strengthen the cybersecurity and resilience of our nation's pipelines.

CISA and our Office of Intelligence and Analysis are also working with all 50 states, local jurisdictions, and election technology experts to keep our elections secure. To further lead the way, we are building a top-tier cybersecurity workforce by investing in the development of diverse talent pipelines and building the expertise to keep addressing changing threats.

We are also increasing and optimizing grant programs to improve cybersecurity capabilities across every level of government and in local communities. Fourth, we continue making risk-based investments to keep our borders secure, including from threats posed by transnational criminal organizations. We are collaborating with our international partners to disrupt these groups, combat their illicit activities like drug trafficking and human smuggling, and hold accountable those with ties to their logistical operations while streamlining multinational cooperation on investigations and prosecutions.

Fifth, DHS continues to support nationwide efforts to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. FEMA has helped stand up more than 800 community vaccination centers, including almost 200 mobile sites to more equitably increase access to COVID-19 vaccines across vulnerable and rural populations. The Transportation Security Administration acted to protect the health of the traveling public and transportation personnel by implementing a federal mask mandate at airports on commercial aircraft and in various modes of surface transportation.

Meanwhile, the US Secret Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have partnered with other



federal agencies to protect Americans from COVID-19-related fraud and criminal activity, including by preventing more than \$3 billion worth of much-needed COVID-19 relief from fraudulently ending up in the pockets of criminals.

Finally, we are countering the current and growing existential threat posed by climate change. Hurricane Ida was just the latest manifestation of a devastating reality. Natural disasters rising in intensity and destructive reach. However, this threat is not new nor is it unique to any region. To help communities recover and remain resilient, President Biden doubled the size of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, pouring \$1 billion into wildfire resilience efforts, flood control initiatives, and much more.

DHS also authorized nearly \$3.5 billion in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to help states, tribes, and territories adapt and prepare for the impacts of the climate crisis. Further, FEMA revised its policies to overcome historic inequities in its aid programs and ensure a fairer and more equitable distribution of assistance to minority, low-income, and other disenfranchised communities.

Two decades after 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security remains focused on protecting our country from evolving threats, both seen and unseen, and safeguarding our communities. We can execute this critical mission because of our incredible workforce and because of our key partners, the members of this committee, our counterparts abroad, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and local communities.

We will remain vigilant, resilient, and agile. We will do so to continue countering the threats of today and of the next 20 years. Thank you for your leadership and your continued support, and I look forward to answering your questions.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Secretary Mayorkas. Our next witness is Director Christopher Wray. Director Wray is the eighth director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Previously, Mr. Wray served as assistant attorney general for the criminal division at the Department of Justice. He also served on the president's corporate fraud tax force and supervised the Enron Task Force in addition to playing a key role in the national security objectives for the department.

Mr. Wray, or Director Wray, thank you for appearing before the committee here today, and you are now recognized for your opening statement.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Thank you and good morning, Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, members of the committee. I'm honored to be here today to discuss the threats facing our homeland. A week and a half ago, we marked a somber, really sacred anniversary in this country, 20 years since the September 11th attacks. September 11th reminds us of evil and loss, the nearly 3,000 victims taken from us that day and their families.

But 9/11 also reminds us of sacrifice and selflessness, of common purpose. It reminds us of the first responders and everyday heroes we lost that day, and all those who suffered illness as a result of their selfless work after the attacks, including members of our FBI family. And still, two decades later, our response to September 11th and the lessons learned from those attacks drive our approach to combating all the threats Americans face today.

It was 9/11, after all, that turned the FBI into an agency focused on disrupting threats and taught us how to build deeper, more effective partnerships, both here at home and around the world. And good thing we made those changes because as we'll discuss this morning, there's no shortage of dangers to defend against.

Just a flavor, before we even get to terrorism, on the cyber front, we're now investigating over 100 different types of ransomware, each with scores of victims. And that's on top of hundreds of other national security and criminal cyberthreats we're working against every day. In our violent crime work, we recently arrested over 600 gang members in a single month.

That's just one month. Protecting our nation's innovation, we're opening a new China counterintelligence investigation every 12 hours. And every day, we receive thousands of tips into our National Threat Operations Center, many of which involve imminent threats to life requiring swift action. And the list goes on and on. I'm not going to have time to discuss most of them before we get started, but I do want to spend a few minutes on terrorism and the challenges facing those protecting against it. Preventing terrorist attacks remains our top priority, both now and for the foreseeable future.

Today, the greatest terrorist threat we face here in the US is from what are, in effect, lone actors. Because they act alone and move quickly from radicalization to action, often using easily obtainable weapons against soft targets, these attackers don't leave a lot of dots for investigators to connect, and not a lot of time in which to connect them.

We continue to see individuals radicalized here at home by jihadist ideologies espoused by foreign terrorist organizations like ISIS and al-Qaida, what we would call homegrown violent extremists. But we're also countering lone domestic violent extremists radicalized by personalized grievances ranging from racial and ethnic bias to anti-government, anti-authority sentiment, to conspiracy theories.

There is no doubt about it, today's threat is different from what it was 20 years ago, and it'll almost certainly continue to change. And to stay in front of it, we've got to adapt too. And that's why, over the last year and a half, the FBI has pushed even more resources to our domestic terrorism investigations.

Since the spring of 2020, so the past 16, 18 months or so, we've more than doubled our domestic terrorism caseload from about 1,000 to around 2,700 investigations. And we've surged personnel to match, more than doubling the number of people working that threat from a year before. But we're also surging against threats by foreign terrorist organizations like ISIS, al-Qaida, and al-Shabaab.

Their operatives continue to look for vulnerabilities and have not stopped trying to carry out large-scale attacks against us, and we are certainly watching the evolving situation in Afghanistan. Now, 9/11 was 20 years ago, but for us at the FBI, as I know it does for my colleagues here with me, it represents a danger we focus on every day.

And make no mistake, the danger is real. Our adversaries are committed, and they're hoping to succeed just once while we're working to bat a thousand. So, we are working with our partners to identify and stop would-be attackers before they act. Just within the past couple of years, we've thwarted potential terrorist attacks in areas like Las Vegas, Tampa, New York, Cleveland, Kansas City, Miami, Pittsburgh, and elsewhere.

Now, we're proud of our successes, but we need to stay on the balls of our feet, relentlessly vigilant against the next plot by our adversaries and their next attempts to attack us. Our workforce has been battling the threat of terrorism and every other threat we face right through the teeth of a pandemic and rising danger to their own safety.

And I say that because, over the past year, we have seen a sharp and deeply disturbing uptick in violence against the law enforcement community. In just the first eight months of this year, 52 law enforcement officers have been feloniously easily killed on the job. Just put that in context, that's an officer murdered in this country every five days and already more than it was in all of 2020. And, of course, that doesn't even count all those who've died in the line of duty facing the other inherent dangers of the job, much less the scores of agents, officers, analysts, and other dedicated professionals who died from COVID-19. And we will be forever indebted for their bravery and sacrifice and are bound and determined to honor them all through the way we approach our work while we remain focused on our ultimate mission: protecting the American people and upholding the Constitution.

So, thank you for taking the time for me -- to hear from me today, and I look forward to your questions.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Director Wray. Our next witness is Director Christine Abizaid. Director Abizaid is the director of the National Counterterrorism Center with 14 years of national security experience. She is the eighth Senate-confirmed director and the first woman to lead the United States' counterterrorism enterprise.

Formerly, she served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia, and a senior intelligence analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency. Director Abizaid, thank you for appearing before this committee. You're now recognized for your opening comments.

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Well, thank you very much, Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and the distinguished members of this committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss global counterterrorism environment and to highlight the tireless work of the NCTC's professionals and the work they do to protect the homeland.

As noted in my statement, for the record, 20 years after 9/11, the United States faces a changed threat from foreign terrorist organizations. The threat today is less acute to the homeland, but it continues to become more ideologically diffused and geographically diverse. Even as the United States has ended its longest war in Afghanistan and takes on a broader array of national security priorities, NCTC remains committed to our mission to deter and disrupt terrorist efforts to harm the United States, both at home and abroad.

The United States continues to have success in degrading foreign terrorist operations, including their threat to the homeland, though these terrorists have proven adaptive over years of CT pressure. Turning first to the international counterterrorism landscape. The 26th August suicide bombing by ISIS Khorasan at the

International Airport in Kabul, which tragically killed 13 US servicemembers and scores of Afghans, illustrates that foreign terrorist groups continue to place a premium on attacks against the United States.

ISIS-Core in Iraq and Syria, in addition to maintaining a strategic interest in conducting attacks in the West, remains committed to its long-term goal of establishing an Islamic caliphate and is fomenting sectarian discord, eroding confidence in governments, and exploiting security gaps to create conditions favorable for seizing territory again after significant losses several years ago.

For its part, al-Qaida has changed significantly since 9/11. The group and its affiliates and allies have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to adapt to changing CT environments and geopolitical realities. Part of this adaptation has included shifting from its core leadership structure in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region to a more geographically dispersed network of affiliates and veteran leaders across Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

And while years of pressure has degraded the al-Qaida network, the group and its affiliates remain intent on using individuals with access to the United States to conduct attacks. This was most recently demonstrated by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and their probable approval of a 2019 attack in Pensacola, Florida, where a Saudi air force officer killed three and wounded eight US servicemembers.

And here in the United States, the primary threat in the homeland comes from individuals inspired to violence, either by foreign terrorist groups or other domestic grievances and ideologies. US-based homegrown violent extremists, HVEs, who are largely inspired by al-Qaida or ISIS, will likely continue to attempt attacks because of their personal and ideological grievances, their attraction to foreign terrorist messaging, and their access to weapons and targets.

HVEs, they mobilize without specific direction from foreign terrorists, and they act independently and often with few associates, which makes detection and disruption very difficult. Separately, one of the other most pressing threats to the homeland comes from domestic violent extremists, DVEs, and in particular, racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists and militia violent extremists, who often mobilize to violence, independent from direction of a formal or centralized organization.

Since 2015, the threat from these individuals has increased. And since 2018, we saw DVEs pose the most lethal terrorist threat inside the homeland. We assess that DVEs will continue to pose a heightened threat for years to come, in part, because many of the factors that underpin their motivations are likely to endure social polarization.

Negative perceptions about immigration, conspiracy theories promoting violence, distrust of government institutions, and biases against minority groups will likely drive some DVEs to conduct attacks this year. We also remain vigilant against Iran and its agents and proxies, principally Lebanese Hezbollah, and their intent in retaliating in the United States for the January 2020 killing of former IRGC Quds Force Commander Qasem Soleimani.

The threat from Iran also faces us in overseas and particularly in Iraq, where Iraqi Shia militant groups pose the most immediate threat to US interests. These militants have conducted an increasing number of indirect fire and unmanned aerial systems attacks against US facilities in the past several months with the objective of expelling US forces from the country.

Now looking ahead, we will continue to face a diverse range of threats that will play out against the backdrop of complex global trends, including ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, great power competition, and the disruptive effects of a changing climate and rapidly evolving technology. More than 15 years after its establishment, the National Counterterrorism Center is uniquely positioned to lead in this environment, working alongside our partners across the intelligence community, and importantly the FBI and DHS, as we move into the next phase of our counterterrorism fight.

We will continue to discover, analyze, and warn about ongoing and future threats as part of a broader set of foreign policy challenges that the United States will face in the 21st century. And we will continue to find innovative ways to synthesize, manage, and exploit our unique access to terrorism data from across a spectrum of sources to identify threats that might otherwise go unnoticed.

We marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11, recognizing the remarkable CT successes of the last two decades and with gratitude, deep gratitude, to the military, law enforcement, diplomatic, and intelligence professionals who made these successes possible. Working together, we have succeeded in preventing another major 9/11-style attack in the homeland, but we must not be complacent.



NCTC and the larger intelligence community and Homeland Security infrastructure must continue to collaborate and maintain the ability to innovate in an era of rapid technological change and stay ahead of the next evolution of the terrorist threat. Thank you again for the opportunity to be here today. I look forward to your questions.

Thank you.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Director Abizaid, for your opening comments. Director Wray, this morning, it was reported that the FBI held back the digital key necessary to unlock the computers of hundreds of businesses and organizations that were subjects of Kaseya cyberattack for almost three weeks. I want to hear why the bureau would do this.

Sharing the key sooner certainly could have potentially avoided millions of dollars in recovery cost. And I understand we need to both support cyberattack victims and bring perpetrators to justice. I understand that dual task that you have, but certainly, I think this committee would like to hear your explanation for the bureau's actions in – related to this key.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me start by saying that, as I'm sure you can appreciate, since we're talking about an ongoing investigation, I'm somewhat limited in what I can say here. But, first, let me say that Kaseya in particular has been a great help to law enforcement and CISA, and they've joined in our response to the threat.

And I will say there's no substitute, as you and I have discussed previously, for private sector partnership in this space to stop the avalanche of ransomware attacks that we continue to see. We are constantly using technical information that we obtained through our investigations and pushing it out to enable effective defense, and we don't wait for our investigation to be done to do it. But when it comes to the issue of encryption keys or decryption keys, there is a lot of testing and validating that is required to make sure that they're going to actually do what they're supposed to do. And there's a lot of engineering that's required to develop a tool, that required to put the tool to use.

Sometimes, we have to make calculations about how best to help the most people because maximizing impact is always the goal. Whenever we do that in these joint-enabled sequenced operations, we are doing it in conjunction with other government agencies, CISA, and others. We make the decisions as a group, not unilaterally.

And these are complex case-specific decisions designed to create maximum impact, and that takes time in going against adversaries where we have to marshal resources, not just around the country but all over the world.

GARY PETERS: Director Wray, you mentioned there are other federal agencies that were consulted. What other federal agencies were consulted in making this decision?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, again, I want to be careful here in not talking about a specific ongoing investigation other than to say that when we are working in – as a general matter, in joint sequenced operations designed to maximize impact against an adversary, we, of course, work closely with our usual partners. Prominent among them is CISA but also members of the intelligence community and other agencies as well.

And then, it depends on the industry whether there might be other agencies involved.

GARY PETERS: And I just want to characterize your comments in explaining your actions. Are you saying that the key was not ready for the last three weeks as was reported?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Again, Mr. Chairman, I certainly understand why the keen interest in the topic, and I'm trying to be as responsive as I can be while trying to be sensitive to an ongoing investigation. So, I'm doing my best to try to be responsive and informative while also being careful not to – as Department of Justice policy prohibits me, from discussing an ongoing specific investigation.

GARY PETERS: Well, I understand that, Director Wray. But I believe, you know, this committee certainly deserves and needs a full accounting of FBI cyber activities, including classified activities. And I would hope today you could commit to me and to this committee that you would provide us with a complete briefing on this operation, but also the broader FBI cybersecurity operations and plans.

Would you please commit to the committee that you would be willing to do that?



CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Happy to work with the committee to see what more information we can provide to be helpful and responsive. And I certainly agree that some of that might be better done in a classified setting. And so, I'll have my staff follow up with yours to see what we can do to be more illuminating, recognizing again that some of this has to do with a very sensitive ongoing, very much ongoing, investigation.

GARY PETERS: I'd appreciate that. Secretary Mayorkas, on numerous occasions during this administration, as well as the last administration, I've asked for additional transparency regarding the ongoing border restrictions between the United States and Canada. I will tell you that my constituents are deeply frustrated by this, particularly given the trade and the relationships that people have across border, with the two of the busiest border crossings in North America are in Michigan -- between Michigan and Canada.

And those restrictions remain in place for Canadians to come across, who have been fully vaccinated, to enter the United States at Land Ports of Entry. My question to you, Mr. Secretary, will you commit to provide my office and the public with the specific criteria the administration is using to justify ongoing restrictions for fully vaccinated Canadians at Land Ports of Entry?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Mr. Chairman, I most certainly will. I know that you have expressed your concerns directly to me on a number of occasions. And I can assure you that we are reviewing our exercise of the Title 19 authorities to restrict travel through the ports of entry in light of the pandemic. We are very mindful of the economic consequences, and not only the economic consequences but the consequences on family members who haven't seen one another for quite some time.

And so, I do make that commitment to you.

GARY PETERS: Could you tell us some of the criteria now?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, we are looking primarily, Mr. Chairman, at the public health rationale, the fact that the arc of the delta variant is not yet where we need it to be. However, the president did make an important announcement yesterday to provide relief to the 212(f) international travel restrictions in early November to vaccinated individuals.

That is a first step in our ongoing review of the travel restrictions borne of the pandemic and its current situation here domestically.

GARY PETERS: So, why those but not Canadians?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, we are taking it iteratively. We are looking at the situation, not only at the ports of entry on our northern border but also on our southern border. We have heard similar concerns with respect to border communities on the South and the impact, economic and family impact, of the restrictions. We are looking at what we can do operationally, and we are moving in a very sequential and controlled manner.

And I'd be happy to provide more information with you after -- to you after this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

GARY PETERS: Well, I appreciate that, Secretary. And well, we will want that information provided as quickly as possible, and we look forward to meeting with your folks on the -- on it. I need to step aside for our Armed Services Committee meeting. Many of us know what it's like to be double-booked. I will pass the gavel to Secretary -- or not secretary, Senator Hassan, who will take the gavel.

But before I leave, I recognize Ranking Member Portman for your questions.

ROB PORTMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've discussed a broad array of threats already this morning. And I agree with the chairman on the necessity for us to have the information on the cyber front, which is, of course, something that continues to grow every year in terms of a threat to our homeland. We talked about domestic extremists.

Certainly, that is a threat, as we've said today. I want to focus on the enhanced threat that just occurred in the past month. And that is, again, the way we left Afghanistan in a chaotic, rushed way and what we've created in the meantime. Director Abizaid, you said in your testimony this morning, the US has ended its longest war, and I suppose that's true.

But in a way, we haven't, have we? I mean, the war was about terrorism and keeping Afghanistan from being a platform for terrorist attacks against the United States. What we lost a month ago was eyes and ears on the ground and the ability to do just that. We had 2,500 troops there prior to the evacuation.

We hadn't had a single casualty, thank God, in 18 months. We had 7,500 NATO troops with us, and we had the

ability to do what we do not have now. The best example that -- might be what happened tragically with the drone attack. The so-called over-the-horizon alternative that the Biden administration keeps talking about failed miserably, didn't it? And again, not having those eyes and ears on the ground makes it harder for us to protect the homeland.

So, I guess, in a way, we ended the longest war, but in another way, we've made things more dangerous. Let me ask you about that. You talked about the ISIS-K's suicide bombing as an example of a threat. Well, that happened during the evacuation. Again, we hadn't had, thank God, a casualty in 18 months until we lost those 13 brave soldiers, sailors, and Marines.

You also said in your testimony that the terrorists around the world are "using individuals who have access to the US to conduct attacks." I look at what's going on with the evacuation and us not knowing who's coming to this country, and I -- that's a statement of fact: We just don't know. Having tried my darndest to find out from the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security, it's happening so quickly and was so chaotic, we just don't know.

So, I'd ask you, Director Abizaid, is our homeland more or less safe following -- from attack following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Thank you, Senator, for the question. With respect to Afghanistan, as I mentioned, the terrorist groups that we're most concerned about presenting a threat both in the region but also a future external threat is obviously, one, ISIS-K, ISIS Khorasan; and two, al-Qaida and al-Qaida's affiliate there. Now, over the years and sustained CT pressure on both groups, principally al-Qaida, but given ISIS-K's more recent arrival on the scene, also significant counterterrorism pressure there has really relegated those two groups to primarily a regional threat.

Now, in the wake of our withdrawal, the question is, at what point does that regional threat build to a capability and intent that is focused externally and particularly focused on the homeland? And I would say, from an intelligence community perspective, that's one of our highest priorities, which is to monitor and assess the degree to which those groups actually present an external threat.

ROB PORTMAN: Well, you've done some monitoring and assessment of it already. I mentioned the Defense Intelligence Agency and CIA have adjusted their projections as to the threat to the homeland and particularly, you know, al-Qaida moving back into Afghanistan. So, would you say, again, is our homeland safe or less safe?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: So, the CIA and DIA assessments that I'm aware of are within the range that we had assessed prior to the drawdown, one to three years. I think it's fair to say that we are concerned about --

ROB PORTMAN: Well, they're saying it's less time now, and they're saying that's a conservative estimate.

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: I think it is fair to assess that it is -- the development of those groups' external operations capability, you know, we've got to monitor and assess whether that's going to happen faster than we had predicted otherwise. Afghanistan is a very dynamic environment right now.

ROB PORTMAN: I'll take that as a yes, that we're less safe following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. I mean, that's -- I think it's pretty obvious. Director Wray, do you have any comments on that? Do you think we're more or less safe following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, I think I would share most of Director Abizaid's summary, and, of course, you've cited some of the information you've gotten from our intelligence community partners. Obviously, we are concerned about what the future holds, whether it's the possibility of another safe haven, whether it's the possibility of ISIS-K being able to operate more freely in a less secure environment, whether it's the possibility of events in Afghanistan serving as some kind of catalyst or inspiration for terrorist attacks elsewhere in the region or potentially with homegrown violent extremists.

ROB PORTMAN: Does it concern you that the Haqqani network leader, whose name is Haqqani, is now the acting secretary of the interior of Afghanistan?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Certainly concerns me.

ROB PORTMAN: He's on your most wanted list, isn't he?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I believe so.

ROB PORTMAN: Well, look, the question is, what do we do now, you know? And I hope that we have an



enhanced response to the enhanced threat and not just the kind of feckless drone strike that we saw and tragic drone strike that we saw. With regard to the evacuees, Mr. Secretary, we haven't had a chance to talk yet. I know you tried to reach me, and I appreciate that, and I do think that we've got a real problem here.

I mean, the best numbers we have are that very few of the people who have come over are so-called SIVs, meaning the people who actually helped us, who were drivers and interpreters, or otherwise assisted the US effort. Secretary Blinken, in his testimony last week, said there are about 20,000 people who had applied for SIV. Seven hundred and eight of them have come through the evacuation as far as we know.

That's the best numbers we have. In fact, when you look at who's come, not only did we leave American citizens behind, and obviously, leave a lot of these SIVs behind who, you know, stood by us, but it looks like there are about 6,500 American citizens who came, that's about 11 percent; about 3,500 lawful permanent residents, that's just under six percent; and there are about 3,000 people with visas, including these SIVs, that's about five and a half percent.

And the rest, around 75 percent of the people who came are called parolees, meaning they don't fit any of those categories. And we're pushing very hard to get the information. Again, we're desperate to have a classified briefing to be able to get into that because apparently, you can't provide it in an open setting or maybe just don't have the information.

But does that concern you that three-quarters of the people who we have brought into this country -- and by the way, we brought about half the people into America, about 60,000, about 120,000 are still overseas, and we're told that among those people overseas are even fewer American citizens or permanent green card holders or SIVs. But does it concern you that we don't have in place, a way to properly vet and handle these individuals, including allowing these individuals, you know, to walk off the military bases if they choose to do so today?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Ranking Member Portman, first of all, as a preliminary matter, I was disappointed to learn that -- of your disappointment with respect to the information that you've received even in the classified context, and I will --

ROB PORTMAN: We haven't had a classified briefing yet.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Well, yesterday, I understand the staff did, and I will --

ROB PORTMAN: The staff had one, and their report to me, at least, was that they didn't receive anything new that they hadn't already received, including in our phone call yesterday, which was not classified.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yeah.

ROB PORTMAN: So, the point is we would just love to get whatever you all need to do to give us the information. We just don't have the information.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: And precisely why I wanted to articulate my apology and make sure that we remedy that situation right away.

ROB PORTMAN: Thank you.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: You're entitled to that information.

ROB PORTMAN: Thank you.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, we do have a robust screening and vetting process in addition to expertise, both in the transit countries and here domestically, to ensure the safety and security of the American people. Let me say with respect to the population of individuals who are not American citizens, lawful permanent residents, or Special Immigrant Visa holders, we also have, in that remaining population, individuals who applied for special immigrant visas, but whose applications had not yet been completed at the time of the evacuation.

We have individuals who have been employed locally in Afghanistan by the United States, who have assisted us in Afghanistan. We have other individuals who qualify for Special Immigrant Visa status, individuals who qualify for P-1 or P-2 classification of refugees. So, it's a very mixed population, and we screen and vet that remaining group as we screen and vet all.

MAGGIE HASSAN: Thank you.

ROB PORTMAN: Thank you. We'll just get to this more later, but we -- there are some discrepancy there. But
look forward to talking more



LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING MORE --

MAGGIE HASSAN: Senator, I'll note that there is going to be a second round of questions and we've gone well over here. So, I'm going to turn to Senator Carper now.

TOM CARPER: Thanks very much. I'm the last Vietnam veteran serving in the United States Senate. I remember full well our withdrawal from Vietnam. I remember watching on television as American helicopters rose from the ground in Saigon and attached to them -- and all over those helicopters were Vietnamese people trying to get out of their country.

I remember watching those helicopters rise into the sky and people fall off of those helicopters to their death. And as I watched the -- our withdrawal and the effort to try to get 125,000 people out of Afghanistan a month or so ago, I was reminded of what happened in Vietnam I think in 1974. The -- I think from the time that Donald Trump -- and I'm not a real political guy, as my colleagues know.

I think from the moment he sat down with the Taliban and got in negotiation, cut our troop presence to 2,500 people, I think the die was well cast. I think the whole pitch was pretty well telegraphed. And I said to myself, this may not end well, and it didn't. I think the question for us now is, what do we do now?

What do we do now? We're out of Afghanistan. We're trying to make sure that about 125,000 other people who are Afghans who helped us, that they have a chance to get out of there and to be resettled here. And I think our challenge is the way -- how do we handle the resettlement? How do we handle that? And that is -- Mr. Secretary, that is a big part of your job, helped by Delaware and Jack Markell, former governor, to make it go well.

And I think one of the questions for me today is what do we need to be doing, not just in this committee, not just in the Senate, but what do we need to be doing as a body writ large to help make sure that the folks that are coming here have a new chance in their lives, have a chance to get settled? A lot of them want to work.

We have a lot of employers that are looking for workers. And maybe at the end of the day that something good hopefully can come from something very tragic. I stood on the tarmac with the president, our military leadership in my congressional delegation about a month ago as we received the sacred remains of 12 of our heroes, navy, air force -- rather navy, Marines, army.

And it was a sad and hard day. What do we do now going forward? There's a lot to do. We need to work together to make sure that we learn from all -- what's happened in the past, we learn what's happened in the last 20-some years and go forward. And with that having been said, I want to ask my first question, if I could, to Mr. Wray, Director Wray.

In 2020, the FBI arrested 180 individuals on domestic terrorism-related matters. Of these arrests, 75 were identified as white supremacist extremists. For years now, we've been hearing about the rising threat of racially motivated attacks, specifically attacks carried out by white supremacists. And you may have heard me say before that in order to address the problem, we must understand and address the root causes of that problem.

Director Wray and Secretary Mayorkas, why have we seen such a rise in racially and ethnically -- ethnically motivated extremism and violence in this country in recent years? And what is the root cause and how are we tackling it? Mr. Secretary?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator Carper, let me, if I may, take a moment to answer a point you made or to respond to a point you made. There is important legislation that is pending that would bestow upon individuals evacuated from Afghanistan, the same benefits that refugees receive, and that would assist in their resettlement here in the United States and their integration into our communities.

And we're extraordinarily proud and inspired by the unity that we see across the country. We have seen regrettably, over the last several years, Senator, a rise in the manifestation of hate. We've seen the propagation of false narratives. We've seen an increase in anti-government sentiments, and we are very watchful of and vigilant in response to any signs of connectivity between those ideologies and acts of violence.

That is where our focus is.

TOM CARPER: All right, thank you. Director Wray, please, same question. Root cause, what is it, and what are you doing about it?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, I think our focus is, of course, on the violence, not on the ideology itself. I would say that we -- one of the things that we've done about now two years ago is create a domestic terrorism-hate crimes fusion cell, which was designed to bring together both our domestic terrorism experts, as well as our



nate crimes experts, and try to be -- try to get ahead of the threat and be more proactive in going against the threat.

And we're very proud, for example, of the work of that fusion cell in preventing a -- an attempted attack on a synagogue outside of Las Vegas, for example. I will say that a big part of the threat that you're asking about is the social media dimension. You know, some of these same people before might have been stewing away in, you know, the basement or the attic one part of the country, and not communicating with the other.

But today, terrorism moves at the speed of social media. And you have the ability of lone actors disgruntled in one part of the country to spin up similar or like-minded individuals in other parts of the country and urge them into action or inspire them into action. I think that is a huge part of the threat that you're asking about.

TOM CARPER: All right. Thank you. Another question, if I could, with respect to Afghanistan and counterterrorism. This would be for all three witnesses. And I'd like to start, if I could, with Director Abizaid, please. Question, as we grapple with the fall of the government of Afghanistan, our focus remains on how to get the Americans and our at-risk allies to safety.

However, as we know and as I believe you've mentioned in your testimony, ma'am, terrorist organizations thrive when they can exploit instability and weak government institutions. And that said, it's important that we look ahead to our ever-changing landscape in that region following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

To that end, I'd like to ask each of you to take a moment to address the following. How has our threat landscape changed since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan just three weeks ago? And how are your agencies working to address the shifting threat landscape that will undoubtedly continue to evolve? A follow-up. I have a follow-up, but let me just -- that's the one I'd like you to tackle, please, if you would.

MAGGIE HASSAN: I'd ask each of you to try to be relatively brief. There will be a second round of questions.

TOM CARPER: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Thank you very much. The threat from Afghanistan, I think, is the top of our priority in terms of understanding what that dynamic landscape is likely to produce in terms of an external threat. We do think that principally, the operating groups ISIS-K and al-Qaida present a significant threat in the region.

They are going to have to contend with the new de facto government in Afghanistan, the Taliban, principally ISIS-K. And this will be an absolute top priority as we develop our intelligence capabilities, our over-the-horizon capabilities to make sure that we're monitoring any changes in the threat landscape, and able to arm policymakers to address that.

TOM CARPER: Thank you. Thank you very much. Madam Chairman, I'm just going to ask that there are other two -- our witnesses respond for the record to that same question. Thanks very much. And it's good to see you, all. Thank you very much for being here, for your service, and for your leadership with the men and women with whom you serve.

Thank you.

MAGGIE HASSAN: And I'll note in addition to the response, for the record, I'm sure others will be asking you a similar question and you can elaborate on Senator Carper's question then. Senator Johnson.

RON JOHNSON: Secretary Mayorkas, I'm putting a chart that I've been keeping on apprehension southwest border. Just to give you some quick numbers here, to date, this calendar year, there have been almost 1.3 million apprehensions. We are averaging for the last two months, 6,700 to 6,800 people per day. That's a large caravan per day being apprehended by Border Patrol.

Eight hundred to 1,100 hundred known gotaways, which would equate somewhere over 300,000 gotaways -- known gotaways for the year. If you annualize these figures, then a couple hundred thousand people per month will be up to about 2.1 million apprehensions. Add the getaways, 300,000 to 400,000, and were up to 2.5 million people.

You've repeatedly stated that our borders are not open, they're closed. Do you honestly believe that our borders are closed?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I do. And let me speak to that.

RON JOHNSON: No, let me ask you a couple questions here. We -- this committee received -- it was dated September 11th, but apparently, this letter was not received till Thursday. I didn't find out about it until



yesterday. I released to the public immediately -- by recently retired US Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott.

In this letter, former Chief Scott states he is sickened by the avoidable and rapid disintegration of what was arguably, the most effective border security in our nation's history, and, of course, the chart shows it. We've pretty well secured the border. We'd stop the flow of unaccompanied children. We'd stop the flow of family units because of the migrant protection protocols of the agreements that President Trump put in place, the building of the wall.

We were serious about border security until your administration took office. You stood before this committee and said that you would enforce the laws. You have not done that. Let me go on. Chief Scott says, to think that well-resourced terrorist networks, criminal organizations, and hostile nations are not going to do the same, in other words, exploit the open border is naive.

Here's what's very troubling. He said the secretary and other political appointees within DHS have provided factually incorrect information to Congressional representatives and to the American public. So, let me ask you, Mr. Secretary. Of the 1.3 million people that we've apprehended, how many people have been returned, how many people are being detained, and how many people have been dispersed?

And I want some numbers here. So, again, 1.3 million people, how many people have been returned, how many people are being detained, how many people have been dispersed to all points around America?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I would be pleased to provide you with that --

RON JOHNSON: I want them now. Why don't you have that information now?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I do not have that data before me.

RON JOHNSON: Why not? Why don't you have that basic information?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I want to be accurate in the --

RON JOHNSON: I'm looking for ballpark figures. Is it about half? Have we dispersed about half of that? Are we up to about 600,000 people we dispersed?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, these are the tools that we employ. We use the Title 42 authority, that is the public health authority, and empowered by the Centers for Disease Control to expel individuals in light of the --

RON JOHNSON: So, I'm hearing that you're not using that to the full extent and that we've got 40, 50 percent of people even apprehended under Title 42 that are not being returned. Is that accurate?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: That is actually inaccurate. [Inaudible]

RON JOHNSON: OK. So, what is an -- OK. So, you -- if you're saying that's inaccurate --

MAGGIE HASSAN: Senator, would you care to let --

RON JOHNSON: What's the real figure?

MAGGIE HASSAN: The witness finish and answer?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: If I --

RON JOHNSON: I want -- I actually want answers to my questions. What is the real figure then?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: If I may say, Senator, we use the Title 42 authority, the public health authority of the Centers for Disease Control to the fullest extent we are able to. You know, [Inaudible]

RON JOHNSON: So, what is the percent that you are returning under Title 42? It's about 750,000 people apprehended under Title 42. How many of those individuals have been returned under Title 42?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I will provide that data to you.

RON JOHNSON: So, you're saying that 40 to 50 percent is not accurate. If you know that that's not accurate, you must have the real number.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, what I said was not accurate was your assertion that we are not using Title 42 authority to the fullest extent that we can.

RON JOHNSON: No, that's not what I said at all. I said we're not retreating everybody under Title 42.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: We are not --

RON JOHNSON: We're dispersing a number of those individuals.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, we are not doing that, not for reasons of our limitation of use that we impose on ourselves, but rather because certain of our capacity to return people under Title 42 is constrained by the Mexican authorities' ability to receive them. This is a matter of bilateral and multilateral relationships.

We exercise the Title 42 authority to the fullest extent that we can. We then work with Mexico to assess what its capacity to receive individuals is, as well as --

RON JOHNSON: OK. Again, you're talking about the process, I want numbers. I'm going to expect numbers. By the way, in our last hearing, which you didn't stick around for a second round of questions, you didn't come in here in person, I sent you questions for the record. I've got no response whatsoever. And you came before this committee and you committed to responding to congressional oversight, and you have not done so. And according to former Chief Scott, you've provided factually incorrect information to Congress.

So, we're expecting you to up your game as a -- as it relates to congressional oversight. Well, let me quick switch to Afghanistan. We had a briefing yesterday morning, telephone briefing, and one of the assertions is that the -- of the 124,000 Afghans that were evacuated out of Afghanistan, the majority, I can't remember -- like the vast majority or almost all worked for some government agency, the military, whatever.

I asked the question: how do you know that? I didn't get an answer. I've also talked to the commanding general and the people on the ground in Fort McCoy that have about 13,000 these Afghans in their custody right now in Tomah, Wisconsin, that's part of Wisconsin. I continue to ask, I understand the screening -- that we're screening against the terrorist watchlist and the no-fly list, that type of thing.

So, I understand how if, for example, an ISIS fighter or al-Qaida terrorist, if they just happen to be on one of those watchlists, if we have a match, we're going to keep them out of the country. What are we doing to positively identify people to connect them to these agencies or the members of the military that they did have connection with, so we have positive ID before we disperse?

Because let's say face it, 124,000 people, we got 700,000 SIVs, we've got about 6,000 US citizens. That leaves 117,000 people. We don't know who they are. How do we know who they are positively, not just in terms of derogatory information?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, not only do we vet individuals against our intelligence databases, but we also vet them against the Department of Defense databases. We capture their biographic and biometric information in the transit countries before they are allowed to board flights to the United States. We have expert screeners and vetters whom we have deployed to those transit countries so that they can use their expertise, in addition to the information that we have captured biometrically and biographically before they board their flights.

RON JOHNSON: Many don't even have IDs --

MAGGIE HASSAN: Senator -- the senator's time has expired. I'll now recognize myself for my round of questions. I just want to thank the ranking member, as well as Chair Peters for this hearing. I want to thank the witnesses today not only for being here, but for your service to our country. And I hope you will thank all the women and men you work with for their service as well.

Secretary Mayorkas, I want to start where Senator Peters left off on the issue of the current status of the northern border. As you know, I asked you about this in July. You and your staff were part of a Zoom meeting that we had with business leaders in New Hampshire, as well as representatives of the Canadian consul general's office in August.

And I just have to say I was very disappointed with the administration's decision yesterday about the Canadian border. Right now, I just want to be clear, non-vaccinated Canadians who have a negative COVID test can get on a plane and fly to the United States. But vaccinated Canadians, and they have a higher vaccination rate than we do, cannot cross a port of entry into our country.

One of the things that came up in August in our meeting was the department's obligation to assess the economic impact of border closures on the domestic economy. For states like mine where tourism is the second-largest sector, I want to understand whether you have provided that analysis to the White House.

You said in our meeting that ultimately, this is a White House task force decision, because I do not understand the public health rationale here at all for closing the northern border to vehicular traffic when it is essentially



the public health rationale here at all for closing the northern border to vehicular traffic when it is essentially open to air traffic.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I know of your disappointment, you have expressed it quite clearly to me. I should say that the decision is an all of government decision. The relevant equity holders are involved in the decision-making. We are very mindful of the economic impact. We are reviewing both the public health and the family impact consequences of our decision on a daily basis, and we are proceeding iteratively in light of, quite frankly, the arc of the delta --

MAGGIE HASSAN: And I understand that and I'm going to turn to some other questions now. But this is the same response we have gotten for weeks and months without anybody explaining to us, the public health rationale for a decision that is keeping Canadians and Americans from seeing each other, businesses from doing their business with each other, tourists from coming to states like mine.

Nothing like being at NASCAR in mid-July in Loudon, New Hampshire, our biggest single event of the year, and realizing that our stands were partly empty because the Canadians who usually visit and enjoy The Magic Mile couldn't come, even though they had a high vaccination rate and the public health threat was not explained at all, and especially in light of the fact that we were allowing Canadians to fly in, just not driving.

So, I look forward to getting some more detailed response from the administration. Now, I want to turn to both Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray about the issue of al-Qaida. Some assessments indicate that al-Qaida could reconstitute itself and be capable of threatening the US homeland in the next one to two years.

So, what are the FBI and DHS each doing to detect, investigate, and disrupt possible al-Qaida attacks on the homeland amid assessments of their resurgence? We'll start with you, Director Wray.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, I appreciate the question. Certainly, as we get to the 20th anniversary here now, it's worth remembering that al-Qaida has not stopped trying to hit us. For us, if there's good news, the good news is that we're in a fundamentally different posture here in terms of the FBI's stance than we were at the time of 9/11. And that starts with our over 200 Joint Terrorism Task Forces, which encompass something like 4,500 different federal, state, and local partners.

So, we are aggressively using those task forces all over the country to engage with sources, follow up with ties between subjects that we have under investigation with individuals overseas, working with our foreign partners to put information together. We're putting a heavy focus on community outreach as the evacuees settle here in the United States to both, A, try to get in front of any radicalization that could occur while they're here, but also to try to open up the lines of communication to make sure that if somebody sees something about someone in those communities, that they'll say something to us about it.

MAGGIE HASSAN: Thank you. Secretary Mayorkas.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, we continue to screen and vet individuals seeking to arrive in the United States by any means: sea, land, and air. We have not relaxed our vigilance over the years. We speak very frequently about a rise in prominence of certain types of threats: the domestic violent extremists, the homegrown violent extremist.

That does not mean that that rise in prominence suggests that we have taken our eye -- our focus off the prior iteration that is ever present.

MAGGIE HASSAN: Thank you. Another question for you both. Terrorists and criminals are using cryptocurrency to facilitate their activities. Foreign terrorist organizations have used cryptocurrency to directly solicit donations to their organizations and to launder money through the cover of charities to further their goals.

Director Wray and Secretary Mayorkas, are the FBI and DHS tracking the use of cryptocurrencies for the financing of terrorism and other homeland security threats? What are you doing to combat the use of cryptocurrencies for terrorist financing? Director?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, certainly, we are seeing, you're exactly right, cryptocurrency now being used across a wide range of threats, both the ones you mentioned and others. We're seeing it in everything from buying criminal tools like botnets to laundering proceeds, evading sanctions, as you say, raising money for terrorist operations, darknet marketplaces.

We are -- and of course, all of it boils down to making it harder and harder for us to follow, and then ideally seize the money. Some of the things that we're doing are we've created a virtual currency evolving threat team at headquarters that has our subject matter experts designed to help with training and investigations in all of



our field offices.

We have a virtual currency response team to assist with that. We are engaged with academia and the expert community looking at new tools, technical tools, and techniques. But it is becoming, I think, a phenomenon that permeates pretty much every program we have. And I don't expect that to change. In fact, if anything, I expect it to increase.

MAGGIE HASSAN: Thank you. And just briefly, Secretary Mayorkas.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: The director and I have spoken about this very issue a number of times, Senator. It is a concern of us – of ours, an increasing concern. We in the Department of Homeland Security, our United States Secret Service conducts investigations alongside with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. And just a few weeks ago, I've met with CEOs of major financial institutions to see what more we can do to address this challenge.

MAGGIE HASSAN: Thank you very much. Senator Lankford.

JAMES LANKFORD: Thank you. Thank you, all, for being here. Secretary Mayorkas, let me run through some quick numbers of things that are just requests that we have outstanding, trying to be able to get additional information. None of this should be difficult, but we're just trying to figure out and get our hands around what's happening with the refugees and parolees that are coming from Afghanistan.

So, just some quick things that we want to be able to follow up. I'm not expecting you to answer right now, but we do need to follow up on it. We understand from the administration over 100,000 people have been evacuated from Afghanistan. We've heard a second number that 37,500 are actually coming into the United States and going through the process.

We don't know the remaining, where they're going, who they are, are they coming here or not. We don't know the breakdown of refugees and parolees. We don't know the breakdown of SIVs, the special immigrant visas; and what are called partial SIV immigrant visas; or folks that were American citizens and green card holders.

There's some very basic pieces of information that we keep trying to be able to get, we cannot get at this point. We're also trying to get information about – for individuals that come into the United States that go through the vetting process that failed the vetting process, what will happen to them? Or for individuals that come in as parolees but then commit criminal acts, what will happen to those individuals?

We already have reports of some of the locations where some Afghan parolees are being held, that there's been some sexual assaults that have happened in those locations. And we're trying to get more information about that, and to find out what happens to those individuals, and where things go. None of those should be unrealistic questions.

Those all should be data points that should be coming to you, and we want to know if we can get those and how quickly we can get those.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: [Inaudible] some of that data --

JAMES LANKFORD: Yes.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator? So, over 60,000 individuals have been brought to the United States after screening and vetting. There are approximately 12,000 Afghan evacuees located and being transit to third countries. Of the --

JAMES LANKFORD: Mr. Secretary, your microphone, I think, is off.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I apologize. Of the over 60,000 individuals who have brought -- who have been brought into the United States, and I will give you approximate figures, and I will verify them, approximately seven percent have been United States citizens, approximately six percent have been lawful permanent residents, approximately three percent have been individuals who are in receipt of their special immigrant visas.

The balance of that population are individuals whose applications have not yet been processed for approval who may qualify as SIVs and have not yet applied, who qualify or would qualify, I should say, as P-1 or P-2 refugees, who have been employed by the United States government in Afghanistan and are otherwise vulnerable Afghan nationals such as journalists, human rights advocates, etc.

JAMES LANKFORD: Right. But those individuals, we just need to know how their vetting process is going. This



goes back to Senator Johnson's question earlier, how are we getting a positive ID on who this person is? Not just, say, they're not on the terrorist watchlist, so they must be OK. Do we really know this is a journalist?

Do we really know -- what's the connection point on it? There's also a very odd request that came in -- by the way, thank you for the data on that. We'll follow up on the rest. There's an odd request that came from OMB. OMB asked Congress to include in the CR that's coming up next week, asked Congress to waive all grounds of inadmissibility for Afghan parolees.

I have to tell you, I was a little astounded when I saw that to say they'd like to include that in there because the grounds for inadmissibility for Afghan parolees are things like terrorism, association with terrorist organizations, money laundering, human trafficking, drug trafficking, polygamy, prostitution, persecuted religious individuals based on religious or political opinion.

those who have commissioned torture, extrajudicial killings. I was a little astounded that I wouldn't be asked, would you waive all these grounds and allow us to be able to move people regardless of these? Where did that request come from?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Sir, there must be a miscommunication because we actually deny entry, we deny admission to individuals in many of those categories.

JAMES LANKFORD: Right, and should.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, I will have to drill down on that. I'm --

JAMES LANKFORD: Yeah. This was the request that came from OMB to start after -- the -- a request to be able to put it into the continuing resolution, so future parolees would not be denied based on these things. And I have to tell you, I'm a little bit confused by that, and I would tell you I would adamantly oppose withdrawing any of those.

And I would assume you would as well.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: And there must be some miscommunication there, Senator. And I'll look into that immediately.

JAMES LANKFORD: OK. Well, let's follow up on that to be able to make sure that that stays clear, that Congress is not going to give up that restriction for any of those individuals that are coming into the country. You and I have spoken before -- shifting subjects on our southwest border about MPP. Look, the federal courts have stepped back in and said to you, you have to reinstate the Trump policy for the Migrant Protection Protocols and to be able to put those back in place.

You told me you were going to deliver to me a timeline and the process of where that was going to go, how you were going to follow the federal courts to be able to reinstate that policy. I have not received that document yet. Where is that document and that timeline?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I owe you that timeline. The difficulty is, of course, that a predicate to the implementation of MPP as we are required to do, pursuant to court order, is our ongoing negotiations with Mexico. I do owe that to you.

JAMES LANKFORD: It'd be great. I'd like to be able to see that timeline to be able to know what status we have in that. Last summer, you also told me that you were going to get to me by mid-August during our budget hearing, that you were going to get to me by mid-August the ICE enforcement guideline update. That's been a preliminary document that's been sitting out there for a while that you and I both have spoken about.

I don't have that final document yet. You had told me before it'd be done by mid-August. Where are we on that?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I expect to publish new guidelines by September 30th. That is my goal.

JAMES LANKFORD: Do you expect that recent crossers will still be a priority on that?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I do.

JAMES LANKFORD: Where are we on just enforcement for recent crossers? We had some information that we got in late last night from the ERO office saying that there is about 100 -- what is the final number here? A hundred and -- let me pull it up exactly, 107,817 individuals have been released into the United States. And from the ERO office with different statuses that's been changed, that was the notice to report.

That's now been changed with different notations on that. But 107,000 of those individuals, we have quite a few of those, tens of thousands, that have now not reported there would be recent crossings. One of the questions we're going to have is, are we in pursuit of any of those individuals that did get a notice to report but then have not actually reported?

Are those in the priorities? And have we actually picked up any of those folks for detention?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, my understanding is of that figure, approximately 75 percent have indeed reported within the time frame or within their reporting time frame. And as to those who have failed to report that would qualify as an enforcement priority of ours.

JAMES LANKFORD: Well, the best guess that we have at this point is about 28,963 as of last night are beyond their reporting time frame. That's around 29,000 people so far that have not reported that were given the notice to report. Now, I just want to know where are they, and are we actually pursuing those individuals?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Those we -- those individuals, we do consider to be a priority of law enforcement, Senator.

JAMES LANKFORD: OK. Thank you. We'll wait for a second round.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Lankford. Senator Paul, you're recognized for your questions.

RAND PAUL: Thank you. Director Wray, when Orwell first wrote 1984, people were concerned about that dystopian future, what it might mean, Big Brother invaded our privacy, our homes, our communications. But defenders of privacy took some consolation in the fact that the technology didn't exist for two-way TVs, and so much of it seemed so futuristic.

Now, US intelligence agencies have the ability to record and listen to every phone call in the world. We have sometimes collected phone calls from an entire country for an entire month at a time. We even have done it here in -- at home in America. For years, the NSA collected millions of Americans' data without first having an individualized warrant.

James Clapper notoriously lied, as we all know, to Congress about this massive surveillance program. He's now paid to deliver highly partisan rhetoric on a left-wing news outlet. Many in the FBI have been accused of bias. Some have been convicted, some have been let go: McCabe, Clinesmith, Peter Strzok, Lisa Page.

So, it's kind of hard to argue that somehow, we can get people in the FBI that are above bias. It seems to be something that goes with the territory. Maybe it was a bad spate of time where we had a whole bunch of them all at once, but it's a problem. When we investigate a presidential campaign, I think it's important that we realize the potential for bias that exists in the people bringing an investigation forward, but also incredibly important that we should devolve or at least consider using the Constitution and not using warrants that are used on foreigners.

So, we have two different standards. We have a constitutional standard, which is typically used for Americans where we use the Fourth Amendment. And the Fourth Amendment says you have to have probable cause, you know, of a crime. The FISA court standard is not a Fourth Amendment, it's an extra-constitutional standard, it's less than the Constitution, it's probable cause of being associated with a foreign government.

The problem is that when we have presidential candidates, they're all going to have foreign policy advisers. Most of them will have a long-standing history in either government of some sort. They'll have people who do talk to foreigners all of the time. So, you can see how someone with bias -- and I think that's what happened during the investigation that turned out to be untrue on the Russia collusion.

So, we had a massive investigation of a presidential campaign. And I don't think enough of us have stepped back to say, well, my goodness, should we be using FISA warrants for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court? Should we be using that kind of warrant on an American, particularly an American running for office who has all of these contacts?

Do you think it's appropriate that we use FISA court warrants to investigate presidential campaigns?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: What I do think is appropriate is that we use FISA warrants to investigate counterintelligence threats to the United States as long as it's done and consistent with the minimization and querying procedures that are carefully approved --

RAND PAUL: You don't think there was any problem with this investigation with the Crossfire Hurricane? Do you think it was all completely appropriate, nobody in the chain of command was biased, and it just occurred

because they were curious? We just convicted -- we just indicted one of the Clinton lawyers yesterday for lying to you guys.

You guys took it to hook, line, and sinker and said, "Oh, well, we'll just investigate a major presidential candidate." Of course, it's a huge problem. And if you don't see that there's a problem and that we need more controls on this and that we need to somehow obey the Constitution, I would say the same for President Biden, I would say the same for a president of any party.

What a crazy upturned world where there would be, you know, the bias is there. There's no way to get -- the reason we have checks and balances with the judiciary is so we can kind of get over the potential bias that occurs in the FBI or the CIA or anywhere else. If you don't have to go to a court and you go to a court that doesn't obey the Constitution that's held in secret, that's not justice, and it's going to be ripe for abuse.

You don't agree with that?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: There are parts of what you said that I'd like to weigh in on. So, first, as to what happened in the so-called Crossfire Hurricane matter, I would say to you today, and I have said publicly on a number of occasions, that what that inspector general report describes, by certain FBI personnel, I consider to be unacceptable and unrepresentative of the FBI that I see every day, having joined in 2017, and not something that I think can ever happen again.

So, I want to make sure that you and I are talking at each other on that.

RAND PAUL: Well, I think --

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Now, second, I've put in place over 40 corrective measures. Everything the inspector general has recommended and then some to make sure that what happened there does not happen again.

RAND PAUL: I think that's admirable, and I appreciate that point of view. But, you know, when Hamilton wrote that if men were angels, you know, we wouldn't need the Constitution. We still are relying on angels working at the FBI. We're relying on you saying we're going to get a better set of people, we're not going to have that bias anymore.

I think that's admirable. That's what I would want in someone being the director. But what we need is something beyond that. This is what our Founding Fathers did when they set up the Fourth Amendment is we had a Constitution and we had the Fourth Amendment, an incredibly important amendment, and then we had a judicial system.

The FISA court doesn't obey the Fourth Amendment. It has a less-than-constitutional standard. It allows you to have warrants without obeying the Fourth Amendment. And people don't realize it. You use FISA warrants that do not obey the Fourth Amendment, you have a lower standard for going after foreigners.

I'm actually OK with that. If you're not a US citizen and you're investigating someone overseas, and you're eavesdropping on them, I'm actually fine with the FISA standard. But I'm not fine with the FISA standard for Americans, particularly Americans who are running for office, particularly for the person running for the highest office, who is interconnected with all kinds of countries and always will be. And once you get past people, once there's no perfection and we get past people in the FBI, the problem is the system can be abused.

I think the only fix -- it's admirable to have some regulations and some checks and balances you put in place, but the only real fix would be we should obey the Constitution. I don't think Americans nor political candidates should be investigated using a foreign intelligence surveillance court.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Thank you, Senator, for your kind words about the corrective measures we've put in place. I would say to you that I believe the FISA court operates within the Constitution. So, we might have a difference of opinion on how we characterize it. I would also say to you that that as we sit here 20 years after 9/11 and as somebody who was in FBI headquarters on the day of those attacks and saw the immediate aftermath as we started to reverse engineer what went wrong on 9/11, much has been discussed back in those years about the so-called wall that was built up between law enforcement and intelligence.

And a lot of the reforms that have occurred, thanks to this Congress, thanks to the courts, thanks to the executive branch to make sure that there is not a wall between the information sharing that has to occur, has been part of what's kept Americans safe since. And so, I would want, of course, to work with you on any ideas that you have.

But also, to make sure that we don't rebuild the wall that made us all less safe and cost 3,000 innocent lives on

the day of those attacks.

RAND PAUL: I appreciate your opinion on the FISA court having the same standard as the Constitution. They don't. The Fourth Amendment says you have to have probable cause that someone has committed a crime or is committing a crime. It's a much different standard. The FISA court standard is probable cause that you have a relationship with a foreign government.

It's a much lower standard, much more open to abuse, and you don't have a public court or judges which might protect the rights of an individual. If what happened in Crossfire Hurricane is allowed to stand and would allow the FBI to do this again, we can see a time when the intelligence agencies can completely take over our political process.

It's a very dangerous thing. And I think most people got caught up in the partisanship of the time, whether they liked or disliked President Trump. And instead of really thinking about this, there still is a problem. To my mind, we need to reform the FISA system, and we should not use FISA warrants on Americans.

It should be reserved. Because it's a lower constitutional standard, it should be reserved for foreigners.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Paul. Senator Scott, you are recognized for your questions.

RICK SCOTT: Thank you to each of you for being here. Secretary Mayorkas, is -- are you responsible for DHS, responsible for vetting all of the Afghan refugees coming in?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I am responsible for the work of the department.

RICK SCOTT: Sure. So, since -- let's say, since the 1st of August, how many Afghan refugees have been denied entrance into the United States?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I don't have that number at my fingertips. I know it is very de minimis.

RICK SCOTT: OK.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: In terms of --

RICK SCOTT: Why would that be?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Because we have not found many people with derogatory information relative to those who qualify for admission to the United States by reason of their status.

RICK SCOTT: OK. So, the Afghan refugees that have gotten into the United States and our bases, if you found something, what's your process? How can you send them home? What's your process for doing that?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, there are a number of options available to us, Senator. Number one, we can, of course, seek their voluntary return to a third country. Number two, we place them -- if there is a reason to do so, we would place them in enforcement proceedings and seek their removal immediately.

RICK SCOTT: And you would be able -- do you believe you'd be able to send them back to Afghanistan?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Well, whether it's Afghanistan, that's something under review. But whether it's Afghanistan or another country, we would indeed seek their removal from the United States.

RICK SCOTT: OK. So, your -- DHS was set up as a result of 9/11, right? And so -- and we've had a significant military presence in Afghanistan for quite a while. It's gone. So, now, we don't have the same ability to defend the homeland than we did when we had military in Afghanistan. So, what changes have you made to make sure that DHS is doing its job to make sure Americans are safe?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, Senator, the architecture that has built -- had been built over 20 years since 9/11 remains in place and is only strengthened. We have a screening and vetting architecture. We have greater cooperation amongst the federal agencies in the counterterrorism, intelligence, and law enforcement communities.

We remain ever vigilant in that regard.

RICK SCOTT: OK. Do you -- and Director Wray, do you agree that the Taliban is a terrorist organization?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I agree that the Taliban is a terrorist organization.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I believe it is identified as such, Senator.



RICK SCOTT: Sure. So, earlier this month, the Taliban announced the senior leadership. One notable appointment was Sirajuddin Haqqani to be Afghanistan's interior minister. He's on the FBI's Most Wanted list and designated as a global terrorist due to his role in the January 2009 attack on a hotel in Kabul that killed six people, including an American citizen.

Director Wray, is there still a \$2 million reward for information leading to the arrest of Haqqani?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: To my knowledge, he remains on the list, and the reward is still out there.

RICK SCOTT: OK. All right. Do each of you agree that it seems to be counterintuitive that it would be against national security interest for somebody like that to be in senior leadership of the Taliban? You all agree with that, right?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Yes.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yeah.

RICK SCOTT: And we've had conflicting testimony about how many people are left there. We've had someone -- Secretary Blinken said 100 citizens to 200. We've had earlier that it could be as much as 9,000. We don't know exactly what it is. First off, were you or two of you disappointed when our military came home without all the American citizens?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: If I may, Senator, the United States government's enduring commitment is to bring every United States citizen that wants to return to the United States, to bring them home. That is our enduring and continuing commitment.

RICK SCOTT: But were you disappointed that it didn't happen before we brought our military home?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Our goal was to return every willing American citizen home. And, of course, we were disappointed if we were not able to accomplish that, but we have not stopped in our efforts.

RICK SCOTT: Director Wray.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, certainly, I would be disappointed if we don't do right by the -- all those Afghans who worked so bravely side by side with us over the past 20 years. And that's why we're all working so hard, as Secretary Mayorkas said, to try to make sure that we get the right people, underline, the right people out where they can be brought to safety.

I do want to clarify my answer to an earlier question. I've been handed a note that while the -- this is on the Haqqani question. That while the reward is definitely still out there, that -- as I understand it, Haqqani may no longer be on the Top 10 Most Wanted Terrorists.

RICK SCOTT: But he's still on the list.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: But he's -- but still they have -- the reward is still posted.

RICK SCOTT: OK. So, how -- so, first off, were you -- Director Wray, were you disappointed that we didn't get all of our -- just even, you know, American citizens, let alone all the individuals that helped us. Were you disappointed those all didn't come home before our military left?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, obviously, we want to make sure that we get all the right people out, including American citizens. I know that everybody worked very hard to move a massive amount of people in a very short period of time, and that the FBI was able to play a small part in helping other agencies on that.

RICK SCOTT: So, what did the two of you believe is going to be our ability to continue to get Americans home? Or on top of that, individuals that have helped us when you've got a terrorist in our FBI Most Wanted list or maybe not the Top 10 but some number, and he's part leadership there, what's your chance to actually -- this is going to happen that we're going to get American citizens home or Afghans that helped us?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: We're extraordinarily dedicated to that, and I think Secretary Blinken has spoken powerfully about that. That actions will speak louder than words with respect to the Taliban's willingness to work with us to effect the evacuation of individuals who have worked with us or United States citizens that want to leave Afghanistan.

I should say that a number of US citizens or Afghan nationals and -- have expressed a desire to stay. So, our commitment is enduring and unrelenting.



RICK SCOTT: So, Secretary Mayorkas, going to the border just for a second before I finish. You know, before, you know, you – after you're nominated, we talked to you – you know, you talked about you're going to enforce the law. Do you realize just, you know, when your – Owens -- Senator Johnson was asking you questions, you said that you thought the border was secured.

Do you realize that if you talk to a typical American now and you hear the numbers that over a million people have come here illegally this year, we only have a little over 300 million people living in this country? So, whenever – we have 300 people in this country today have come here illegally in eight months, right?

Isn't that inconsistent with what you're saying, though? I mean --

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I don't believe so. First of all, the number of encounters isn't necessarily individual encounters, but rather, we see some level of recidivism in light of our exercise of the Title 42 expulsion authority under the CDC's legal powers. We apprehend, expel, and remove a considerable number of people.

I know Senator Johnson took me to test for not having the data immediately at my fingertips in this hearing. But, in fact, I do have some August numbers that I could provide that actually reflect the number of apprehensions, the distinction between total encounters, and number of individual -- unique individuals encountered, the number of individuals expelled under Title 42, and the number of individuals processed for expedited removal under Title 8 of the United States Code.

I do have those numbers for August.

RICK SCOTT: So, it's -- over 200,000 were apprehended, right?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: In -- total encounters in August of 2021 was 208,887, unique encounters were -- meaning unique individuals were 156,641.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Scott. Reminding our members, we do have a second round. Thank you, Senator. Senator Romney, you are recognized for your questions.

MITT ROMNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to each of you for the work that you do to help keep our homeland safe. Director Wray, are the threats from the domestic violent extremists rising? And if they are, are they rising based on those that are, if you will, inspired from foreign groups, or are they rising from those that are inspired by domestic groups or -- and I don't know whether you distinguish that way.

But is it on the -- my impression is that it's substantially increasing but largely domestic, but that may not be the case. So, are the threats greater from these individuals and by source, domestic or international?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, we would -- when it comes to sort of homeland-based terrorist threats, we have two buckets, really, that we primarily focus on as the highest priority right now, what we call homegrown violent extremists, which is a reference to people here radicalized by foreign terrorist organizations and ideologies, and then domestic violent extremists who were radicalized more by everything from racial animus all the way over to anti-government, anti-authority.

MITT ROMNEY: Right.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: The first bucket, the homegrown violent extremists, has been humming along fairly consistently at about 1,000 investigations, sometimes a little more, sometimes a little less over the last few years. The domestic violent extremists' bucket has been going up quite significantly over the last few years, which is why we're now at 2,700 domestic terrorism investigations.

When if you went back two and a half years ago, we were probably at more about a thousand. So, it's been a really significant jump there. We are concerned that with developments in Afghanistan, among other things, that there will be more inspiration to the first bucket as well. So, I think we anticipate, unfortunately, growth in both categories as we look ahead over the next couple of years.

MITT ROMNEY: Yeah, that is daunting. And we may get a chance to talk about why you might believe that the latter group, the homegrown domestic-inspired violent extremists, is rising. Secretary Mayorkas, you know, I think any unbiased person would say that the Biden administration's border and immigration policies have been nothing short of a monumental disaster.

And whether or not so many other disasters that the administration is encountering, it probably would be, by itself, enough for a government to be hanging on by a thread. We've had our disagreements in the past about



how much of the illegal immigration problem is caused by pull versus push factors and your view that we need to address so-called root causes, which is poverty and corruption in other countries.

My view is that we can't solve the problems of the rest of the world, and, in fact, we can't solve all of our own problems, let alone for the rest of the world. But what we can address are the unnecessary pull factors, if you will, the unnecessary features that we have in place that draw people into coming into our country illegally.

And let me just discuss with taxes. If an illegal individual wants to work here and wants to pay US taxes, they're able to do that. Is that right? They're able to do that by getting an identification number. Is that right?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I believe they are, Senator.

MITT ROMNEY: Yeah, I think they're called the ITIN. They can apply for an ITIN, they are able to do so. Under the administration's human infrastructure bill, their children can also get an ITIN, could also get that tax number for the same purpose or for whatever purpose they might have?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I don't know the answer to your question, Senator.

MITT ROMNEY: The answer is yes, they can. The president's so-called human infrastructure bill also provides \$300 per month for every child who obtains such a number. So, under the bill that is being proposed and considered by Congress, we will be paying the illegal immigrant \$300 per month for each and every one of their children that obtain such a number.

So, a family of four who had come here illegally would receive as much as \$1,200 per month in checks from the US government, well, of course -- well above the wage and -- the average wage throughout major parts of Latin America. Do you think that this provision, which would allow the children of those that have come here illegally to receive monthly payments, would represent an unfortunate and damaging pull factor that would draw people more -- more and more people into our country illegally?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I think that speaks to the fact that we have more than 11 million undocumented individuals already present in the United States, a population that has been growing for decades by reason of a broken immigration system. I don't think it speaks to individuals who have not arrived in the United States.

MITT ROMNEY: Well, clearly, if there are -- if you can get paid \$300 per child even though the child is here illegally and you're here illegally, that's going to encourage people to come here. It also is going to represent a major expense for our government to pay the children of those that are here illegally \$300 per month.

It's -- one, it's expensive, and two, it creates a greater draw to come to the country. Director, a question I ask you and perhaps the others as well, which is it does strike me that three of you all have a very similar responsibility, to protect our homeland from violence and extremists of various kinds.

Do you -- are the lines of responsibility clear as to who is doing what or do things fall between the cracks? Is there duplication which is unnecessary? Should we be addressing how we organize this effort? Because I recognize we're asking all three of you very similar questions. You're looking at very similar aspects of the same challenge we have, which is protecting the homeland.

Should we rethink how we do this? Are we duplicating the work? Or, Director Wray, any one of you could respond to that.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, I guess I would speak to it from the perspective of somebody who was heavily involved in this mission on the day of 9/11 and in the first four years afterwards, and then coming back from the private sector now. And I think we are well-organized against the terrorist threat. We do have -- I would view as not overlapping responsibilities but complementary ones.

And I do think that one of the real positive developments learned the hard way from 9/11 is how well we all work together, our folks, in particular, work well with other agencies as well on the terrorist threat. And I think there are valuable lessons to be learned from that. It doesn't mean that it can't always be improved.

I tend to be dissatisfied by nature, so I expect continued improvement. But I think we're on the right track as far as that goes. And Lord knows we need it because the threats, as we just discussed, are not getting easier. They're getting harder.

MITT ROMNEY: Thank you, Director. Mr. Chairman?

ION OSSOFF Senator may 12



JON OSSOFF, Senator, May 1:

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Romney. Senator Ossoff, you are recognized for your questions.

JON OSSOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, Secretary Mayorkas, I want to thank you and your team for responding to the letter -- the bipartisan letter that I sent with Senator Scott requesting reforms to FEMA disaster relief practices that were discriminatory against Black Americans, especially in the South. Grateful to you and your team for making those reforms.

I would like to ask you, please, how would you characterize the specific mission of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis and what differentiates it from the other 17 component agencies in the Intelligence Community?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, if I can, it dovetails with the question that Senator Romney asked, I think we're cooperating and are more cohesive now than we ever have been before. And I think that to the extent that we sometimes have redundancies, those are intentional redundancies for a belt-and-suspenders approach to our homeland security and our national security.

The Office of Intelligence and Analysis is really an office of partnership. What it does is it gathers information and intelligence from across the threat landscape. And what it is uniquely situated to do is to push that information and intelligence out to our state, local, tribal, and territorial partners so that the first responder community is equipped and empowered to address the threat in its communities.

One of the things that the Office of Intelligence and Analysis has become so much better at over the past nine months is, in fact, working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Joint Terrorism Task Force model. And we partner in the dissemination of information bulletins, conference calls, and the like with local law enforcement.

JON OSSOFF: Thank you. Director Abizaid, how would you rate the quality of information sharing across the IC's 18 component agencies?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: I actually think it's very strong, especially when you're talking about counterterrorism intelligence. You know, I think the shift from -- in the post-9/11 environment was a shift to a need to share sort of mentality across the Intelligence Community but also our state and local partners, our lead federal agencies in the homeland, the FBI and DHS as well.

So, I've been very impressed as I've come back in to lead the center with the degree of information sharing that happens across the Intelligence Community in classified channels. But I've also been very impressed with -- by the degree to which we work to downgrade as much information as possible and engage directly with state, local, tribal, and territorial elements to make sure that we're getting the threat information to the right individuals so they're unable to take action where they need to.

JON OSSOFF: Thank you, Director Abizaid. Director Wray, we spoke March 2nd in the Judiciary Committee about the extent of violence in communities across the country, the alarming increase in violent crime, particularly from 2019 to 2020, also, from 2020 until this year. City of Atlanta, 113 homicides this year. That's a 16 percent increase from last year, a 64 percent increase from 2019. Georgians are deeply concerned by the intensity of violence in our communities.

When we spoke in March, you said you were going to work to refine your assessments of the factors driving this increase in violent crime and violence across the United States. What are your conclusions?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, I do think as much as it's a phenomenon in our home state of Georgia, it is also in other parts of the country as well. And while there might be variations from city to city, I think there's a number of factors that contribute to it. I think the impact of COVID cannot be underestimated, whether it's trial backlogs, early inmate releases, unemployment, etc.

You have more juveniles committing violent crime. You have certain prosecution practices and decreased sentences, which put recidivists back out on the street more readily. And that adds to its challenge. You also have the prevalence of firearms, including interstate trafficking. By that, I mean firearms in the hands of those who are prohibited -- legally prohibited from having them.

So, all those factors together create a combustible mix. I would add into that a number of police departments, our close partners that we work with every day, who have an incredibly challenging job, are experiencing recruiting challenges and attrition that is in early retirement. And that, in turn, adds to it. So, you put no one factor by itself, but you put all those things together, and that's part of why you're seeing, I think, the increase in homicides.



You're also seeing increases in carjackings and other violent crimes, not just in Atlanta, not just in Georgia, but in cities all over the country. And it's something that I suspect every member of this committee hears about from its constituents with increasing frequency for good reason.

JON OSSOFF: Thank you, Director Wray. Mr. Secretary, a couple of questions related to congressional oversight of the department. I recognize you've got a tough job. You and I have spoken in public and in private about the importance of responsiveness to the Senate, to this committee, to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair and for which Senator Johnson is the ranking member.

But a number of requests that we sent to the department back in July, we still have not seen timely production of relevant documents and records. I want to ask why? I also want to state here publicly for the record while we've got you that regardless of the administration's party, the Senate has an obligation to conduct vigorous oversight and to be assertive in using our authorities and prerogatives to secure the information necessary to oversee the executive branch's past and current activities.

And in my capacity as chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I intend to be assertive in seeking that information. But could you comment please on why these requests now three months outstanding remain outstanding?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, your -- forgive me. Your concern is resonant. In fact, we've done an internal review of the pace of our responsiveness, and we've implemented new procedures to ensure a greater responsiveness. That is, indeed, an obligation of ours and a commitment of ours and a commitment of mine personally. I will say, it is quite a daunting challenge.

We have over 90 committees of jurisdiction. It is something about which I have spoken with this committee, both as the secretary and in my prior service as the deputy secretary. It is a daunting number of requests for information and request for production of documents that we receive. Nevertheless, that is a commitment and an obligation of ours, and we'll do a better job of fulfilling it.

JON OSSOFF: But where are those documents requested in July, Mr. Secretary?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I will have to look into that, Senator, and I will do so forthwith.

JON OSSOFF: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Ossoff. For the panel, we've -- you've been going a long time, and I know that a break is warranted. But -- so what I'm planning on doing is we have Senator Hawley up and Senator Rosen. That gets us really close to an expected vote. So, it'll be a good time to take a break at that time.

So, if you can bear with us for at least two more questions, unless someone else shows up, but we'll take a break and then have a second round of questions at that time. Senator Hawley, you are recognized for your questions.

JOSH HAWLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to all the witnesses for being here. Mr. Secretary, Secretary Mayorkas, let me start with you. I want to ask you about the continued uncontrolled illegal immigration of the country, which I think is a very serious threat to the homeland. In July, I asked you about the migrant surge that's been occurring on your watch, and you said this, I'm quoting you now.

"We have a plan. We are executing the plan. The plan takes time to execute, and we are doing so." Now, since that time, CBP has released data that showed two straight months of illegal border encounters above 200,000, which is, you know, hasn't happened in decades. My question is when is your plan going to work?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, in fact, we are implementing the plan, Senator Hawley, and I can now walk through some of the measures that we have taken.

JOSH HAWLEY: My question is when is it going to work?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, it is, in fact, working. We have seen over the last several weeks, if not the month, a drop in the number of encounters at the United States border. We have been working very closely with Mexico to increase interdictions. We have addressed the issue of recidivism. And if, in fact, people have been previously removed, we are referring them to criminal prosecution.

We have increased lateral flights across the border to facilitate the expulsion of individuals under Title 42.

JOSH HAWLEY: I don't mean to interrupt you, Mr. Secretary, except our -- my -- our time is so limited. I just want



to be sure that I understand, 200,000 border encounters over two straight months, a record in decades -- for over decades, and you're telling me that this is success. Are you happy with what's happening at the border now?

Is this success?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, as I said then and I say now, we have a plan, we're executing on our plan, and we will continue to do so.

JOSH HAWLEY: But you just testified that it's working, I'm just trying to understand. This is -- is this success? Are you telling me that this is successful, your plan is successful currently?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, we are not finished in the execution of our plan, and I never suggested otherwise. We continue to do the work that we are required to do to secure our border. That is an ongoing process, and indeed, we are executing.

JOSH HAWLEY: Are you happy with your progress?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, we need to do better, and we need to do more, and we are committed to doing so, and we are doing so.

JOSH HAWLEY: Let me ask you about one of the latest crises that we've seen in Del Rio. Thousands of migrants crossing the border illegally. Reporters have captured images of this. Many are now encamped, as you know, on the US side of the border. How many migrants have crossed into the United States in Del Rio over the past week?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, last week, I think the high point was 13,000 to 15,000. It is now well below 10,000. We continue to move individuals from Del Rio to other processing centers to facilitate their repatriation. We have increased --

JOSH HAWLEY: And how --

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: If I may, Senator, we have increased the number of repatriation flights to Haiti and to other third countries. The size of the population in Del Rio, Texas has diminished considerably. And let me say two very important things, which I observed firsthand in Del Rio, Texas yesterday. Number one is the human tragedy, just the vulnerability of the individuals who are under the bridge in Del Rio. We cannot minimize that.

It's an extraordinarily difficult thing to see. Number two, I met with quite a number of Border Patrol agents and officers in Del Rio, Texas. I saw them working with members of the Department of Health and Human Services to deliver medical attention. I saw them working with the American Red Cross to deliver medical kits.

[Inaudible]

JOSH HAWLEY: How many are currently right -- Mr. -- I'm sorry, Mr. Secretary, but I've -- we've got very limited time. How many are currently right now at the encampment?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I'd have to check as to today's numbers. It is below 10,000 is the latest information I have.

JOSH HAWLEY: I just want to go back to your statement earlier to me that you have a plan and that it's working. Is 13,000 to 15,000 people crossing into the United States just last week, is that working?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, Senator, if you take a look at the situation -- the discrete situation in Del Rio, Texas, one will view it differently than other challenges along the southern border. That was a very rapid --

JOSH HAWLEY: Why?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: If I may, Senator, that was a very rapid increase, a really unprecedented increase in the number of individuals, primarily Haitian nationals, crossing in one discrete part of the border. And what we did there is we developed a plan, and we were executing on that plan. And therefore --

JOSH HAWLEY: Mr. Secretary, this happened on your watch. Listen, here's the problem. Every time before you come before this committee, you always say, "It's going to get better. Our plan is going to work at some future point." And you also used to say, "It's really not as bad as it looks." And then every time you leave, it gets worse and worse.

This is a humanitarian crisis in Del Rio. You can spin it whichever way that you want. But you're quite right, we

should not minimize the humanitarian conditions for which, frankly, you're responsible, you and your administration are responsible. Tens of thousands of people living in conditions that are startling, startling, brought here because of your policies.

Let me give you an example. The Washington Post reported on Sunday that one Haitian woman said that she and her family decided to travel from Chile where she was residing to Del Rio because they heard, and I quote, "President Biden was letting people in." And of course, you've offered this Temporary Protected Status to Haitians illegally residing in the United States starting in May. Then you halted deportation flights earlier this summer.

Don't you think that you bear responsibility for this latest crisis?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, let me speak to a number of the things that you have said. Number one, Temporary Protected Status was, in fact, extended to Haitian nationals resident in the United States before July 29th. Individuals who arrive after July 29th are not eligible for Temporary Protected Status. That is a provision of the law that we execute based on the circumstances that are contemplated in the legislation.

JOSH HAWLEY: Mr. Secretary, my time is almost expired. I just wanted an answer. Do you bear responsibility for the crisis in Del Rio?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Second, Senator --

JOSH HAWLEY: Does that mean you're not going to answer me?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I am answering if you'd give me the opportunity --

JOSH HAWLEY: That's a yes-or-no question. Do you bear responsibility for the crisis in Del Rio? Yes or no?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, the smuggling organizations [Inaudible]

JOSH HAWLEY: Yes or no, Mr. Secretary, do you bear responsibility for the humanitarian crisis in Del Rio? Yes or no?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, it is my responsibility to address the human tragedy in Del Rio, to address that, and we are doing so. That is my responsibility, and we are executing it as the Department of Homeland [Inaudible]

JOSH HAWLEY: But you don't think you've played any role and your policies have played any role in fostering and fomenting this crisis that has ensnared so many thousands of people?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, what we are learning from our interviews with individuals is they are receiving false information and misinformation from the smuggling organizations that are trafficking the exploitation of vulnerable individuals.

JOSH HAWLEY: Well, so in other words, it's someone else's fault. All I can say is, Mr. Secretary, is that sooner or later, this administration is going to have to take responsibility for the crisis that you have fomented at the border that gets worse day upon day. And so far, we are -- so far, every time we hear from you, it's somebody else's fault.

Something's going to happen later. It's just -- it's really -- it's quite unbelievable. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

GARY PETERS: Senator Hawley, thank you. Senator Rosen, you're recognized for your questions.

JACKY ROSEN: Thank you, Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, holding this very important hearing here today, and I appreciate the difficult service that all of you provide to keep our nation safe. Thank you for being here. I want to talk a little bit about domestic terrorism. I'm going to switch up a little bit. Twenty years after 9/11, we know threats to the homeland, they've only become more diverse.

They become more complex. And the rapidly growing threat, we all know this, domestic violent extremism. As you've testified before, Director Wray, especially in March, that the number of domestic terrorist investigations has doubled since 2017 to 2000 this year. The bureau has now elevated the threat of domestic extremism to the same level, the same level as posed by ISIS. And, Secretary Mayorkas, you recently stated, I'm going to quote, "The domestic violent extremism is the greatest terrorist-related threat we face in our homeland." And so, I applaud the administration for releasing the first-ever National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, which codifies a national strategy that domestic violent extremists, specifically white supremacist extremists, pose the most persistent and lethal threat to the United States, the most persistent and lethal



threat.

So, I have a question, of course, for Director Wray; and for you, Mr. Secretary, I will go first. Secretary Mayorkas, could you provide us with an update on the new Center for the Prevention Programs and Partnerships, or as you're calling it, CP3, which prevents -- helps prevent individuals from radicalizing into domestic violent extremism and interferes when individuals, unfortunately, do so?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Thank you very much, Senator. That office, that Center for Prevention Programs and Partnership is really executing a different strategy than what has previously been undertaken. What we are doing is focused on disseminating information to local communities and empowering and equipping them to address the reasons why people are driven to extreme ideologies and perhaps even acts of violence.

And we are distributing grant funds, as well as information. It's all about empowering and equipping communities to address the situation from the ground up.

JACKY ROSEN: Now, nobody knows their own community better than those that work within it. Thank you. Director Wray, I want to direct this next question to you. I understand the FBI Counterterrorism Division maintains a section to specifically investigate, of course, domestic terrorism. Are you collecting data specifically on the threat from white supremacists?

And secondly, as part of the National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, how does the FBI plan to enhance collaborative reporting, that data collection that we need and we can collaborate, targeting our efforts with law enforcement partners to prevent radicalization and attacks.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, we do collect information very much about, I think, the category that you're describing. We put in the category of racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism. Of which, the biggest chunk by far is racial or ethnic motivation favoring white supremacy.

JACKY ROSEN: Mmm hmm.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: And so, we collect information about that threat. We have, as you say, prioritized that threat at a national threat priority level. We have created a domestic terrorism and hate crimes fusion cell to bring to bear not just the domestic terrorism expertise but the hate crimes expertise because often there's some overlap in the criminal activity and more importantly, the insights that that gives us to look ahead and around the bend, if you will.

And one of the places where that kind of collaboration and synergy is already showing great progress is in your home state. The attempted attack on a synagogue that we were able to, for the first time, prevent using hate crimes charges. And we hope to do more of that. I think the big part of the engagement to collaborate on data is going to be through the Joint Terrorism Task Forces, which of course are all over the country of which there are over 200. And that includes federal, state local participants, probably about 4,500 or so bodies all working on those task forces together, able to share classified information, investigative information and to ensure that we're then able to generate bolt-ons and things like that, working collaboratively with Secretary Mayorkas' shop in doing so.

JACKY ROSEN: And I'm going to move into cybersecurity. But before I do that, do you have the workforce you need, and what are the challenges you have -- I guess I could probably address this in every area, hiring, training, and retaining workforce.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, I would say that -- a couple of things on that. Certainly, the domestic terrorism caseload has exploded. And meanwhile, the international terrorism caseload hasn't subsided and that's just within terrorism. So, we absolutely need more resources there. And any resources Congress sees fit to send our way, I can assure you, they would be quickly put to good use.

On the -- there is a piece of good news, which is that at the FBI, the last couple of years, our recruiting numbers have gone exorbitantly up contrary to the trend you would see more generally in the country. So, we tripled the number of people applying to be special agents to the FBI in '19, '20, and '21 compared to what it was before that, highest it's been in about a decade.

We are not having too many retirements. Our attrition rate is now down to under one percent, which is, I would say pretty good --

JACKY ROSEN: Yeah.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: But the counterbalancing against that is the unbelievable challenge of all these threats



that we're dealing with. And there's a lot of people with great ideas and good ideas about what we should be doing more of. I haven't found anybody with much in the way of good ideas about what it is we can suddenly do less of.

JACKY ROSEN: All right. Thank you. I want to just move quickly, and I know I'll probably have to take this answer off the record, but cybersecurity resilience because the Cyberspace Solarium Commission said the US government still lacks rigorous, codified, and routinely exercise processes for identifying, assessing, and prioritizing critical infrastructure risks across the federal government between public and private sectors.

So, Secretary Mayorkas, what infrastructure sectors do you think -- do you view as particularly vulnerable that we should be putting some resources into right now?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, we -- Senator, thank you so much for your question. We're very focused on the critical infrastructure sectors. As a matter of fact, I think one of the great moves that we made following the Colonial Pipeline cyberattack that really galvanized the public attention was for TSA to issue two sequential security directives after engaging with the pipeline industry to develop standards of behavior to increase the cybersecurity of that sector.

I think the joint cyber collaborative that we are employing through CISA, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, is a very significant step in strengthening critical infrastructure because it's a public-private partnership. It's not just all of government, but it's all of society.

JACKY ROSEN: Thank you. Appreciate that. I see my time is up.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Rosen.

RON JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, before we could break because I forgot to ask this, can I ask that we -- ask consent that we enter recently retired US Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott's letter into the record? And I would also point out that in his letter, he described himself as law enforcement agent for over 29 years. He served under five different presidential administrations, and he said he worked diligently securing national borders as a nonpartisan civil servant.

So, this letter comes from somebody with a great deal of credibility and should be taken very seriously. But anyway, I ask that it'd be under the record.

GARY PETERS: Without objection, it'll be entered. We have another senator that joined us, Senator Sinema is online. This will be in the first round. I'll recognize Senator Sinema. This will end the first round. It will come to a close. We'll take a break at that time and then come back for a second round. Senator Sinema, you're recognized for your questions.

KYRSTEN SINEMA: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Mayorkas, one of the significant challenges our nation and my state of Arizona face is the ongoing crisis at the southwest border. It remains critical for Congress and the administration to work together to secure the border, protect our communities, and ensure migrants are treated fairly and humanely.

I appreciate the efforts you've taken to improve DHS operations at the border. As we both know, there's more work to do. We've seen close to 1.5 million encounters at the border this fiscal year with over 270 of those happening in the Tucson and Yuma sectors. CPB officials in those sectors consistently talk about the importance of Title 42 authority in managing the situation at the border in those sectors.

But recent court decisions could limit the use of Title 42 authority in the future, which would put more pressure on our border workforce and processing capacity. Additionally, with the severe challenges in the Del Rio Sector, we learned last week that CBP will be transporting 400 migrants each week to Arizona for processing.

So, what steps does DHS need to take to improve processing capacity and capability at the southwest border to manage this ongoing crisis, including the situation we're seeing in Del Rio?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Thank you so much, Senator. So, we've taken a number of steps, some of which I alluded to earlier in my response to Senator Hawley's question. We are moving individuals across the southwest border to facilitate the expulsions under the Center for Disease Control Title 42 authority. We are using expedited removal under Title 8 as an additional authority.

We have begun prosecution of individuals who have prior removal orders and who are recidivists. We are sending flights, repatriation flights into the interior of Mexico to make recidivism more difficult. We are employing quite a number of measures to increase the number of encounters and also to deter irregular



migration and we are seeing progress in that regard.

KYRSTEN SINEMA: Yeah. Following up, specifically, on Title 42, obviously, court decisions will play a significant role in the future of Title 42. But this authority was always meant to be temporary and will end at some point. In June, as you know, I led a bipartisan letter that requested a detailed plan for the end of Title 42. I'm asking today if you'll work with my office to schedule an in-depth briefing for the committee on your plans to facilitate a smooth and orderly transition for the end of Title 42 when DHS will resume relying only on traditional statutory authorities?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: We most certainly will do so, Senator.

KYRSTEN SINEMA: Thank you. Now as you're aware, transnational criminal organizations pose a significant threat to our national security by engaging in human trafficking, drug trafficking, and violence at our southwest border. They may also be capitalizing on the DHS resource strain that the migrant influx is causing. So, what capabilities or technologies does DHS need additional investments in to expand your ability to counter TCO activity?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Thank you very much, Senator, for that question. I will say that we're already taking and have taken a number of steps to address the actions of TCOs we are working increasingly in the task force model as a force multiplier. We are using technology air assets, especially our force multipliers and extremely effective tools.

We can use more resources with respect to our air assets. And we have undertaken a number of law enforcement operations to address the activities of these transnational criminal organizations. Operation Sentinel which is -- it addresses their logistical network here in the United States is but one example.

KYRSTEN SINEMA: Thank you. My next question is for Director Wray. The pseudonymity afforded to criminal organizations such as DarkSide that demands ransom payments in cryptocurrency provides significant challenges to federal law enforcement. How has the FBI changed its response capacity at its field offices to help families, small businesses, and managers of critical infrastructure respond to the rise in ransomware attacks?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, I appreciate the question. Certainly ransomware attacks, as Secretary Mayorkas referred to earlier, have gone up and the total volume of payments have gone up, both quite significantly. And it affects, as you say, Senator, not just large organizations, but also small ones. And what the FBI can do and is doing is we have cyber task forces in all 56 field offices.

And each of them is designed, in part, to be able to engage quickly with victims to be able to respond as quickly as possible, to help them manage and disrupt and mitigate against the threat. We -- on the virtual currency side, the cryptocurrency side, we have created subject matter teams, experts at headquarters that both train, so it create more of a force multiplier effect in all the field offices, but also support investigations because, as you say, following the money in that space is exceptionally challenging and requires new and more creative innovative tactics much as we did, for example, in the Colonial Pipeline case, where we were able to not only follow but seize a big chunk of the ransom that was being paid in cryptocurrency before it got to the bad actors.

And we want to do more of that. But that case illustrates, in particular, the importance of the private sector big or small engaging with the FBI as quickly as possible. Speed really matters in these instances. And when they do engage that quickly, there's all kinds of things that we can potentially do to follow the money.

KYRSTEN SINEMA: Thank you, Director. Back to Secretary Mayorkas, you know, the world has changed a great deal since DHS was established in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. And today the department has a responsibility for a wide swath of disparate missions. You handle counterterrorism, border security, transportation security, disaster response, as well as cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure protection.

So, as new threats confront our country, how is DHS assessing and adjusting its structure to respond to the changing threat landscape, and what changes do you feel are needed in the short term?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: One of the things, Senator, that we are focused on is making sure that our more than 22 offices and agencies are working cohesively together to really bring the full force of the department to bear on any one particular threat stream. I think we've made tremendous advances in that regard. Fundamentally I think our greatest tool in combating the threats of whatever nature is really the more than 250,000 men and women who comprise our department.



They're extraordinary not only in meeting the threat that we confront today but in their readiness to meet the threat that looms.

KYRSTEN SINEMA: Thank you, Secretary. Mr. Chair, I know that my time has expired, but I want to note that as we were having our first hearing after the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, I want to take a moment just to express my thanks to all the people who work every day to keep our country safe. And as our threats continue to evolve, our government must continue to adapt and make changes based on the lessons we've learned since September 11th. And I'm grateful for the men and women across our country who are doing just that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Sinema. And to our witnesses, we were thanking you for these answers to all these questions, but I want time for a little bit of a break for you. We have a second round -- that concludes the first round. Not every senator is coming back for a second round, but I know there are a number that have other questions they would like to ask.

So, I will adjourn now briefly for roughly 10 minutes. There has been a vote called, so I would urge all of our members, please vote early. Get back to the committee hearing room so that we can move this forward. So, with that, we will adjourn for 10 minutes. Committee comes back into order. We'll now begin a second round of questions.

Same seven-minute time as the first round. Although Senator Padilla, before I start the second round, you were not here for the first round, and you have not had a chance to ask a question. So, you are recognized for your questions.

ALEX PADILLA: OK. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate this opportunity and thank you to the three leaders participating this morning. I want to touch on an issue that's an ongoing challenge in so many sectors and that is the power, the danger of misinformation. Since we all know that despite the arduous journey from Central America or elsewhere to the United States, migrants continue to make the dangerous trek to the US border in hopes for a better life.

Many are fleeing unemployment or natural disasters, maybe corruption in their home countries, violence, or other factors, and it certainly makes coming to the United States appealing. Another factor, however, is misinformation, particularly from smugglers who share messages over a variety of platforms including but not limited to WhatsApp with the promise of safe passage to the United States for a large sum of money.

Now while most immigrants are being turned away or expelled from the southern border, because of the CDC's Title 42 rule, misinformation continues to spread. I'd love to hear from Secretary Mayorkas about -- not just the impact you're observing of misinformation, but also what the Department of Homeland Security is doing to combat this misinformation both at the border in Central America or elsewhere?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, thank you very much for your question because you are focused on a very significant issue. Indeed, the smuggling organizations peddle misinformation and deceive vulnerable individuals and families into believing that the border policies of this administration are different than those that we have in place and that we are executing.

We, of course, disseminate information ourselves, but we're very mindful of the fact that that alone is not enough. We work very closely with the Department of State to have trusted voices in the countries of origin to disseminate accurate information with respect to our policies and practices and the critical fact that our border is not open.

I think one example of that is this past Sunday, I spoke with journalists who reached the Haitian community, the Haitian diaspora community, and I communicated the critical and critically needed messages. They then disseminated that in Creole through their outlets to reach the diaspora community and that was propelled further on social media thanks to the partnership with the Department of State and other partners.

ALEX PADILLA: That's great. And that'll be an ongoing challenge as well. Second, more of a statement than a question, but I want to go on record in the following. You know, as most would admit what's happening at the border is unacceptable on so many fronts. And I too want to strongly condemn the inhumane treatment of Haitians or anyone else who is fleeing violence or natural disasters and seeking protection in our countries.

I have heard your statements, Mr. Secretary, about the need to create safer and more orderly pathways of legal migration to the United States so that people do not have to make the dangerous journey to the southern border by other means. I want to make sure I reserve sufficient time for Ms. Abizaid. As of September 14th, some 64,000 Afghans have been brought safely into the United States.



SOME 04,000 Afghans have been brought safely into the United States.

Many of these individuals were allies of the United States military, have familial ties to the United States, or represent vulnerable populations who are currently being targeted by the Taliban. I understand that many of my colleagues have raised questions as to whether or not there has been sufficient vetting of these individuals prior to their arrival to the United States or entry into the United States.

So, in your role as the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, can you please just share with us or give us a better appreciation, understanding of the vetting process that Afghan refugees, parolees, and evacuees must pass before being allowed to be admitted into the United States?

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Thank you, Senator, for the question, especially because it gives me the opportunity to really highlight publicly the work that NCTC but also the entire intelligence community working in collaboration with our FBI, DHS, and other partners in the agency did to surge resources to make sure that the appropriate screening and vetting of these individuals was undertaken.

Now, the intelligence community role and NCTC's role is one part of a system of screening and vetting. It is something that we typically get information from our partners overseas to understand individuals, the information about individuals seeking to come to the United States. We use that information and run it against our IC databases to make sure that if there's any derogatory information that might have bearing on whether that individual should come or not, that we bring that to bear as adjudicators decide the status of an individual.

The work that we undertook as part of the Afghan evacuation operation absolutely considered that screening process as part of it and those screening efforts are ongoing for the population of Afghans that are seeking entry into the United States.

ALEX PADILLA: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Padilla. Well, as we've been discussing throughout this hearing, we have been subjected to consistent cyberattacks, ransomware, in particular, and attacks against critical infrastructure. And Secretary Mayorkas, in your opening statement, you discussed a number of activities the DHS is engaged in an attempt to mitigate the impact of these attacks or prevent these attacks from occurring in the first place.

And as you know, and I believe you've been briefed, and your staff has been working with Ranking Member Portman and I on legislation to provide the government with incident reporting on cyber incidents and ransomware attacks in particular, but broadly encompassing all cyberattacks. So, Secretary Mayorkas, could you tell this committee how this kind of authority to collect this information, how will that help you prevent cyberattacks from occurring in the first place and ensure that our critical infrastructure can operate the way it should?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Portman, we're very grateful for this committee's support of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. That legislation, which calls for a new reporting regime, will be of tremendous value in elevating the cybersecurity of this country because it really requires a public-private partnership.

And if in fact, for example, a company that suffers a cyber incident provides that information to us and the federal government, then we can ensure that a replicate of that harm is not suffered elsewhere in the country. If everyone is compelled to provide incident information to us, then we learn from one, we learn from two, and collectively then we disseminate to all.

And that raises the cyber hygiene of the landscape writ large.

GARY PETERS: Thank you. And Director Wray, I know ransom payment information is of importance to the FBI. Could you tell the committee how important that is and how this legislation will help you?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Absolutely. I think the key will be to make sure that the information reaches the FBI real time because, as I testified in response to one of the earlier questions, speed, hours matter in this particular arena. Getting the information from the private sector on a more consistent and timely basis will be critical for us at the FBI as well for, I think, five reasons.

One, it allows us to better understand the full extent of the threat of particular intrusion sets nationwide. Second, it enhances our ability to warn about trends, tactics, techniques, procedures in a much more meaningful way. Third, it allows us to provide support for a greater number of victims and collect more evidence and therefore bring more cases.



Fourth, it allows us to help connect seemingly unrelated incidents into tribute attribution to a single actor, which is incredibly value in its own right to ensure that we're holding them accountable for the full extent of their activity. But then last, but not the least, it allows us to follow the money and, in many cases, seize it. And I can't underscore enough how important that is. Our strategy is to go after the actors, their infrastructure, and their money.

And legislation like this would help us do that as long as we get the information, you know, real time.

GARY PETERS: Thank you. On March 2021, National Intelligence Report assessed that domestic violent extremists were "the most persistent and lethal threat" to the United States. The FBI has found the same and I helped pass a requirement in the fiscal year '20 NDAA that required both the FBI and the DHS to report data on this threat.

Yet both of your agencies took close to a year to provide roughly half of the response that we were looking for, a year to provide half. And Director Wray, in the case of the FBI, half would be a very generous assessment of what the FBI provided. It's considerably less than that. And if we can't get that kind of data, it's difficult for us to understand what the efforts are – what efforts are being made and how we might be able to support those efforts.

You have reporting requirements under the law, and I would hope that you would comply on time and in full. Can I get a commitment that we can get the rest of that information that's well over a year past the expected date?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, certainly, you could have my commitment that we're going to do better and work with you as quickly as we can to get you the information that we can. Part of the challenge that we're not happy about is, of course, the pandemic hit and many of the people that were involved in pulling together the information were either otherwise occupied with the significant domestic terrorism operations that we had or otherwise sidelined.

The other part of it is, as I understand it, a lot of the information may be information that wasn't collected or kept in a way that the committee might have been looking for. So, you are absolutely right that we need to do better than we have, and you have my commitment that we will do better than we have.

But we -- I understand we have a regular cadence now of engagement with your staff, prioritizing the items that you need soonest. And you have my commitment that we'll work with you on that.

GARY PETERS: Well, I appreciate that, and we will -- we'll be continuing to reach out to get that to happen. You know, experts have assessed that in the last five years, domestic extremist groups have expanded their use of online platforms to recruit, plan, export, and spread violence and terrorize Americans. Last week, I wrote a letter to the heads of Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube seeking information including the -- for their efforts to coordinate with federal state and local governments to detect and to prevent online extremist efforts.

So, my question to you, Director Wray, is we're less than a year, past the violent January 6th attack on the US Capitol and an attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power, which is without question a dark stain on our history, all of which was planned, organized, and spread online. So, my question is what specific steps is the FBI doing now to combat the use of social media to plan domestic terrorist attacks?

Have you stepped up your activities and give us a sense of what you are doing?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, certainly, when it comes to social media, when we get tips and leads, we're trying to make sure that those are being prioritized and pursued. We're trying to improve our own communications with the social media companies. That partnership, as you and I have discussed before in the election influence context, has continued to improve.

So, we're trying to leverage that a little bit. Among the other things that we're trying to do are build out our human source base better so that we can separate kind of the wheat from the chaff within the social media information that we get because the volume of this stuff is just astounding. And then last, we're also looking at better use of data analytics, again, to try to see if we can separate the wheat from the chaff within the information that we get.

Certainly, when it comes to looking at social media, there are long-standing Department of Justice policies, the so-called attorney general guidelines and the dialogue [Ph] that have been in place for 15, 16 maybe more years that kind of govern what we can and cannot do, and it gets a complicated subject to explain.



But we are committed to aggressively acting in this space just as we are and others. I would say, of course, I know that DHS also plays a very important role in looking at social media, and we benefit from the partnership with them on that subject. There are things that they can do as part of their mission that we can't and don't.

GARY PETERS: Thank you. Ranking Member Portman, you're recognized for your questions.

ROB PORTMAN: Thank you, Chairman. Let me start by saying that I appreciate what the men and women, who work for you, do every day. They wake up every morning and try to figure out how to keep our country safe. And I think every member of this panel appreciates that and commends them. I do think our policies are making it hard for them.

And that's what this is really about today is what can we change policy-wise to reduce rather than enhance the threats to our homeland. I said earlier, I think it's extraordinary that over these 20 years, we haven't had a major mass casualty foreign terrorist event. We certainly had our share of attacks, but not the kind we saw on 9/11, and that's attribute to them.

But our policies worry me. And I'd like to dig a little deeper on a couple of them quickly. I appreciate what you said on social media, Director Wray, and certainly in the cybersecurity. I look forward to working with you, Mr. Secretary, you know, on that legislation to ensure we have incident reporting and we get a handle on the increasing cyberthreat and the ransomware.

But on these two issues we've already talked about today, one is the Afghan evacuees and the potential problems we may have if we don't have a system in place, a policy in place that makes it people, again who work for you and others, able to do their job. I'm concerned about [Inaudible] with current immigration.

Getting back to what has been said about those individuals who were evacuated in this hasty and chaotic process, we left people behind, we all know that. We left American citizens behind, but mostly, we left behind people who had helped us. But we also had people get on these flights to leave, who, as far as we know at this point, had no connection to us in the sense of helping us or helping our allies.

And Secretary Mayorkas, your information is probably different than mine based on what you have said today. We have pushed and pushed, as you know. And I said I'm very frustrated we can't get a classified briefing maybe to dig in the bottom of this, but we don't really need, in my view, a classified briefing.

We just didn't know who these folks are. And by the way, it may surprise some of our constituents to find out that when these folks come over, and again about 60,000 or hear about 120,000 total, 60,000 still overseas, they're permitted to walk. In other words, when they land at Dulles or land in Philadelphia, they're allowed to leave and go into the community.

Is that accurate, Mr. Secretary? Just a yes or no, please.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: No, that is not entirely accurate, Senator. There are conditions of parole for those who are paroled into the United States that are mandatory. So, for --

ROB PORTMAN: Well, but if they -- when they land, if they choose not to go to the military base and to walk, they are able to do that.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: They must receive, for example, certain immunizations in order to enter the interior of the United States.

ROB PORTMAN: Well, I mean -- OK. So, they have to get a --

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: There are mandatory -- but there --

ROB PORTMAN: They have to get a shot, that's fine. But they're permitted to come into our country. And, you know, I have -- my staff has been out there to see the arrivals. I have a friend who went to meet his interpreter. He served in Afghanistan. And, you know, they said, "You can take him with you," but if you do, he could lose his benefits.

I understand that. But my point is we don't have a system in place to keep people who want to walk. Now, the other question is who are these people? And as I said, 75 percent of them are not green card holders, are not citizens, they're not SIV holders, they're not even applicants for SIV. You indicated otherwise.

So, we just need to get to the bottom of it because you want to know, I assume, just as we want to know, you know, how we can ensure who these people are. And this notion that they've been vetted as we would normally vet. I mean, how can we vet people? Are you going to call the Taliban government and say, "You know, is this

information about this criminal record accurate?" Of course, we can't. Normally, we would be able to contact the government.

Of course, we didn't have an embassy because we had evacuated it. So, we didn't go through the normal screening to -- Director Abizaid, your answer earlier, we didn't go through the normal screening process that you would for someone applying for a visa. You couldn't because we didn't have the visa officials in the Foreign Office there to do it. So, I'm just going to leave that out there because I mean, I've got some more questions on it, and I can -- could push on what we've heard.

But let me just say yesterday when the State Department was pushed on this, and we were asked how many of those parolees applied for SIV or were family members of former employees. The State Department said, "None of us really know." If that's the answer, fine. But if the answer is, as you said today, Mr. Secretary, you know, they're all accounted for and we know who they are, we'd certainly like to know that.

With regard to immigration. This, obviously, is a huge crisis right now on the border. Again, over 200,000 people last month. And let me just hold up these couple of charts because they're interesting, I think, for a number of reasons. One is with regard to encounters at the border, we've seen this chart.

Senator Johnson's got a much more colorful interesting chart. But this is where we are. And I've condensed it a little bit. Just to start, you know, in the 2018 primetime period, this is when President Biden is inaugurated, we see this big increase. So, we all know about that. And this is why policies again are making the job much harder for the people who you work with to be able to keep an orderly and legal process at the border.

This is, obviously, a crisis. But here's the second one, maybe keeping together, if you can. Hold this one up, too. This is the people who are coming to our border from outside of Mexico or El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, so-called Northern Triangle. Look at that. That increase is much more dramatic, and these are people who come from Latin America, but they also come from Romania.

I mean, they're coming from all over the world. We've obviously seen them coming from Haiti. And the Haitian -- the photos of what's going on there, I mean, look at this chart, I mean it's obviously a humanitarian crisis. It's really discouraging to see. But what we're told, what we're told is very different to what we've heard today.

We're told by ICE -- Customs -- Immigration and Customs Enforcement that only 353 Haitians have been flown back to Haiti out of the 13,000 to 15,000 that you said were there. And yet you're telling us today, you know, "We're taking care of the numbers well below 10,000." That must mean that they were either removed to Mexico or released.

I don't think they were removed to Mexico because part of the problem of Title 42 is Mexico is not taking people unless they are Spanish speaking from Latin America. So, we just -- again, we need to have our information clear. And in terms of why they came, I think, this idea of a pull factor is very real.

You know how I feel about the asylum system. I think it's a pull factor. And I told you I visited some of these countries in Latin America and Central America recently. And the presidents of these countries say, "We don't like what you guys are doing because you're pulling our good people away. You're pulling our young people away.

We want them to stay here actually." But they're coming to the border not because of disinformation necessarily, as Senator Padilla talked about, and I appreciated his question, but a lot of it's accurate information because a smuggler can say, the human smuggler can say to his family, "Give me 10,000 bucks, I'll take your kid.

I guarantee they can get in. Just say you are seeking asylum." And with regard to the Haitians, this is what you hear. The mayor of Del Rio, I believe, said this and others who said it, that Section 8, which is not Section 42, was being applied to Haitians, and the word got out and the smugglers heard about it. And they said Haitians are getting in under Section 8, and others are permitted to come into the country.

And boom, then they came, of course. On Section 42, the Rodney Scott letter, which we got by snail mail. So, I didn't get it until over the weekend, and we've [Inaudible] all the offices now, but -- and it's part of the record today. He says, "In October 2020, he was told that 91 percent of total encounters were processed under Title 42 and expelled -- people were expelled in an average of 90 minutes." He said, "A report I received on August 2021 indicated that nearly 53 percent were granted exemptions from Title 42 with the majority, ultimately, being released into the United States." So, I understand what you're saying about recidivism, that some of these are people who have been stopped more than once and why the numbers are higher.



But if it's because of Title 42, then it would have been much more true under the previous administration than this administration because we've gone from – if these numbers are right, 91 percent were processed under Title 42 and expelled in 90 minutes, and 53 percent now are being granted exemptions, released as of August.

So, you know, Title 42 may be short lived for reasons that are beyond our control in the judicial branch, I understand that. But then we need an alternative. We've got to figure out a way to discourage people from coming to our country by letting them know the border is not open. You can't just come and say that you claim asylum and be able to come in the United States indefinitely.

You have to be able to prove that. And as you know, Mr. Secretary, it's something you and I have talked about a lot. And I think until we do that and get to that point, those Haitians who were told, "Hey, we're applying Title 8," which means you can come into the country, rather than 42 are going to keep coming, and others will keep coming.

And it's not in anybody's interest. And by the way, this notion that this can all be solved by investing in Latin America, particularly, in the Northern Triangle countries, that's our response and the administration typically is we're going to invest in the Northern Triangle countries. I'm not against that, we've done a lot of it, 3.6 billion over the last five years.

So, another 4 billion. We'll see. That's not the ultimate answer, I don't think. But these are all people who came in from outside of Mexico and outside of the Northern Triangle. So, are we also going to have a program to stop the push factor in these other countries, including some countries outside of Latin America?

Anyway, my time is expired. I apologize for going over time, but as you know, Mr. Secretary, I have a passion about this. I want to get it right, so we have an orderly, lawful process. So, the most generous country in the world in terms of immigration can continue to be so, and our citizens can support it but based on a system that actually works for Latin America, for us, and for the rest of the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Ranking Member Portman. Senator Carper, you're recognized for your questions.

TOM CARPER: Thanks. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Again, our thanks to Secretary Mayorkas, to Director Wray, to Director Abizaid for joining us today, for your testimony and really, for your leadership. You've taken on really tough jobs. And I've had a few tough times in my life, and they don't begin to compare to what you're doing.

And I thank you for taking on all these responsibilities and working with us and others. I have a question for Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray, initially. The question is, Mr. Secretary, in your testimony, you discussed how China represents a threat to US economic competitiveness. Senator Portman and I spent a fair amount of time as the leads on the Senate Subcommittee on Investigations, and we agree with that fully.

In past years, the directory has stated that the bureau views China as one of the greatest threats to our nation due to their counterintelligence and economic espionage interests, as it relates to targeting economic assets and seeking information related to our intellectual property. As we pivot to our national security posture to address near-peer adversaries as opposed to traditional threats and actors, could each of you, Mr. Secretary and Director Wray, each of you speak to how your agencies are working together; and separately, to combat the threat that China poses to our national interests in overall security?

Mr. Secretary?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Thank you very much, Senator Carper. Let me identify three different lines of effort that we are executing in response to the threat to our economic and therefore national security that China poses. Number one, of course, we have the infringements and theft of intellectual property, and we're working very closely in response to that with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Secondly, in the service of human rights on the one hand and a fair marketplace, a competitive marketplace on the other, we are stopping the importation of goods that are produced in whole or in part through forced labor. Third, we are addressing pure criminal activity. The theft of property by organizations emanating from the PRC. We are also, of course, addressing the cybersecurity threat that has emanated there and has attacked some of our federal agencies.

TOM CARPER: OK. Thanks. You can let -- right there, if you will. And let me yield to Director Wray. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, thank you, Senator, for the question. As you know, this is something I feel to you.

Senator Portman's term very passionately about. And I think there is no country that presents a greater threat to our innovation, our economic security, and our democratic ideas than the People's Republic of China, which is why we have over 2,000 active investigations tied back to the PRC government across all 56 field offices.

It's an almost 1,300 percent increase in economic espionage investigations tied to China from about a decade ago. As I said in my opening, we're opening a new investigation that's tied back to China about every 12 hours. And it covers pretty much every sector of the economy and every state in the nation.

We -- one of the things that we stood up now 18 months or so ago, maybe two years ago, was a counterintelligence task force structure, modeled after the Joint Terrorism Task Force model that worked so well on the terrorism front. So, we have a national counterintelligence task force here in the DC area, and then we have counterintelligence task forces in every field office.

And those, in turn, bring on partners from other federal agencies, in some cases, even state and local agencies. And so, that's a big part of our effort. The other thing I would say is it's not just investigations. We just -- the reality is we are not going to be able to investigate our way out of this threat.

And so, a big part of our field offices work together with our partners. I've talked a lot, for example, with Secretary Mayorkas about critical infrastructure, and that piece of it is trying to get out to the private sector, out to the academic sector, and try to help them understand the threat better, so that they better harden themselves against the threat.

So, those are some of the things that I've --

TOM CARPER: That's all right. That's good. That's encouraging. Mr. Secretary, as you mentioned in your testimony, Department of Homeland Security's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships, also known as CP3, aims to expand the department's ability to prevent terrorism and targeted violence through the development of local prevention frameworks.

CP3 office has been rebranded multiple times, as you know, in the past. In fact, they used to be called the Office for Community Partnerships. In previous Congresses, I've introduced legislation, bipartisan legislation actually, to codify this office in order for there to be consistent leadership and resources for it. It is a CP3 or a similar office to counter the rise of domestic terrorism, something that Congress should work.

Now to codify, in what benefits would that provide to the department and to efforts to combat domestic terrorism, given it is one of the top threats facing our homeland? Go right ahead.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I'm very grateful for your support of the office and for the department as a whole. This office is centered on empowering and equipping neighborhoods, communities across the country to address the threat of domestic violent extremism, homegrown violent extremism from the ground up. We've dedicated for the first time a minimum of \$77 million in FEMA grant funds dedicated to this growing threat.

I very much look forward to working with you to see how legislation can best strengthen that office. We think it's a critical component of our Homeland Security Enterprise.

TOM CARPER: Thank you for that encouraging response. A question, if I can, for Director Abizaid, if I will. Is there a question that you've not been asked? Is there a question you've not been asked as you prepared for this hearing that you wish you'd been asked? And for the next minute, just tell us what that question is and give us an answer.

Thank you.

CHRISTINE ABIZAID: Well, generally, I've been advised that the fewer questions, the better. I would say that, you know, in general, the global terrorism landscape remains a top priority for us as a government and for the National Counterterrorism Center, which was purpose-built to, in the wake of 9/11, connect the dots related to the terrorist threat overseas, related to how it may present itself in the domestic context.

And we've worked very hard over the last 14 years of our existence to make sure that we're fulfilling that role appropriately. I've been really proud coming onboard at the National Counterterrorism Center to see, not just the work of NCTC, but to see the work that we're doing across the intelligence community and across the CT community to stay vigilant against the threat however it may evolve, and we have to be very serious and understanding that it will, in fact, evolve again and vigilance is required.

TOM CARPER: Great. Well, thank you for that question and for the answer. And to all of you today, thank you for your leadership. It's great to see you. And we're grateful for your leadership. Thank you so much.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Carper. Senator Johnson, you're recognized for your questions.

RON JOHNSON: Director Wray, have you read the Michael Sussmann indictment?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I've had a chance to glance up. I haven't had time yet to read through it.

RON JOHNSON: I would suggest you and everybody else read that because it really does lay out exactly what happened to create this political turmoil for two or three, four years really during the Trump administration. It lays out how the Hillary Clinton campaign paid for through Michael Sussmann, completely false allegations that the Trump was cooperating with the Alfa-Bank.

Planted that story, had an audience with James Baker of FBI, so that the FBI would open up investigation, so that they can report that news. Same exact dynamic in terms of the fall Steele Dossier that also was contained Russian disinformation, which the FBI knew about, is -- certainly, is no later than January 2017. You worked at the Justice Department as did Michael Sussmann.

Did you know him, Michael Sussmann?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: To my knowledge, I've never met the man.

RON JOHNSON: But do you know -- did you know him by reputation?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Not particularly.

RON JOHNSON: OK. Did you think James Baker knew Michael Sussmann?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I really can't speak to whom James Baker knew.

RON JOHNSON: Do you think it's credible that James Baker, James Comey, Andrew McCabe, Lisa Strzok -- Peter Strzok, Lisa Page, these individuals had no idea who Michael Sussmann was and who his clients might be?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Senator, I certainly understand why you're asking the question but --

RON JOHNSON: Good.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Given that -- but if I could just finish. Given that this is an ongoing criminal case being brought by the special counsel with whom we are actively cooperating, I want to make sure, I don't --

RON JOHNSON: OK. That's fine. I won't get an answer. Let me just make the final point here. So, either the FBI was completely clueless or corrupt that they didn't check into whether Michael Sussmann might have been working for the Hillary Clinton campaign before they opened up the investigation, just leaked to the press, which put this nation through three, four years of political turmoil.

There needs to be a political accountability. And I hope John Durham has a whole lot more that he's going to be revealing because I got virtually nothing out of you based on subpoenas. In -- I mean, it was interesting listening to your exchange with Senator Paul. You said it was unacceptable what happened.

That's good. I'm glad to hear that. But you were confirmed in August of 2017. In February 2018, the Senate Intel Committee was briefed by Bill Priestap, and the bottom line of that is Bill Priestap of the FBI continued to say the Steele Dossier was credible, even though the FBI knew in January 2017 that it contained Russian disinformation.

Now that was under your watch. Do you have an explanation on that?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Senator, as I said, we've been working very closely with Special Counsel Durham, and I want to be careful not to start talking about things that may be --

RON JOHNSON: OK. OK, that's fine. So, another non-response. In February 2020, senior Democrats produced a false intelligence product, had it classified, leaked it to the press, accusing Senator Grassley and I of soliciting Russian disinformation disseminating it, completely false. But I can tell you many news stories were written about that.

Fast forward to August of 2020 -- by the way, I held a hearing on Russian disinformation as part of my Foreign Relations Committee responsibilities in 2015. I'm well aware of the problem of Russian disinformation. So, I didn't need a briefing that the FBI requested to give me. I didn't ask for this briefing in August 2020. When I went to the briefing, there was absolutely no relevant information.



went to the briefing, there was absolutely no relevant information.

It was a completely BS hearing. And I asked the briefers, "Who directed you to give me that briefing?" And all they can say "interagency." Well, you know, there are people in the interagencies. I wrote a letter immediately asking, first of all, what was the backing – backup material for the briefing? I asked who directed it. I knew it was a setup.

I knew it would be used just like the false intel product was used previously. So, I wasn't happy. And of course, then lo and behold, in late April, early May, it was leaked. That briefing was leaked to The Washington Post, again, accusing me of, you know, disseminating Russian disinformation. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It's false. So, I got a number of questions which remain unanswered. I sent you a similar letter. What backed up the August briefing? Who directed that briefing? To this day, I have gotten no response. You know, how is it so difficult to – and by the way, Senator Grassley, former president pro tempore of the Senate, former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is asking the same questions.

Why is it that we can't meet with you? Why is it that you will not provide us that basic information of who directed a briefing to two US senators, that was then leaked for political purposes used against us, false? Why won't you answer that very basic question?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: So, Senator, I want to be a little bit careful what I can say in public about –

RON JOHNSON: Well, I can imagine you want to be careful. Yeah. Yep, go ahead.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I want to be a little bit careful of what I can say in this kind of setting about getting into specifics. I understand this is an important topic to you. Before we deliver a defensive briefing like the one that you're describing here, we follow a standard, defined process that involves interagency discussion, deliberative process to figure out whether a defensive briefing is even warranted.

Just to take a step back though, because it's important, the entire purpose of defensive briefings to an individual is --

RON JOHNSON: Yeah. But, Mr. Wray, listen, listen. You're just describing a process, and I understand the process great. The process, obviously, broke down. There are all kinds of processes putting in safeguards in the FISA court that were, obviously, violated in that corrupt investigation. So, again, I'm just asking the simple question, why won't you tell me in detail who was engaged in that process.

But I'm not going to get -- so I'm asking you to provide that answer. I'm -- provide -- I'm asking you to give me a briefing. Meet with me and Senator Grassley. We deserve to know the answers. Quite honestly, the American people deserve to know the answers. Secretary Mayorkas, real quick. In my 30 seconds left, you said you've gotten some numbers on the border.

Are you willing to finally share them? Like, for example, like out of the 1.3 million people that have been apprehended, can I get the complications? There've been multiple arrests of the same individual. Fine. So, the relevant piece of information would be how many people have you dispersed in America out of those 1.3 million people?

How many people have been released into the -- either with a notice to appear or, even worse, a notice to report? And, again, you have to live in a fantasy world to think that they're going to report. But go ahead. How many people have been released?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, I apologize. I do not have that data. I was reciting the data of encounters, apprehensions, use of Title 42, and use of Title 8, expedited removal. I will provide the data you have requested. I do not have it at my disposal.

RON JOHNSON: OK. I'll be expecting that information very soon. OK? Thank you.

GARY PETERS: Senator Johnson. Senator Lankford, you're recognized for your questions.

JAMES LANKFORD: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. [Inaudible] you have tens of thousands of people right now that are coming at the border. You have tens of thousands of people that are underneath bridges as we've seen in several of the international bridges at this point and in the process of actually moving some of those folks out of the country.

What is the process for actually relocating individuals under Title 42 authority out of that area, under those

bridges? You've started that process with the Haitians, but walk me through, quickly, in the process because I have multiple other questions.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yes. What we do is we look at where our capacity is at other processing centers, and this goes to an apparent miscommunication I've had with Ranking Member Portman, for which I apologize. What we do is we look at processing capacity. We then move the individuals from Del Rio as needed to ensure safety and security.

We move them to the other processing centers so that they may be repatriated to Haiti or other countries from those various processing centers. We are increasing the frequency and number of the repatriation flights each day.

JAMES LANKFORD: OK. You expect to be able to move all of those individuals out in the next how many days?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Our goal is to do so within the next 10 days or nine days. We expect to see dramatic results in the next 48 to 96 hours, and we'll have a far better sense in the next two days.

JAMES LANKFORD: And what do you anticipate is coming at you as far as additional numbers because, obviously, this number grew exceptionally quickly of Haitians and of others from all over the world coming?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: So, we are watching that, Senator Lankford, very, very carefully. I do want to note that some individuals are turned back yesterday by reason of our measures, which I have described in this hearing. And we're hoping that what we are doing now serves a deterrent because it backs up the words that we have spoken since the very outset: that irregular migration is not the way to enter the United States.

It will not work. It is dangerous, and it creates a humanitarian challenge.

JAMES LANKFORD: It does. And that was actually the ongoing statement of the Trump administration over and over again to say that why they put the MPP in process to discourage people from coming, doing the exact same thing that you were doing, trying to be able to get them back to their home country, apply from there. There is this false belief that I hear from some that if you're going to apply for asylum, it seems to be America is the only place in the world to apply for asylum for.

So, we have people from all over the world that are making their ways, paying cartels to be able to come through Mexico to be able to come to the United States and be by this perception that, OK, well, they're coming here because of economic reasons, of asylum, of disaster, whatever it may be. But that's not the true definition of asylum.

Asylum is you go to the next safe place that you can go, not travel through 14 different countries to be able to get to a spot you want to go to. There is a way to do regular immigration where we have a million people a year to be able to go through that process. And that's what we would encourage individuals to do. Mr. Wray, let me ping a question to you that you and I have not spoken about before, but it's exceptionally important to me. There's been a tremendous number of individuals that are dealing drugs that have a dramatic effect on my state as they do in your home state.


Much of that is coming across our southwest border. We're very aware of that. But some of that is actually being run by criminal operations inside our prisons. One of the pushes that I've had for a while has been the issue of cell phones inside of prisons because we see it in both state prisons and in federal prisons where we have drug cartels being literally run out of the prison still.

It's one thing for a victim of crime to be able to end up and to be exposed to crime. It's another thing to realize the person that perpetrated that is still operating their gang. What can we do to, actually, facilitate getting cell phones out of prisons, and what kind of cooperation do we need with other agencies to clear that?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: I think we have, reasonably, good work on that being done with federal prisons in the BOP for example. But as you say, with state prisons, you know, it's a more of a range depending on their resources. If it's all right, I'd like to sort of take a little bit of time to think about that.

JAMES LANKFORD: Yeah, let's do.

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: And maybe get back to you until [Inaudible]

JAMES LANKFORD: Let's keep going with that conversation. I've had this conversation with FCC and with some other folks. There's some regulatory issues that need to be done. There's some cooperation that needs to be there with multiple agencies. And I'd love to be able to maintain that conversation because it's a big issue. 

When you're a victim of a rape and your rapist actually contacts you by cell phone from their prison, that's got to be resolved. And if you're victims of drug crime, and you're still dealing with that in the days ahead. On the cell phone issue – and this is a different cell phone issue on this. Secretary Mayorkas, I understand that you've moved over the tracking of individuals crossing our border from an ankle monitor and experimented with giving individuals a cell phone.

And they have to be able to check in on that cell phone once or twice a day, that the notice to report plus, apparently, is the term being used. I'm not familiar with this process and trying to be able to figure out what is being done with that cell phone and what's happening if individuals don't check in if they're given a cell phone paid for by the American public to be able to track them.

Is there a tracking device all the time? Are we able to track their location constantly? If they don't check in, are we going to be able to pick those up?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Senator, if they do not check in, we make a determination based on the facts, whether or not they need to be the subject of priority enforcement action for evading law enforcement and not honoring their obligations as a condition of their release on alternatives to detention. One of the things that we are looking at is assessing the efficacy of the phones and determining whether, in fact, they are a valuable enforcement tool.

And we're collecting data on that. And I would look forward to providing it to you.

JAMES LANKFORD: How many people are in that process right now? Do you know what the size of that pilot is?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I do not, Senator. We'll get that to you.

JAMES LANKFORD: But these are all recent crossers that are getting this, correct?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Yes, yes, they are.

JAMES LANKFORD: So, I would assume they would all follow under that priority of – if they're a recent crosser and they're not checking in, then they would fall underneath that priority of we need to go scoop them up and find out why they're not checking in.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Individuals who do not fulfill their responsibilities to appear and report are considered a border security enforcement priority.

JAMES LANKFORD: OK. And that goes back to one of my questions before about just trying to get a good ballpark figure of how many people that fit into that priority group are actually having enforcement on them currently. I understand there's a new process on prosecutorial discretion that's being used by some of the attorneys that actually go before the court once folks have actually been obtained and going before the courts.

Then attorneys for DHS ICE are coming and saying, "Allow us prosecutorial discretion to be able to release this individual." Is that a new process, or is that something that's ongoing?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Prosecutorial discretion is something that has been –

JAMES LANKFORD: That's around for a long time. [Inaudible] just might actually go into the court in requesting it.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I believe that has been long-standing.

JAMES LANKFORD: OK. We'll follow up and get additional details on this because it's my understanding, there's been – received some recent information about 6,234 cases that have been dismissed. And then the process of those cases – once they're actually in the process. And some of them included some folks with a criminal record as well.

And we're just trying to get additional information.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I look forward to providing that to you. I know that the Office of Legal Counsel within Immigration and Customs Enforcement has promulgated new guidelines for its attorneys. And if you don't have those guidelines, we'd be pleased to share them with you.

JAMES LANKFORD: That'd be helpful. This goes back to the ICE guidelines before on detention that we're trying to get clarity on, that we talked about, that I needed by August. You had said I would have it by August. I don't have it. What are we doing on enforcement inside of the country? What are we doing on prosecutorial



...don't have to. What are we doing on enforcement inside of the country? What are we doing on prosecutorial enforcement?

This goes back to the deterrence issues. If individuals were able to get into the country and they don't have any consequences on them, they'll continue to be able to come, where they come across the border with a child so they can work their way through, or they'll find other avenues to be able to get in. If there's not enforcement, it'll continue to accelerate.

So --

GARY PETERS: Thank you. Thank you, Senator.

JAMES LANKFORD: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Senator Lankford. Senator Rosen, you're recognized for your questions.

JACKY ROSEN: Thank you, Chairman Peters. Appreciate the second round. Appreciate our witnesses staying around. It's really important. And I actually want to build on Chairman Peters -- some of his earlier questioning on our digital spaces, our online. And we know that digital spaces are just fueling the rise in domestic terrorism.

You know, extremists may try to exploit the internet to recruit, to franchise, and, of course, unfortunately, to plot attacks. So, Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray, to both of you, how can Congress better empower federal law enforcement officials to combat online hate before it escalates into this -- any real-world violence?

How do you work with the digital platforms, and what kind of support can we provide you with, whether it's through this committee or other committees of jurisdiction, to help you do this job? Secretary Mayorkas, you can go first.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I'd like to -- thank you very much, Senator Rosen. You know, I've heard Director Wray speak very compellingly about two forces on the domestic landscape that are really converging to create the increase that we have observed over the last few years. Number one is the fact that we're speaking very often of lone actors or loosely affiliated groups of individuals, not the traditional organized structures.

Number one. And number two is he'll -- as he referenced earlier in this hearing, the fact that social media as a terrain that can so easily propagate misinformation, false information, and allow communications to occur among loosely affiliated individuals. I'd like to give some thought to -- and speak with our partners, Director Wray, Director Abizaid, with respect to what the legislation might be useful in this space.

But we are working together in an all of government effort to increase -- to address this increased threat.

JACKY ROSEN: Thank you. I appreciate that because I want to give you the tools you really need to protect us. And that's terrific. Director Wray, do you have some additional information you'd like to add about how we can -- how you think we might help you in this space?

CHRISTOPHER WRAY: Well, without weighing in on a specific legislative proposal, what I would say, and I've spoken about this many times, I can't overstate the impact of default encryption and the role it's playing including on in terrorism. And what I mean by that is more and more the information that's going to allow us to, as I said to, I think, Chairman Peters earlier in an exchange, separate the wheat from the chaff.

In terms of social media is being able to, with lawful process that is appropriate court warrants, get access to those communications where the most meaningful discussion of the violence is occurring. And more and more, technology is moving in a direction where no matter how bulletproof the affidavit in support of the warrant, no matter how ironclad the judicial -- independent judicial approval, and no matter how horrific the criminal activity that's being investigated, we will be blind to it. And I think that is something that is worthy of Congress' attention.

JACKY ROSEN: Well, thank you. I look forward to having some more conversations with you offline about that. I want to move over and talk about a little bit about the nonprofit security grants. I know we've talked about these before. And, of course, the alarming rise in antisemitism. Again, we're talking about our domestic violent extremists here.

And despite the alarming rise, the nonprofit security grants, they fulfill less than half of the applications it received for grants this year, far outstripping the \$180 million that Congress provided through regular appropriations for fiscal year 2021. So, Mr. Secretary, giving the growing need for the nonprofit security grant program -- again, we talked earlier about the community's understanding, how to best protect themselves from



any attacks or make themselves – any vulnerabilities that they have.

How does DHS, you know – haven't given you enough resources, how can you fill this gap, and what else do you need from us to do – for us to do?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: Thank you very much, Senator. I am engaged with the faith-based community on this very issue. We are extensively so, and I am taking a look at our grant programs writ large across the board, not only the nonprofit security grants but the Urban Area Security Initiative grant program, some of its components and like, to see how those dollars can meet the threats to ensure that any gaps are closed.

I'd like to circle back with you on what we find –

JACKY ROSEN: Thank you.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: And what other support we need. I'm very appreciative.

JACKY ROSEN: No. And I want to really circle back on the UASI and talking about those formulas, as I spoke about earlier, with critical infrastructure. We have to think about how our UASI grants are funded, as well as the nonprofit security grants because we have critical infrastructure in many places. And we want to be sure that those formulas reflect the broad spectrum of threats that we may see now, especially on the cyber front in other ways.

So, I really appreciate, again, all of you being here and look forward to having some more conversations and putting forth some meaningful legislation out of this committee, as well as others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GARY PETERS: Well, thank you, Senator Rosen. Before Ranking Member Portman and I make some brief closing remarks, Secretary Mayorkas, I think I'd like to ask you about some very concerning images that were released yesterday that appeared to show Border Patrol agents appear whipping Haitian migrants. These acts, certainly, are intolerable and a complete diversion from your agency's mission.

And my question to you is, can you explain to the committee what you'll be doing to address what Americans saw in the – when looking at those images?

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: I'm very pleased you asked that question, that has been uppermost in my mind since I first saw the images late yesterday, Mr. Chairman. We commenced an investigation at my direction immediately, the Office of Professional Responsibility within the Department of Homeland Security's US Customs and Border Protection, number one.

Number two, we alerted the inspector general of the incidents. Number three, I directed that the Office of Professional Responsibility be present on-site in Del Rio 24/7 to ensure that the conduct of our personnel adheres to our policies, to our training, and to our values. I was horrified to see the images, and we look forward to learning the facts that are adduced from the investigation.

And we will take actions that those facts compel. We do not tolerate any mistreatment or abuse of a migrant, period. I also want to say, and I think it's very important to say, that I saw two other powerful things yesterday when I was there under the bridge in Del Rio. Number one, I saw the acute vulnerability of the Haitian population – the predominantly Haitian population, and I cannot overstate how difficult that is to see.

We are speaking about vulnerable individuals in tragic circumstances. I also saw the extraordinary work of US Customs and Border Protection, not only the United States Border Patrol but its Office of Field Operations, as well as other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security that have been surged to Del Rio to address the situation in partnership with state and local law enforcement personnel, as well as the forces in civil society.

The – we saw the American Red Cross. We saw World Central Kitchen providing food and supplies to these individuals. It's an all-of-government and all-of-local-society effort there. And I want to say that the actions that we saw, the images that we saw do not speak of the incredible men and women of US Customs and Border Protection or of the Department of Homeland Security as an institution.

GARY PETERS: Thank you for those comments. Ranking Member Portman, do you have some closing remarks?

ROB PORTMAN: Thank you, Chairman. I really appreciate all the time today. This was a long session, and as predicted at the start, there were going to be some challenging questions. And that's because we are facing so many threats. And at least on my behalf, I will say that I think we need some policy changes to be able, again,



to let the men and women who are working for you, who are so committed to their task to do their job more effectively.

We talked about the foreign terrorist threat. We talked about al-Qaida and ISIS. And we talked about the way we withdrew having enhanced that threat, at least in my view, and the need for us to have better eyes and ears on the region. As we saw with the drone attack, we are in a challenging situation now.

We talked about cyberthreats. We talked about the ransomware issue, the need for reporting legislation, which I hope we can get done soon on a bipartisan basis. We talked about border security, illegal immigration, illegal drugs coming in, the fentanyl, particularly. We talked about the fact that what we've been doing hasn't worked.

And particularly, with this dramatic humanitarian crisis with the Haitians coming, I mean, what we're doing is not working. And again, it's not just that these smugglers are providing disinformation to these poor families, not just in Latin America now but around the world. It's the fact that they're providing accurate information that if you come to the border, particularly with a child, you can come in. And that's, unfortunately, the result of a policy that we have put in place that makes it a draw.

So, unless you're a single man coming to the border, you probably are being told the right thing, which is, you know, the United States is a place where people want to come and live and work, and we should be doing it in a legal and orderly way. So, Mr. Secretary, I know you and I have a lot more to talk about in that area, but I would hope that today, you know, with everything going on, you talked about just surging Border Patrol to, you know, Del Rio to help.

Where did they come from? Well, they came from shutting down checkpoints all over the southwest. I mean, is that smart? You talked about the fact that, you know, there's so much focus here. We shut down the bridge there in Del Rio. Commercial traffic ended. The economic impact on their community. So, this is – obviously, what we're doing is not working.

On domestic terrorism, we talked about the huge challenge of social media, the need for us to enhance the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, and other ways to deal with the very real threat of domestic terrorism. Secretary Wray talked about how it's grown. And then on the Afghan evacuees, we just have a difference of opinion about the facts, and we just need to know what the facts are.

And we need to be sure that we're doing our – what I believe is our moral responsibility of taking care of people who helped us, particularly given the way in which we left, which left a lot of people in a very vulnerable situation but also be sure we know who they are and be sure that we're not putting ourselves in a position where, as Director Abizaid said early in her testimony, foreign terrorists are looking for ways to get people into our country.

That's something we, of course, all want to avoid and not take risks on. So, we look forward to our classified briefing on that if that's what's necessary to get the information. If it doesn't have to be classified, that's fine for us, too. We just want to get the information to be able to ensure that we're doing our proper oversight.

And again, thank you all for being here today and thanks to the people you represent here today for what they do every day to help keep our country safe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GARY PETERS: Thank you, Ranking Member Portman. Director Wray, I just want to go back to the first line of questioning, and the question that I asked you. And I certainly understand and respect that Kaseya is an ongoing investigation. But the FBI's actions here may have cost millions of dollars and possibly even more than that.

The FBI, in my mind, is going to need to explain this action. We need to know who signed off on it, who was aware, and whether the cost to the bottom line of American families and businesses was considered in that decision process. We also need to know what operational benefits so the FBI believed it would gain by withholding this information and if you were actually successful.

These are some of the questions that come to mind immediately. And, you know, this is just – had to come immediately because we got this information, not from the FBI, but we received this information by reading The Washington Post. We would hope that we would get information of this critical nature in a direct manner, not through reading it in a secondary source.

And perhaps most importantly, we need to know if the FBI has done this before and if it's occurring in other cases, and I would expect a classified briefing that is substantive, not just canned responses. And, Director Wray, you know, this committee is also working on cybersecurity legislation. And I certainly plan to work and make sure the FBI is transparent so that we can effectively carry out our legislative and oversight duties.



make sure the FBI is transparent so that we can effectively carry out our legislative and oversight duties.

And certainly, I appreciate your commitment today in committee – to briefing the committee, and I look forward to getting that scheduled as soon as practical. In closing, to join Senator Portman and all my colleagues in thanking the witnesses for being here today. I certainly – we all recognize that you have extremely busy schedules, and we're grateful that you took the time to be here and to answer some tough questions on the tough problems that we're facing as a country.

The committee is working to address many of the issues that were discussed today. I look forward to continuing our conversation about cyberattacks and what tools and information the federal government needs to better prevent breaches and attacks at our hearing coming up in a couple of days, on Thursday. Senator Portman and I have been working on legislation related to reporting cybersecurity breaches and ransomware payments, and I look forward to introducing and moving that legislation very soon.

The committee will be continuing our oversight of security and border security personnel practices at both the northern and the southern borders. And in the coming days, the committee will receive a classified member briefing on the multi-agency efforts to screen and resettle Afghan refugees. While we have spent several productive hours during this hearing, examining our nation's greatest security threats, there's still much more work to do for this committee to continue – to conducting the oversight that we are required to do and ensuring that our national security agencies are effectively focused on all of their critical missions.

I look forward to continuing to work productively with my colleagues on the committee to ensure that we're doing everything, absolutely everything in our power to safeguard American communities. With that, the record for this hearing will remain open for 15 days until 5 p.m. on October 6, 2021, for the submission of statements and questions for the record.

The hearing is now adjourned.

Copyright

Copyright 2021 CQ-Roll Call, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Related News

May 14, 2020 (Page A7)

Wall Street Journal . (May 14, 2020).

February 9, 2021 (Page A6)

Wall Street Journal . (Feb 9, 2021).

February 12, 2020 (Page A6)

Wall Street Journal . (Feb 12, 2020).

September 15, 2021 (Page A12)

Wall Street Journal . (Sep 15, 2021).

October 1, 2020 (Page A6)

Wall Street Journal . (Oct 1, 2020).

Show More 



Navigation

[Legislative & Executive Publications](#)

[Members & Committees](#)

[Regulations](#)

[News & Social Media](#)

[Exit](#) 

[About This Database](#)

[Content Coverage Chart](#)

[Congressional LibGuide](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Help](#)

[About ProQuest](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Cookie Preferences](#)

ProQuest is committed to empowering researchers and librarians around the world.

Copyright (c) 2021 ProQuest LLC

Version:@1.50



From: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Subject: Wray testimony transcript - Sept 2021
To: Ramamurti, Arjun R. (OAG)
Sent: October 19, 2021 11:49 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: House Home and Security Cmte Wor dwide Threats 09222021.pdf, Senate Home and Security & Govt Affairs Cmte Threats to the Home and 09212021.pdf

From: Home and Security Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chairman Thompson Statement on Border Patrol's Mistreatment of Migrants at the Border
To:
Sent: September 20, 2021 2:14 PM (UTC-04:00)



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chairman Thompson Statement on Border Patrol's Mistreatment of Migrants at the Border

September 20, 2021 (WASHINGTON) – Today, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement on [reports](#) of U.S. Border Patrol's treatment of migrants along the border.

"Video and photos coming out of Del Rio showing U.S. Border Patrol's mistreatment of Haitian migrants along the border are horrific and disturbing. This mistreatment runs counter to our American values and cannot be tolerated. I call on Secretary Mayorkas to take immediate action to hold those responsible accountable and ensure that all migrants are treated in accordance with the law and basic decency, as this Administration has promised to do since day one."

#

Media contact: Adam Comis at (202) 225-9978



From: DOJ Digests <doj-digests@rendon.com>

To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk <dojdesk@rendon.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest

Date: Tue, 26 Jul 2022 05:47:15 -0500

Importance: Normal

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
July 26, 2022
7:00 AM EST**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Department of Justice News
2. National Security
3. Jan. 6 Committee
4. Criminal Law
5. Civil Rights
6. Civil Law
7. Immigration & Border Security
8. Antitrust
9. Environment
10. Tax
11. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
12. Criminal Justice/Corrections
13. US Supreme Court
14. Native American Affairs
15. Marijuana Legalization
16. Opioid Crisis
17. Administration
18. Congress
19. Network Evening News Lineup
20. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: JULY 26, 2022

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- 10:00 AM: Senate Judiciary Committee: Law Enforcement Officer Safety: Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve.

- 2:30 PM: Senate Judiciary Committee: Decriminalizing Cannabis at the Federal Level: Necessary Steps to Address Past Harms

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

*Reuters: **Revealed: White House's desegregation plan spanning five administrations***, Hassan Kanu, July 25, 2022, 5:16 PM

A previously unseen batch of legal memos written by lawyers inside the U.S. Department of Justice provides new insight into the White House's evolving understanding of its own responsibility and power over the course of the civil rights movement. Lawyers in the DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel essentially advise the executive branch about its powers under law — what the White House and federal agencies under its authority can do about issues of national concern. Their legal opinions are considered binding on the federal government and produce high-level policies and action, even though they are cloaked in secrecy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

*Fox: **Merrick Garland communications with company son-in-law co-founded demanded in Missouri AG investigation***, Hannah Grossman, July 25, 2022, 2:48 PM

The attorney general of Missouri, Eric Schmitt, sent a civil investigative demand (CID) — which operates as a subpoena — to a digital learning platform called Panorama Education to request any potential communication between the company and Biden's Department of Justice, including AG Merrick Garland, the office told Fox News Digital. Panorama Education was co-founded by AG Garland's son-in-law, Alexander "Xan" Tanner. The digital learning platform, which received early funding from the Zuckerberg Chan Initiative, uses "survey instruments" to improve the education of its 13 million students. [[Continue Reading](#)]

*Washington Examiner: **Garland appearing for TV interview at critical moment for two DOJ investigation***, Daniel Chaitin, July 25, 2022, 9:45 PM

Attorney General Merrick Garland is set to appear for a rare TV interview Tuesday at a time of intense scrutiny for the Justice Department. At least two major investigations are underway that could be areas of focus when Garland is questioned by NBC News anchor Lester Holt. [[Continue Reading](#)]

*MSNBC: **Pressure Building on AG Garland to Charge Trump***, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 8:00 PM

The pressure on Attorney General Merrick Garland and the Justice Department to investigate Donald Trump for multiple crimes related to January 6 continues to add up. But with each passing week that they hold off charging Trump, the harder it becomes to do so — and the more emboldened the former president becomes in the meantime. MSNBC legal analyst Andrew Weissmann joins Mehdi to discuss. [[Continue Reading](#)]

*Philadelphia Tribune (Philadelphia, PA): **[ANALYSIS] Merrick Garland doesn't have forever***, Richard Ben-Veniste, July 25, 2022, 12:53 PM

Let's take Attorney General Merrick Garland at his word that he is vigorously investigating Donald Trump and the apparent conspiracy that led to the violent coup attempt at the U.S. Capitol 18 months ago. My guess is that Garland should be able to make the decision on whether there is enough evidence to indict the former president for the crime of conspiracy to defraud the United States and/or related felonies in six months' time. That decision should be based solely on whether the evidence is sufficient to convince a jury, beyond a reasonable doubt, of Trump's guilt — not on political considerations. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Truthout](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: Fed not adequately prepared to thwart Chinese information gathering: report, Howard Schneider, July 26, 2022, 4:09 AM

The Federal Reserve does not have adequate systems to counter a "malign" effort by China to gather inside information on the U.S. economy and monetary policy, according to a report that was prepared by Republican staff of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, and promptly rejected by the Fed as "unfair, unsubstantiated, and unverified." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

AP: Man admits to Jan. 6 attacks on police, AP photographer, Alanna Durkin Richer, July 25, 2022, 5:00 PM

A Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty on Monday to attacking police officers and an Associated Press photographer during the Jan. 6, 2021 riot on the U.S. Capitol. In a deal with prosecutors, Alan Byerly, 55, admitted to wielding a stun gun while confronting officers who were trying to protect the Capitol from the angry mob. He also admitted to assaulting AP photographer John Minchillo, who was documenting the chaos and violence outside the building where lawmakers were meeting to certify President Joe Biden's election victory. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Judge sets February trial date for accused New York subway shooter, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 4:19 PM

A U.S. judge on Monday set a tentative late February trial date for Frank James, the man accused of carrying out an April 12 shooting and smoke bomb attack in a New York subway car. James, 62, is accused of injuring 23 people during the morning rush hour on a Manhattan-bound N-train in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood, in one of the most violent attacks in the history of the city's transit system. No one was killed. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: Fact check: Arrests were made inside Capitol building on Jan. 6, and after, Sudiksha Kochi, July 25, 2022, 10:04 PM

The claim: No one was arrested inside the Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021. Federal prosecutors have arrested more than 800 people in connection with the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, and investigations are still ongoing. Still, as the House committee probing the attack has been holding public hearings, some are arguing no arrests have been made. In a July 13 Facebook post, video bloggers Ineitha Lynnette Hardaway and Herneitha Rochelle Hardaway Richardson – known as Diamond and Silk – claim that no one was arrested inside the Capitol building the day of the riot. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: Atlanta DA barred from calling Georgia state senator before grand jury in election fraud case, Kevin Johnson, July 25, 2022, 7:12 PM

The Atlanta area district attorney leading a wide-ranging investigation into election interference involving former President Donald Trump was barred Monday from pursuing a Republican state senator after a local judge found a conflict of interest in the prosecutor's public support for the senator's opponent in an upcoming race for lieutenant governor. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney concluded that District Attorney Fani Willis' support for Democrat Charlie Bailey disqualified her from calling Georgia state Sen. Burt Jones before a special grand jury as a potential target in the criminal inquiry. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), [CNN](#), [WSJ](#)

WaPo: Biden slams Trump for watching Jan. 6 riot as police faced 'medieval hell', Amy B Wang, July 25, 2022, 6:23 PM

President Biden made rare comments Monday about testimony presented by the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, sharply criticizing former president Donald Trump for his reported inaction as the attack on the Capitol unfolded. In a prime-time hearing Thursday, the committee showed evidence that Trump resisted multiple pleas from senior aides to call off the mob attacking the Capitol in his name, even as members of the security detail for Vice President Mike Pence feared for their lives. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: U.S. Officials Grow More Concerned About Potential Action by China on Taiwan, Edward Wong, David E. Sanger and Amy Qin, July 25, 2022, 6:00 PM

The Biden administration has grown increasingly anxious this summer about China's statements and actions regarding Taiwan, with some officials fearing that Chinese leaders might try to move against the self-governing island over the next year and a half — perhaps by trying to cut off access to all or part of the Taiwan Strait, through which U.S. naval ships regularly pass. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: [ANALYSIS] OnPolitics: Will the DOJ charge Trump for the Jan. 6 insurrection?, Chelsey Cox, Amy Nakamura, July 25, 2022, 5:42 PM

Happy Monday, OnPolitics readers. Good news out of the White House today: President Joe Biden's COVID-19 symptoms are "almost completely resolved," according to a statement released by the White House physician. Biden, who tested positive for the virus last Thursday, is experiencing some residual nasal congestion and slight hoarseness, Kevin O'Connor, physician to the president, said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: [ANALYSIS] Trump returns to a city poisoned by his legacy with an eye on 2024, Stephen Collinson, July 26, 2022, 12:53 AM

Before he left Washington in disgrace on January 20, 2021, Donald Trump vowed: "We will be back in some form." On this, at least, he was truthful. The 45th President never really went away as his baleful influence lingers and his election lies fester with most Republican lawmakers still scared of his personality cult. And on Tuesday, Trump will return for the first time since he slunk out of a city traumatized by his coup attempt and ringed in steel to deter his insurrectionists. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: 'Baked Alaska' pleads guilty to US Capitol riot charge, Holmes Lybrand and Hannah Rabinowitz, July 25, 2022, 10:41 PM

A far-right internet personality who goes by the name "Baked Alaska" has agreed to plead guilty to unlawfully protesting at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021 -- after abandoning a plea agreement in May during a hearing in which he proclaimed he was "innocent." Anthime Gionet livestreamed himself breaching the Capitol in a nearly 30-minute video that showed him encouraging others in the mob to enter the building and saying, "We ain't leaving this b*tch," according to his latest plea agreement filed Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [The Hill](#), [Washington Examiner](#)

Fox: Cybersecurity lessons from Russia's war in Ukraine, according to Microsoft's president and vice-chair, Kelsey Koberg, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 7:28 PM

Since invading Ukraine, Russia has upped their cyberattacks on the United States and its allies, according to a report from Microsoft, and there are several lessons to help protect against these attacks in the future, Microsoft President and vice-Chair Brad Smith told Fox News Digital. A drastic cyberattack against the United States is not a far-reaching idea. In fact, according to the report "Defending Ukraine: Early Lessons from the Cyber War," Microsoft has tracked Russian cyber hacking in 42 countries, with the United States being the top target, followed by Poland. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: [OPINION] Al Qaeda and ISIS still want to attack America — what can we expect?, Kelsey Koberg, Colin P. Clarke and Tore R. Hamming, July 25, 2022, 1:30 PM

Almost one year after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, many of the more dire predictions from last August appear to be coming true — al Qaeda is regrouping and remains intent on becoming the leader of the global jihadist movement. Per a recent United Nations report, key al Qaeda allies have consolidated power in Afghanistan, providing the group with favorable conditions to mount a comeback. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBBJ-ABC/CBS (Jackson, TN): **FBI looks to educate business on cybersecurity**, Chelsey Cox, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 5:42 PM

The FBI in Memphis is looking to teach businesses in Middle and West Tennessee about cybersecurity. “Tennessee is home to a booming health care industry, Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, and world-renowned universities and colleges,” said Special Agent in Charge Douglas Korneski of the FBI Memphis Field Office. “We all need to work together to strengthen our country’s cyber defenses.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE

AP: **AP source: Top aide to Pence testifies before 1/6 grand jury**, Erick Tucker, July 25, 2022, 6:00 PM
The former chief of staff to former Vice President Mike Pence has testified before a federal grand jury investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol, a person familiar with the matter said Monday. Marc Short, a close aide to Pence, was at the Capitol on the day of the siege and was with the vice president as he fled his post presiding over the Senate and hid from rioters who had stormed the building and called for his hanging. Short appeared before the grand jury after receiving a subpoena to do so, according to the person, who insisted on anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [CNN-2](#), [Daily Beast](#), [The Hill](#), [HuffPost](#), [NBC](#), [Newsmax](#), [NY Post](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [The Week](#), [WSJ](#)

WaPo: **Arizona fake-electors subpoenas show breadth of DOJ Jan. 6 probe**, Devlin Barrett and Yvonne Wingett Sanchez, July 25, 2022, 7:50 PM
Grand jury subpoenas issued last month to two Arizona state lawmakers show the breadth of the criminal investigation by the U.S. attorney’s office in Washington into efforts by supporters of Donald Trump to use “false electors” to try to undo Joe Biden’s 2020 election victory. Copies of two subpoenas issued to Republican state senators from Arizona were released Monday via a public-records request, confirming what has been previously reported about the June demands for records related “to the signing or mailing of any document purporting to be a Certificate certifying Elector votes in favor of Donald J. Trump and/or Michael R. Pence.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: **Trump didn’t want to call for Jan. 6 rioters’ prosecution, new video shows**, Amy B Wang, July 25, 2022, 11:55 AM
President Donald Trump didn’t want to disavow the rioters who had stormed the U.S. Capitol in his name on Jan. 6, 2021, and he removed lines from prepared remarks the following day calling for their prosecution, according to new evidence released by a member of the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack. Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) posted a video Monday on Twitter showing previously unpublicized testimony from several people close to Trump, centered on a speech he was supposed to give Jan. 7, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: **[VIDEO] Marc Short hits back at Matt Gaetz over Pence remarks**, Erin Burnett Out Front, July 25, 2022, 8:00 PM
Marc Short, former chief of staff to former Vice President Mike Pence, fires back at Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) over critical comments he made about Pence during a recent speech. [[Watch](#)]

NBC: **Jan. 6 committee's Luria releases video testimony about lines that were stricken from Trump’s post-riot remarks**, Zoë Richards, July 25, 2022, 11:13 AM
Rep. Elaine Luria, who led part of the Jan. 6 committee's prime-time public hearing last week, released a video Monday featuring previously unseen testimony about former President Donald Trump’s reluctance to condemn the violent actions of his supporters a day after the Capitol riot. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: **New Jan. 6 panel evidence shows Trump altered his post-Capitol riot speech**, Kelly Hooper, July 25, 2022, 5:06 PM

Former President Donald Trump removed key lines from a draft document of his Jan. 7, 2021, speech that would have condemned rioters at the Capitol insurrection the day prior as not representing “our movement.” A screengrab of Trump’s draft speech, which he made handwritten edits to, is shown in a video of Jan. 6 committee evidence and testimony shared by panel member Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) on Twitter. The video shows edits and various lines crossed out of the prepared remarks in black Sharpie, which Trump’s daughter Ivanka identified as her father’s handwriting in an interview with the committee. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: **Ex-US congressman among 9 charged in insider trading cases**, Larry Neumeister, July 25, 2022, 8:57 PM

A former U.S. congressman from Indiana, technology company executives, a man training to be an FBI agent, and an investment banker were among nine people charged in four separate and unrelated insider trading schemes revealed on Monday with the unsealing of indictments in New York City. It was one of the most significant attacks by law enforcement on insider trading in a decade, and a prosecutor and other federal officials pledged fresh enthusiasm for similar prosecutions in the future. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: **Man sentenced to 17 years for sex trafficking young teens**, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 5:00 PM

A man who took two girls from Eugene, Oregon, to Vancouver, Washington, supplied them with drugs, forced them to have sex and collected payments for it was sentenced to nearly 17 years in prison. Assistant U.S. Attorney Pamela Paaso said 34-year-old John Jackson used force and coercion to traffic the girls, ages 14 and 15, and mentored another man who also forced the girls to have sex with men for money, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Oregonian \(Portland, OR\)](#)

Reuters: **Former Goldman banker, ex-FBI trainee charged with insider trading**, Luc Cohen, July 25, 2022, 3:53 PM

A former Goldman Sachs (GS.N) banker, a former FBI agent trainee, and a technology executive were among those charged on Monday with insider trading in separate schemes that together generated millions of dollars in profits, U.S. prosecutors said. Each of the defendants charged today corrupted the integrity of the markets," Damian Williams, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan and one of Wall Street's main cops, told reporters. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: **Titanium Blockchain CEO Pleads Guilty to Fraud**, Mengqi Sun, July 25, 2022, 8:38 PM

Titanium Blockchain Infrastructure Services Inc.’s founder and chief executive has pleaded guilty for his role in a cryptocurrency fraud scheme that involved raising about \$21 million in an initial coin offering, the U.S. Justice Department said. Michael Alan Stollery, 54, of Reseda, Calif., pleaded guilty to one count of securities fraud in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles on Friday after being charged in June. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [Fox](#), [The Hill](#)

WaPo: **He went to reconcile with his ex-wife, then shot a man in her home**, Keith L. Alexander, July 25, 2022, 3:46 PM

A D.C. man was sentenced to 14 years in prison Monday for fatally shooting another man he found at the home of his ex-wife, authorities said. Prosecutors say that on the morning of Oct. 24, 2019, Gregory Washington, 32, drove to his ex-wife’s apartment in the 900 block of 21st Street in Northeast Washington to seek a reconciliation. Prosecutors said that Washington and his ex-wife had divorced earlier that year and that Washington wanted to

reconcile but his ex-wife did not. The couple had been married for less than a year when they got divorced.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NPR: A man is charged with threatening to shoot Black shoppers at a Buffalo grocery store, Jonathan Franklin, July 26, 2022, 6:01 AM

A Washington state man has been arrested and charged after he allegedly called a Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket and threatened to kill Black people there and at a nearby store in the area, according to authorities. Joey David George, 37, was arrested and charged with two counts of interstate threats after police say he made repeated calls to a Tops supermarket store on July 19 and 20, asking how many Black people were in the store.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Erie Times-News (Erie, PA): One of two brothers sentenced in heroin-cocaine ring broken up in Erie in 2020, Ed Palattella, July 25, 2022, 10:00 PM

The federal investigation of an Erie-based cocaine-heroin ring revealed the six-member operation to be a family affair. The first of the convicted relatives has been sentenced for his role in the ring, in which he pleaded guilty to trafficking in about 1.5 ounces of heroin in 2018 — enough to provide to 150 to 200 doses on the street.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Honolulu Star-Advertiser: 3 more charged in Big Island affordable housing fraud scheme, Leila Fujimori, July 25, 2022, 7:00 PM

U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii Clare Connors announced this morning the federal grand jury indictment Thursday of two Hawaii island attorneys involved with two other men in an affordable housing corruption scheme to enrich themselves. Paul Joseph Sulla Jr., 76, and Gary Charles Zamber, 53, were each charged with six counts of honest services wire fraud and conspiracy. Sulla is also charged with money laundering, allegedly laundering the proceeds of the conspiracy to hide the source, location and ownership of the proceeds.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Hawaii News Now](#), [Maui Now](#)

The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA): Former National Guardsman from Norfolk sentenced to more than 4 years for unlawful possession of firearms while using LSD, Caitlyn Burchett, July 25, 2022, 6:30 PM

A former National Guardsman who was living in Norfolk has been sentenced in federal court Monday for unlawfully possessing firearms while also using illegal substances. Francis Harker, 22, was handed four years and nine months in prison for charges dating as far back as June 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WAVY-NBC \(Portsmouth, VA\)](#), [WRIC-ABC \(Petersburg, VA\)](#), [WVEC-ABC \(Hampton, VA\)](#)

Newark Post: Couple from Bear convicted of using money laundering to cover up drug operation, Josh Shannon, July 25, 2022, 6:00 PM

A husband and wife from Bear are facing time in federal prison after being convicted Monday of devising a money laundering scheme to hide more than \$1 million in profits from illegal drug sales. U.S. Attorney David C. Weiss described 45-year-old Omar Morales Colon as a “sophisticated drug trafficker” who conspired with members of the Sinaloa cartel to bring large amounts of cocaine to Delaware. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Middletown Press (Middletown, CT): Pilot tried to smuggle 2 tons of cocaine for CT drug ring before plane crashed, prosecutors say, Peter Yankowski, July 25, 2022, 4:06 PM

A co-pilot accused of trying to help smuggle some 1,700 kilos of cocaine into the United States from Venezuela in 2016 has been extradited to face charges in U.S. Federal Court in Connecticut. Ronier Sanchez Alonso was arraigned Monday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas O. Farrish in Hartford, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Times Union (Albany, NY): **Fraudster who bilked \$131K in COVID-19 benefits sent to prison**, Robert Gavin, July 25, 2022, 2:15 PM

A Bloods gang member from Rensselaer who scammed \$131,560 in state Department of Labor benefits earmarked for the unemployed and business owners struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic was sentenced to six years and 10 months in federal prison Monday. Hector J. Sanchez, 30, who has 11 prior convictions including three felonies, also swindled a \$12,500 loan for a non-existent car wash business, according to documents filed in U.S. District Court in Albany. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WRGB-CBS \(Schenectady, NY\)](#)

Sioux City Journal: **Sioux City woman who sold 20 pounds of meth sentenced to federal prison**, Nick Hytrek, July 25, 2022, 10:00 AM

A woman who sold more than 20 pounds of methamphetamine in the Sioux City area has been sentenced to more than five years in federal prison. Abby Bringman, 34, of Sioux City, pleaded guilty in February in U.S. District Court in Sioux City to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. She was sentenced July 15 to 64 months in prison. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KCAU-ABC \(Sioux City, IA\)](#)

WTNH-ABC (New Haven, CT): **New Britain man sentenced to federal prison for fentanyl and crack cocaine distribution**, Ellie Stamp, July 26, 2022, 4:28 AM

A New Britain man was sentenced to federal prison for the distribution of fentanyl and crack cocaine in Hartford on Monday. In Nov. 2019, the FBI's Northern Connecticut Gang Task Force and Hartford Police initiated an investigation targeting drug dealers and their suppliers operating in the south end of Hartford, according to court documents and statements. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGFL-CBS (High Springs, FL): **Former Gadsden County deputy sentenced to 10 months in federal prison for false statement**, Cassidy Ebrahimi, July 25, 2022, 8:00 PM

Former Gadsden County Sheriff's Office deputy Joseph Barnes, Jr., 54, of Chattahoochee, Florida, will serve 10 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to one count of making a false statement to a federal officer, according to a press release by the U.S. Department of Justice. Barnes was first charged in 2019 when he actively aided individuals who distributed drugs in the Gadsden County area. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WCTV-CBS \(Thomasville, GA\)](#)

WINS-AM (New York, NY): **NJ man convicted of kidnapping charges after illegally taking his child to India for years**, Emily Nadal, July 25, 2022, 7:00 PM

An ex-New Jersey man was convicted of obstructing the parental rights of his child's mother after kidnapping their kid and fleeing to India for years, authorities announced Monday. The 38-year-old former Edison man, Amitkumar Kanubhai Patel, had a relationship and lived with the mother of his child from August 2015 to July 2017, though the two were never married. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KLIX-FM (Twin Falls, ID): **Declo Man Sentenced to Prison on Drug Charges**, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 7:00 PM

A Declo man will spend more than ten years behind bars for methamphetamine related drug charges. According to U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit, Melvin Misael Alcaraz-Valdez was recently sentenced to federal prison a little more than 11 years on possession with the intent to deliver methamphetamine. The judge also sentenced Alcaraz-Valdez to five years of supervised release once his prison term is up. Investigators determined Alcaraz-Valdez was dealing meth from March 2020 to March 2021 in the Mini-Cassia area. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KERO-ABC (Bakersfield, CA): **Bakersfield man sentenced to more than 13 years in meth trafficking**, Pete Menting, July 25, 2022, 5:44 PM

A Bakersfield man was sentenced Monday to more than 13 years in prison in a methamphetamine and fentanyl trafficking case. According to court documents, David Delgado Gonzalez, 38, of Bakersfield, conspired with

others to buy, transport, store, and sell methamphetamine in Mexico between September 2020 and March 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVI-Fox (St. Louis, MO): **Springfield, Ill. man sentenced on meth distribution charge**, Kevin S. Held, July 25, 2022, 5:20 PM

A Springfield, Illinois, man will spend six years in federal prison on charges related to methamphetamine trafficking. Prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Central District of Illinois said Michael Bale pleaded guilty in March 2022 to one count of possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of meth. The exact amount was not specified. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTEN-ABC (Albany, NY): **Man sentenced for intending to distribute meth in Albany**, Sara Rizzo, July 25, 2022, 4:49 PM

An Albany man has been sentenced for possessing and intending to distribute methamphetamine-laced pills in Albany. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) said Tyler Purvis-Mitchell, 28, was sentenced to 12 years and 6 months in prison. DOJ said Purvis-Mitchell, is a felon who was on federal supervised release at the time of this arrest. He was sentenced to an additional 12 months in prison, to be served consecutively, for violating his release conditions, which includes fleeing from the Albany Police Department [[Continue Reading](#)]

WEHT-ABC (Evansville, IN): **Evansville felon sentenced in court**, Jessica Jacoby, July 25, 2022, 4:46 PM
A local man from Evansville, Michael Dewayne Charles, 33, was sentenced to 15 years in prison with four years probation. He was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young, after pleading guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to a press release, Charles is legally prohibited from possessing firearms due to prior multiple felony convictions in Vanderburgh county that include: sexual battery, burglary and domestic battery. Due to these prior crimes, Charles is considered an "Armed Career Criminal" under federal law and is subjected to enhanced penalties for possessing a firearm. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WWLP-NBC/CW (Springfield, MA): **Boston man sentenced to prison for counterfeit fentanyl pills**, Ashley Shook, July 25, 2022, 4:24 PM

A man from Boston was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute. According to a news release sent to 22News from the Justice Department in Boston, 24-year-old Diamondez Pierre was sentenced to two years in prison and three years of supervised release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WWLP-NBC/CW (Springfield, MA): **Brockton man pleaded guilty of \$1.5M COVID relief scheme**, Ashley Shook, July 25, 2022, 4:21 PM

A man from Brockton pleaded guilty in connection with a scheme to submit false applications to obtain Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) funds through the Small Business Administration (SBA). According to the news release sent to 22News by the Department of Justice in Boston, 59-year-old Joao Mendes was charged and has agreed to plead guilty to wire fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WXMI-Fox (Grand Rapids, MI): **Grand Rapids doctor banned from prescribing controlled substances after forged opioid prescriptions**, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 4:17 PM

A Grand Rapids doctor accused of prescribing opioids and filling them for himself has been banned from prescribing controlled substances. In a complaint filed in the United States District Court Western District of Michigan Southern Division, it is alleged that Dr. David D. Sova wrote 17 improper opioid prescriptions without a legitimate medical purpose from November 7, 2019-March 19, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WOOD-TV \(Grand Rapids, MI\)](#)

KMOV-CBS (St. Louis, MO): Man pleads guilty to robbing multiple cell phone, convenience stores in St. Louis County, Dan Greenwald, July 25, 2022, 3:19 PM

A 35-year-old man has pleaded guilty to charges that he robbed two convenience stores and two cell phone stores in St. Louis County in November 2018. Demetrius Smith pleaded guilty Monday to federal charges of four counts of armed robbery and one count of attempted robbery. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVL-CBS (Medford, OR): Magalia woman sentenced for Camp Fire FEMA fraud charges, Ashley Gardner, July 25, 2022, 3:00 PM

A Magalia woman was sentenced Monday for making false statements in an application for FEMA benefits following the Camp Fire. According to the Department of Justice, Deborah Laughlin, 66, filed paperwork on November 15, 2018, claiming a mobile home at 7209 Skyway in Paradise as her primary residence at the time of the Camp Fire. At the time of the fire, other people were renting and living in the mobile home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KEVN-Fox (Rapid City, SD): Rapid City man accused of careless driving and causing a fire, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 2:11 PM

A Rapid City man charged with multiple counts for careless driving which caused a fire. Dillon Rose, a 22-year-old male, used of a motor vehicle off a designated roadway on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands and caused a fire that burned approximately 2,600 acres. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTAR-FM (Glendale, AZ): Phoenix man sentenced to over 3 years in prison for string of bank robberies, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 12:18 PM

A Phoenix man was sentenced to over three years in prison for a string of local bank robberies, authorities said Monday. Anthony Medina, 36, is scheduled to serve 40 months after he pleaded guilty to two counts of bank robbery, according to a press release from the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KYMA-NBC \(Yuma, AZ\)](#)

WTXF-Fox (Philadelphia, PA): Philadelphia-area men charged with stealing, washing checks from USPS mailboxes, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 12:16 PM

An alleged mail fraud scheme could mean prison time and \$1-million-fines for three men from the Philadelphia area. Naod Tsegay, 22, of Collingdale; Fode Bangoura, 20, of Philadelphia; and Zyier Williams, 19, of Philadelphia, are charged with bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, possession of stolen United States Postal Service keys and possession of stolen mail. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: 2nd prison guard pleads guilty in California inmate's death, Don Thompson, July 25, 2022, 9:00 PM

California correctional officer Arturo Pacheco was upset while escorting a prison inmate, so he yanked the inmate's feet from under him, sending him crashing to the ground and ultimately killing him. A few months earlier, without provocation, he sprayed pepper spray at short range into the eyes of another inmate, later calling the incident "funny" in a text message, according to a plea agreement. Pacheco, 40, of Elk Grove, who was fired from his job in 2018, pleaded guilty Monday to federal charges stemming from both on-duty 2016 assaults under a plea agreement in which prosecutors will seek less than 13 years in prison when he is sentenced in October. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTXL-Fox \(Sacramento, CA\)](#), [Insider](#), [Sacramento Update](#)

Fox: Tesla being investigated by federal agency for alleged workplace discrimination, Paul Best, July 25, 2022, 8:00 PM

Tesla filed a report with the SEC on Monday that revealed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued a cause finding against the company that is similar to a civil complaint the state of California filed alleging the electric car giant cultivated a culture of workplace discrimination. Tesla will now start the mandatory pre-filing conciliation process with the federal agency, which enforces civil rights laws in the workplace. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNBC](#)

Austin American-Statesman: **Federal appeals court tosses challenge to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on mask mandates**, Chuck Lindell, July 25, 2022, 10:16 PM

A federal appeals court on Monday tossed out a lower-court injunction, issued in November, that would have allowed public schools in Texas to ignore Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on mask mandates. U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel of Austin had blocked Abbott's order as it pertained to schools, ruling that a ban on mandatory face masks improperly endangered students with disabilities and violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by denying them the opportunity to participate equally in school. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KBMT-ABC/NBC (Beaumont, TX): **Federal agencies hosting three-day event at Lamar University to combat domestic terrorism, hate crimes**, Jmaes Grant, July 25, 2022, 9:00 PM

Federal agencies are teaming up to put on an event at Lamar University that is set to help them eliminate threats before they lead to mass casualties. FBI Houston joined forces with agents in Beaumont to put together a Domestic Terrorism Training Session. The three-day long event began Monday and will run through Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTBC-Fox (Austin, TX): **Department of Justice launches investigation into city of Houston for possible environmental racism**, Shelby Rose, July 25, 2022, 8:09 AM

The United States Department of Justice has launched an investigation into the City of Houston looking into possible environmental racism in certain Black and Latino neighborhoods. It's specifically looking at the Houston and Trinity Garden neighborhoods where piles of garbage litter the streets. [...] "Illegal dumping is a longstanding environmental justice issue," said Assistant U.S. Attorney General Kristen Clarke. "Like many other environmental justice issues, it often disproportionately burdens Black and Latino communities." [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

Virginian-Pilot: **Judge blocks enforcement of North Carolina state law in probe of AG Stein's campaign**, Gary D. Robertson, July 25, 2022, 6:02 PM

A federal judge agreed on Monday to block for now any enforcement of a state law in a political ad investigation of North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein's campaign, saying it's likely to win on legal claims that the law is unconstitutional. Following a court hearing in Greensboro, U.S. District Judge Catherine Eagles ruled for Stein's campaign and other plaintiffs who filed an unusual lawsuit last week against State Board of Elections members and Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

NYT: **Smuggling Migrants at the Border Now a Billion-Dollar Business**, Miriam Jordan, July 25, 2022, 6:00 PM

From the street, the little brown house was unremarkable yet pleasant. A bright yellow toy school bus and red truck hung on the hog-wire fence, and the home's facade featured a large Texas lone star. But in the backyard was a gutted mobile home that a prosecutor later described as a "house of horrors." It was discovered one day

in 2014, when a man called from Maryland to report that his stepfather, Moises Ferrera, a migrant from Honduras, was being held there and tortured by the smugglers who had brought him into the United States. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Texas man gets 11 years for conviction of smuggling meth across border inside truck tires, Louis Casiano, July 25, 2022, 8:14 PM

A Texas man has been sentenced to 11 years in prison after being caught at a border checkpoint trying to smuggle drugs inside the tires of his pickup truck. Abiel Geronimo Fernandez, 20, of Rio Grande City, was handed down the prison term in a federal courtroom after pleading guilty to smuggling methamphetamines from Mexico via the Rio Grande City Port of Entry. On Nov. 28, Fernandez was driving a Chevrolet Silverado truck when U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents referred him for a secondary inspection. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NBC: 4 migrant parents file lawsuit alleging Trump's child separation policy traumatized them, Julia Ainsley, Didi Martinez and Jacob Soboroff, July 25, 2022, 12:03 PM

Three mothers and one father separated from their minor children after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border during the Trump administration sued the U.S. government on Monday seeking damages for the trauma they say they experienced from the ordeal, according to a federal court filing in Arizona. The filing marks a change in strategy for the migrant families who previously sought a settlement with the Biden Justice Department only to have those negotiations fall apart last fall. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Law360](#)

Law360: Deny Biden's Bid To Ax Haitian Abuse Case, Dem AGs Argue, Alyssa Aquino, July 25, 2022, 7:33 PM

More than a dozen Democratic state attorneys general threw their support behind claims that a Haitian migrant was attacked by a U.S. Border Patrol officer, calling on a Washington, D.C., court to reject the Biden administration's bid to nix the suit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: Migrant deaths at southern border soar to new high under Biden, Anna Giaritelli, July 25, 2022, 6:53 PM

Migrant deaths at the U.S.-Mexico border have reached a new all-time high, with more bodies recovered over the past nine months than any full year in recorded history. Since the start of the federal government's 2022 fiscal year last October, authorities have found 609 bodies on the U.S. side of the southern border, according to internal U.S. Customs and Border Protection data obtained by the Washington Examiner and confirmed by three federal law enforcement officials. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Columbus Dispatch: Prosecutors to request Gerson Fuentes, accused in rape of 10-year-old, be held without bond, Bethany Bruner, July 25, 2022, 3:46 PM

Prosecutors plan to once again ask that a 27-year-old man who is accused of raping and impregnating a 10-year-old girl and prompting her to seek an abortion across state lines, to be held without bond until his trial. The suspect, 27-year-old Gerson Fuentes, entered not guilty pleas to two counts of rape through his attorney, Bryan Bowen. [...] Fuentes is a native of Guatemala, Bowen said, adding that he believed Immigration and Customs Enforcement had filed an immigration detainer warrant. That warrant, which The Dispatch has confirmed was filed by ICE, would prevent Fuentes from being released from custody, even if he were to post bond. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KYMA-NBC (Yuma, AZ): Group of migrants arrested in Calexico, one with connection to theft group, Marcos Icahuate, July 25, 2022, 7:10 PM

US Customs and Border Protection says El Centro agents arrested a migrant who's part of a theft group. At about 12:50 p.m. on Sunday, agents found 19 people illegally crossing into the United States through Calexico. Of the group, 13 were Peruvian, five Columbian and one was from Chile. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Reuters: U.S. settles claims against poultry producers over worker treatment, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 12:32 PM

Three of the largest U.S. poultry processors have agreed to settle claims by the Justice Department over their alleged longstanding effort to share information about workers in order to drive down compensation. Cargill, Sanderson Farms and Wayne Farms have agreed to pay more than \$84 million in restitution to workers harmed by the information sharing to resolve civil antitrust lawsuits, according to proposed consent decrees made public Monday. The government also sued and reached a settlement including a data consulting firm, Webber, Meng, Sahl and Co. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Agri-Pulse](#), [AP](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [Bloomberg Law-2](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Food Processing](#), [Fox](#), [Jurist](#), [KCBS \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [KMOX \(St. Louis, MO\)](#), [KTVL-CBS \(Medford, OR\)](#), [KWKT-Fox \(Waco, TX\)](#), [KYW \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [Law360](#), [Meat+Poultry](#), [NPR](#), [NYT](#), [Poultry Site](#), [SeafoodSource](#), [Seeking Alpha](#), [Star Tribune \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [Tasting Table](#), [WaPo](#), [WattPoultry](#), [WBBM-CBS \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WBEZ \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WCCO-CBS \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [WGN \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WFAE \(Charlotte, NC\)](#), [Winston-Salem Journal \(Winston, NC\)](#), [WSJ](#), [WHQR-NPR \(Wilmington, NC\)](#), [WUNC-NPR \(Chapel Hill, NC\)](#)- 2

Bloomberg: Tech Antitrust Bill Threatens to Break Apple, Google's Grip on the Internet, Leah Nysten, July 26, 2022, 5:00 AM

US lawmakers are eyeing votes before November's midterm elections on legislation that marks the first major effort by Congress to regulate big tech since the inception of the internet. The American Innovation and Choice Act, which has bipartisan support in the House and Senate, would lay down key ground rules for dominant firms including Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc., Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. and Microsoft Corp. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: [OPINION] Ending WIC competitive bidding could harm millions of women and children, Robert Greenstein, July 25, 2022, 6:30 PM

The continuing shortage of infant formula has focused the attention of policymakers and the public on the high level of concentration in America's infant formula market. Depending on the data source, either three or four infant formula manufacturers control 90 percent of the U.S. market. This market concentration is now a focus of a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) inquiry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

AP EPA head to visit Puerto Rico on environmental justice tour, Dánica Coto, July 25, 2022, 5:03 PM

Norma Quiñones spent four years without running water after Hurricane Maria destroyed the well that she and dozens of neighbors depend on in their community deep in the mountains of western Puerto Rico. Last Christmas, crews installed a new well, but the water is not treated, so Quiñones is forced to drive 45 minutes into town to buy nearly 100 bottles of water every week for her family. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Colorado Gas Company to Pay \$3.25 Million Over Emission Leaks, Jennifer Hijazi, July 25, 2022, 3:15 PM

Natural gas company DCP Operating Company LP will pay millions in fines and update emission leak detection systems at eight facilities in Denver, Colo., areas that fell out of compliance with ozone air quality laws.

[[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Colorado Sun](#), [Denver Post](#)

Law360: Group Says Feds Giving Well Oversight Short Shrift, Morgan Conley, July 25, 2022, 3:10 PM
The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management is wrong that it lacks authority to regulate the development of federal oil and gas minerals when the reserves are accessed via a well drilled into non-federal lands, a new D.C. federal court complaint alleges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: EPA, DOJ Amend Consent Decree With Dutch Chemical Company, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 3:07 PM

LyondellBasell Industries N.V. has agreed to an amendment to its consent decree with the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Justice to address air pollution at its Illinois chemical plant, the EPA announced Monday. Lyondell will pay a \$324,000 civil penalty and install a fence-line monitoring system as well as instruments and monitoring systems for high combustion efficiency at the flares, according to the agency. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Waste Dive: Houston under DOJ investigation for alleged environmental justice violations around illegal dumping, Megan Queen, July 25, 2022, 11:00 AM

[...] The DOJ investigation is a notable case of a federal agency focusing its enforcement efforts on a municipal solid waste issue. Federal officials say more such EJ investigations could be in the works across the country. The Biden administration considers environmental justice a major priority, and numerous other federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have included EJ strategies in their long-term plans. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

WGNO-ABC (New Orleans, LA): Week Two of Jason Williams tax fraud trial begins, Kenny Lopez, July 25, 2022, 6:11 PM

Week 2 is underway in the tax fraud trial of District Attorney Jason Williams. Today several key witnesses took the stand including IRS agents that reviewed the tax documents in the case. Today in court, prosecutors continued to try and prove that both Jason Williams and Nicole Burdett had knowledge of the falsified tax returns in which tax preparer—Henry Timothy prepared for them. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WDSU-NBC \(New Orleans, LA\)](#), [WWL-CBS \(New Orleans, LA\)](#).

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: FBI releases 170 names of missing Indigenous people from Southwest region, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 7:28 PM

In an effort to address the crisis of missing Indigenous people, the FBI announced Monday it is releasing a list of more than 170 Native Americans it has verified as missing throughout New Mexico and the Navajo Nation that stretches into Arizona and Utah. FBI officials said at a news conference that the effort is being publicized to help locate the missing individuals, increase transparency and encourage relatives of missing Indigenous persons who aren't on the list to reach out to local law enforcement and file a report. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Albuquerque Journal](#), [KRQE-CBS/Fox \(Albuquerque, NM\)](#)

Fox: Washington men arrested after 91,000 fentanyl pills discovered hidden inside chip containers, Stephen Sorace, July 25, 2022, 11:41 PM

Two Washington men were charged Friday in connection with smuggling 91,000 fentanyl pills inside potato chip containers, authorities said. Juan E. Hernandez-Hernandez and Alejandro Macias-Velazquez were arrested

after an investigation into the pair's connections to a transnational criminal organization that imports bulk quantities of fentanyl pills into Whatcom County, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Mongol Ex-Chief's ATF Ties Probed By Judge: 'Is He A Rat?'**, Craig Clough, July 25, 2022, 10:41 PM

A California federal judge examining whether the former leader of the Mongols motorcycle gang is an informant who undermined the gang's 2019 racketeering trial loss — resulting in the loss of its trademark-registered emblem in a first-of-its-kind verdict — asked a witness Monday if he thinks the man is a "rat." The hearing in front of U.S. District Judge David O. Carter was over the Mongol Nation's motion seeking a new trial after it was stripped of its trademark-registered emblem for violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: **[EDITORIAL] Fentanyl, death by the dose**, Editorial Board, July 25, 2022, 6:22 PM

Progress is achieved when problems are solved, but Washington officialdom calculates that all things considered, it is preferable to allow certain troubles to perpetuate. [...] "Unnerving" can only describe the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's disclosure earlier this month that it seized 1 million counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl worth \$15-20 million in a raid on a Los Angeles stash house controlled by a Mexican drug cartel. The fentanyl-infused tabs are manufactured to look like genuine medications. Ominously, the DEA reports that when such pills are tested, 42% are found to contain a 2-milligram dose of the powerful opioid — enough to kill. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN): **[EDITORIAL] Rudderless ATF finally gets a leader**, Editorial Board, July 25, 2022, 5:45 PM

Seven years. That's how long the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives — a critically important agency in the face of rising gun violence — has been adrift without a confirmed director. In those years, mass shootings have occurred in Florida, Texas, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Virginia, Ohio, Wisconsin, Colorado, Georgia and Indiana. Some states have endured several. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Laredo Morning Times: **Cocaine seized in Laredo warehouse area**, Cesar G Rodriguez, July 25, 2022, 1:30 PM

Federal and local authorities foiled a cocaine smuggling attempt following surveillance in a warehouse area in Laredo, according to an arrest affidavit. On July 21, Drug Enforcement Administration special agents along with Laredo police received information about a cocaine being delivered at a warehouse in Laredo. Authorities would identify the suspect as Orlando Mauricio. Law enforcement then established surveillance. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJCL-ABC (Savannah, GA): **FBI warns about scam targeting teenage boys**, Greg Coy, July 25, 2022, 11:39 PM

A warning to parents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation about an online scam targeting teenage boys. The FBI calls it sextortion. Online crooks convince teenage boys to send explicit photos and videos, threatening to release the material if the victims don't them money. The scheme starts with the allure of sex than can lead to a trap. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WVLT-CBS (Knoxville, TN): **U.S. Marshals Service looking for two men with East Tennessee connections**, Jared Austin, July 25, 2022, 11:26 PM

The United States Marshals Service is helping East Tennessee law enforcement look for two men with ties to the region. A Roane Coane jury convicted Christopher Kennedy of murdering his wife's aunt Betty Crews. Chris's wife, Evelyn, was also convicted of murder. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFAA-ABC (Dallas, TX): Law enforcement identifies suspect who fired shots at Dallas Love Field, forcing airport evacuations, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 11:20 PM

A 37-year-old woman fired off several rounds with a handgun near a ticket counter in Dallas Love Field airport at 10:59 a.m. on Monday before being shot by a Dallas Police officer and taken to Parkland Hospital to have her injuries treated, police said. Law enforcement identified the suspect to WFAA as Portia Odufuwa. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KCEN-NBC \(Temple, TX\)](#)

KCTV-CBS (Kansas City, MO): State fire marshal and ATF investigate fire at church in Stull, KS, Emily Rittman, July 25, 2022, 10:15 PM

The state fire marshal and ATF are investigating a fire at a Stull, Kansas church that shut down several roads for hours in unincorporated Douglas County, Kansas. The church near North 1600 Rd and East 250 Rd is right next door to a volunteer fire station. Crews at the fire station were on a medical call nearby when a neighbor noticed the fire. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRGV-ABC (Weslaco, TX): Male subject in custody after barricading himself in Brownsville home, police say, Jared Austin, July 25, 2022, 11:30 PM

A male subject is in custody after barricading himself inside a Brownsville home Monday afternoon, police said. U.S. Marshals attempted to serve an arrest warrant at a home on Minnesota Road at about 3 p.m. when the male subject barricaded himself. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KBMT-ABC/NBC (Beaumont, TX): Federal agencies hosting three-day event at Lamar University to combat domestic terrorism, hate crimes, James Grant, Tiana Johnson, July 25, 2022, 9:00 PM

Federal agencies are teaming up to put on an event at Lamar University that is set to help them eliminate threats before they lead to mass casualties. FBI Houston joined forces with agents in Beaumont to put together a Domestic Terrorism Training Session. The three-day long event began Monday and will run through Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KHON-Fox/CW (Honolulu, HI): DOJ recovers \$2.3 million in Big Island corruption case, Nicole Napuunoa, Max Rodriguez, July 25, 2022, 6:38 PM

U.S. Attorney Clare Connors announced a series of public corruption charges on Monday. An investigation, carried out by the FBI, found four individuals sought to deprive Hawaii County of affordable housing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRDW-CBS (Augusta, GA): FBI warns parents against sextortion scams targeting kids, Clare Allen, July 25, 2022, 6:22 PM

You probably hear a lot about scams targeting you or older adults. But the FBI is warning parents about sextortion scams targeting their kids. The FBI says in Georgia, cases like these doubled from 21 last year to 50 through 6 months of 2022. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WKRN-ABC (Nashville, TN): US Marshals searching for vehicular homicide suspects from 2020 Bell Road crash, Lucas Wright, July 25, 2022, 6:05 PM

Metro police and U.S. Marshals are attempting to locate a couple with multiple outstanding arrest warrants. Jose Damaso-Hernandez, now 25, and Sadia Bonilla-Gomez, now 22, are wanted for their roles in the deaths of Dalton Williams and Samantha Peevyhouse, of Centerville, in August of 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOL-CBS (Toledo, OH): Toledo police, U.S. Marshals arrest 127 people in operation targeting gangs and guns, Jay Skebba, July 25, 2022, 5:50 PM

The Toledo Police Department and United States Marshals Service made over 100 arrests in a two-month operation targeting gun violence and gang activity in the city. Operation Triple Beam wrapped up last week. The

collaborative effort focused on taking violent fugitives and gang members off the streets with an emphasis on violent crime, habitual offenders, and gun and drug seizures. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWTV-CBS (Oklahoma City, OK): Most Wanted: US Marshals Searching For Haley Spry, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 5:10 PM

US Marshals are looking for help from the public to find one of their Most Wanted suspects. They say they're looking for Haley Spry, who was put on five years' probation in May for helping a man run a home where meth was sold. Marshals say she then violated that probation, and a warrant was issued for her arrest. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAGA- Fox (Atlanta, GA): US Marshals Task Force officer shot during murder arrest expected to make 'full recovery', Lucas Wright, July 25, 2022, 3:50 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service Task Force officer shot by a teenage murder suspect during an arrest in Fayette County was discharged from the hospital on Sunday. FOX 5 Atlanta has learned the man's name is William Helton, and he's been with the Coweta County Sheriff's Office for 22 years. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDJT-CBS (Milwaukee, WI): Waukesha County Metro Drug Unit to become DEA Task Force later this year, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 12:50 PM

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Office announced Monday, July 25, their Metro Drug Unit is in the process of transitioning into a DEA task force later this year. According to a news release from the sheriff's office, the Metro Drug Unit has been in existence for over 25 years, is led by the Waukesha County Sheriff's Office, and is made up of several Waukesha County law enforcement agencies. The Metro Drug Unit investigates local drug complaints of production and distribution of controlled substances within Waukesha County. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

ABC: Ghislaine Maxwell moved to a low-security prison in Florida for 20-year sentence, James Hill, Luke Barr, and Aaron Katersky, July 25, 2022, 2:50 PM

Ghislaine Maxwell has been moved to a low-security federal prison in Florida to serve her 20-year sentence for sex trafficking, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Maxwell, who has filed notice that she intends to appeal her conviction and sentence, is currently listed as an inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tallahassee. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Post](#)

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): Federal judge in Alabama dismisses Joe Nathan James Jr.'s request for stay of execution James Hill, Ivana Hrynkiw, July 25, 2022, 5:27 PM

A federal judge has denied an Alabama Death Row inmate's request for a stay of execution. U.S. Southern District Judge Terry F. Moorer issued an order on Monday dismissing Joe Nathan James Jr.'s motion for a stay, writing James "has not carried his burden of persuasion." [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Bloomberg: Harvard Urges Supreme Court to Preserve Affirmative Action in College Admissions, Greg Stohr, July 25, 2022, 2:11 PM

Harvard urged the US Supreme Court to preserve affirmative action in college admissions, calling it necessary to ensure a diverse student body. The Ivy League school filed its brief Monday in one of the most highly anticipated of the court's upcoming cases. After the court's recent overturning of Roe v. Wade and the

expansion of concealed-carry gun rights, the abolition of affirmative action at elite universities is high on conservatives' wish list. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Tyson Asks Supreme Court to Overturn Covid Liability Ruling, Bruce Rolfsen, July 25, 2022, 11:39 AM

Tyson Foods Inc. has asked the US Supreme Court to consider overturning an appeals court decision that found a Trump administration executive order didn't protect the meatpacker from Covid-19 liability lawsuits filed by the families of dead workers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Law360: Okla. Tax Officials Look To End Choctaws' Post-McGirt Suit, Andrew Westney, July 25, 2022, 8:29 PM

Oklahoma tax officials have urged a federal court to toss a suit by two Choctaw Nation members who claim the U.S. Supreme Court's McGirt decision took away the state's power to tax income earned on the tribe's reservation, with the officials arguing that the federal Tax Injunction Act bars the court from hearing the suit.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Modoc Tribal Leaders Say Loan Claims Belong In Arbitration, Joyce Hanson, July 25, 2022, 6:55 PM

An Oklahoma tribal entity has asked a Pennsylvania federal judge to order arbitration in a proposed class action claiming that tribal leaders helped run a loan company charging exorbitantly high interest rates, arguing that the lead plaintiff signed agreements saying he would arbitrate disputes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Marijuana Moment: Schumer Helps Launch Marijuana Equity Initiative In New York After Filing Federal Legalization Bill, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 1:15 PM

Days after filing a much-anticipated federal marijuana legalization bill, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) joined advocates and community leaders in New York City on Sunday to launch a new cannabis resource center that's meant to promote equity in the state's marijuana market. The leader said that New York's cannabis law, and its equity components in particular, should serve as a model for the rest of the country. But while the state's reform move is a positive step, he stressed the need for a federal policy change in order to most effectively achieve social justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

NPR: [AUDIO] The battle against the opioid industry; Conservative judge turns to romantic fiction, Unattributed, July 25, 2022, 1:17 PM

Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family are a big part of this story about the availability of opioids — but there's much more to it. Washington Post investigative reporters Sari Horwitz and Scott Higham join us to talk about their new book, "American Cartel." And, Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III talks about why he decided to write the romantic novel "Love at Deep Dusk." [[Listen](#)]

Booth Newspapers (Grand Rapids, MI): Grand Rapids doctor barred from prescribing controlled substances in court settlement, Melissa Frick, July 25, 2022, 8:28 PM

A Grand Rapids doctor has been barred from prescribing controlled substances in a federal court settlement after he allegedly forged opioid prescriptions for his own use. Dr. David Sova entered a settlement agreement with the United States, in which he agreed to a court order to never prescribe controlled substances, according to a July 25 news release from the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Western District of Michigan. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

WaPo: Biden moves to reinstate health protections for LGBTQ Americans, Dan Diamond and Rachel Roubein, July 25, 2022, 7:32 PM

The Biden administration on Monday afternoon moved to restore protections for LGBTQ Americans and other groups seeking health services that were struck down during the Trump era, saying that the rule would also cover pregnant women seeking health care services, including abortion. The proposed rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services seeks to clarify that discrimination on the basis of sex includes decisions regarding "pregnancy termination." This comes as the federal health department has already pointed to federal civil rights laws — including portions of Obamacare — to caution pharmacists about denying access to medications that can be used for abortions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

NYT, The Daily: [AUDIO] How Roe's Demise Could Safeguard Gay Marriage, Michael Barbaro, July 26, 2022, 6:00 AM

After Roe v. Wade was overturned, Democrats introduced a bill to prevent the right to gay marriage from meeting the same fate as the right to abortion. The bill was expected to go nowhere, but it has won more and more Republican support and now seems to have a narrow path to enactment. [[Listen](#)]

CBS: GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley alleges widespread effort in FBI, Justice Dept to downplay negative information about Hunter Biden, Catherine Herridge, July 25, 2022, 8:04 PM

"Highly credible" whistleblowers have come forward to a senior Senate Republican alleging a widespread effort within the FBI to downplay or discredit negative information about President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, according to letters reviewed by CBS News. "The information provided to my office involves concerns about the FBI's receipt and use of derogatory information relating to Hunter Biden, and the FBI's false portrayal of acquired evidence as disinformation," GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley wrote FBI Director Christopher Wray and Attorney General Merrick Garland on July 25. "The volume and consistency of these allegations substantiate their credibility and necessitate this letter." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Times](#)

NBC: Congress sprints to address drug pricing, same-sex marriage and more before recess, Scott Wong and Sahil Kapur, July 25, 2022, 5:37 PM

A rush of Covid-19 infections and bad weather threaten to delay key elements of Democrats' agenda during an already-hectic final sprint to a monthlong [sic] August recess. Congress is seeking to pass a drug pricing and health care funding bill, a computer chips package, a bill to protect same-sex and interracial marriage and a host of other election-year priorities during a critical two-week stretch. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Grassley Urges DOJ To Protect Americans From MLAT Abuse, Caleb Symons, July 25, 2022, 8:04 PM

Sen. Chuck Grassley, of Iowa, is pressing the U. S. Department of Justice to tighten its defense of American citizens who are prosecuted by foreign countries for political reasons after federal authorities said last year that

many cases originating overseas do not meet their "stringent" legal standards. In a letter last week to Attorney General Merrick Garland, Grassley said India abuses its mutual legal assistance treaty with the United States — a topic that has drawn scrutiny with New Delhi accused of trying to extradite an entrepreneur whose company won a \$1.3 billion arbitral award against the Indian government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Senate Dems set to roll out funding bills as shutdown threat approaches, Aris Folley, July 26, 2022, 5:20 AM

An Oklahoma tribal entity has asked a Pennsylvania federal judge to order arbitration in a proposed class action claiming that tribal leaders helped run a loan company charging exorbitantly high interest rates, arguing that the lead plaintiff signed agreements saying he would arbitrate disputes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Axios: Six House staffers arrested while protesting in Chuck Schumer's office, Jacob Knutson, July 25, 2022, 3:00 PM

Six House staffers were arrested on Monday for protesting for legislation to address climate change in Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's (D-N.Y.) office, demanding he restart negotiations with Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), according to Capitol Police. Why it matters: After bipartisan energy talks crumbled last month, it left the door open for Democrats to pursue climate legislation in a potential second reconciliation package, though they would need Manchin's vote for it to pass. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: JULY 25, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Major Elliott Garrett

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- A fast-moving wildfire in a Dallas suburb is being fueled by scorching temperatures and forcing residents to evacuate. Excessive heat warnings and advisories are in the forecast for the Pacific Northwest and more than 50 million Americans are under severe thunderstorm watches. Record high temperatures across the country are fueling wildfires in 15 states. The Oak Fire is burning in Northern California, with smoke now visible from space. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Police say a 37-year-old woman fired several gunshots, possibly into the ceiling, near the Southwest Airlines ticket counter at Dallas's Love Field airport. A nearby officer shot and wounded her, no one else was hurt. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The World Health Organization has now declared monkeypox a "public health emergency" of international concern due to the widespread outbreak. According to the CDC, there are now nearly 2,900 confirmed cases in 44 states and the Biden administration says it may follow the WHO's lead and declare a public health emergency. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Pope Francis issued a long-awaited apology to Canada's indigenous people for decades of cultural genocide. The Pope called the abuse that indigenous children suffered at schools run by Catholic missionaries "catastrophic." [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- New video testimony released by the January 6th committee appears to show former Pres. Trump's reluctance to condemn his supporters after the Capitol riot. Marc Short, the former Chief of Staff to Mike Pence has testified before a federal grand jury investigating the Jan. 6th assault on the Capitol. Short was at the Capitol on the day of the insurrection and was with Pence as he fled and hid from rioters. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The war in Ukraine is entering its sixth month and over the weekend, the identity of two Americans who were killed in a Russian tank attack were revealed. The State Department is warning US citizens against

- coming to Ukraine, since they are not the first Americans who have died. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden gave an update on his COVID battle, saying he feels great and hopes to be back to working in person by the end of the week. His doctor says his symptoms are almost completely resolved, and he will continue to isolate at the White House residence. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
 - As inflation hits a 40-year high, there seems to be no end in sight for rising rents. Thousands of pandemic relocations, rising interest rates discouraging buyers and few tenant protections are fueling the fire, forcing many to find alternative solutions. [[CBS](#)]
 - Indiana began its special session debating legislation that, if passed, would make it the latest state around Illinois to ban or restrict abortions. [[NBC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- “Investors Look Beyond Expected Fed Rate Rise” [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#)]
- “Is a U.S. recession looming? Has it already arrived? Here’s why scrambled indicators are making it hard to say.” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#)]
- “Biden poised for big wins in Congress” [[WaPo](#)]
- “Europe Checks Its Thermostats as Russia Crimps Natural-Gas Supplies” [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#)]

END

RENDON Media News Alert Notice:

This RENDON product is distributed as part of a deliverable for the DOJ News Clipping Service Solicitation 15JPSS18RQZM00005 for for DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov.

The original recipient is currently subscribed to doj-digests as: DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov

To unsubscribe, please email DOJ.News.Clips.Shared.Mailbox@usdoj.gov with "UNSUBSCRIBE ME" in the subject line. Your request will be processed within 7 business days.

From: DOJ Digests <doj-digests@rendon.com>

To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk <dojdesk@rendon.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Weekend Digest

Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2022 12:50:34 -0500

Importance: Normal

**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
July 9, 2022
2:00 PM EST**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Department of Justice News
2. Operation North Star
3. National Security
4. Jan. 6 Committee
5. Criminal Law
6. Civil Rights
7. Civil Law
8. Immigration & Border Security
9. Antitrust
10. Environment
11. Tax
12. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
13. Criminal Justice/Corrections
14. US Supreme Court
15. Native American Affairs
16. Marijuana Legalization
17. Opioid Crisis
18. Administration
19. Congress
20. Network Evening News Lineup
21. Afternoon Headlines

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Fox: Dan Bongino on Supreme Court Justice 'harassment': Biden's DOJ is a 'cosmic level embarrassment', Unattributed, July 9, 2022, 11:05 AM

Answering to whether Biden's Department of Justice takes harassment and threats against Supreme Court justices seriously, "Unfiltered" host Dan Bongino called the DOJ a "disgrace," and a "cosmic level embarrassment" under U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland on "Fox & Friends Weekend" Saturday.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: **[OPINION] Merrick Garland is failing in his duty to protect Supreme Court justices**, Quin Hillyer, July 8, 2022, 2:36 PM

By failing to arrest and prosecute people who harass Supreme Court justices, Attorney General Merrick Garland is dangerously, almost criminally guilty of supreme dereliction of duty. The issue arises yet again after Justice Brett Kavanaugh felt compelled to leave a Washington, D.C., steakhouse through a back door to avoid what the restaurant itself described as “unruly protesters” who “unduly harassed” not just Kavanaugh but “all of our other patrons at the restaurant.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPERATION NORTH STAR

WBBM (Chicago, IL): **During 'Operation North Star,' U.S. marshals arrested over 1,400 people in 30 days — including 156 in Chicago**, Brandon Ison, July 7, 2022, 6:14 PM

More than 1,400 violent criminals were taken into custody by federal and local task forces nationwide as part of Operation North Star, which targeted the most violent offenders in 10 major U.S. cities, including Chicago. Thursday afternoon, U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois LaDon Reynolds announced that 156 Chicago-area arrests had been made as part of Operation North Star during the month of June. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WLS-ABC (Chicago, IL): **US Marshals take 1,500 of country's most violent criminals off the streets in special operation**, John García, July 7, 2022, 5:06 PM

More than 1,500 of the country's most violent criminals are now off the streets as part of the Justice Department's "Operation North Star." Arrests were made in 10 cities, including Chicago. As U.S. Marshals showed up to arrest 19-year-old Terrion Johnson on murder charges, they say he opened fire at them, injuring a senior Marshall and K-9. Both are recovering, but Johnson is now facing additional federal charges. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WBBM-CBS \(Chicago, IL\)](#)

WHBQ-Fox (Memphis, TN): **US Marshals' operation results in 122 arrests in the Mid-South, officials say**, Unattributed, July 6, 2022, 3:35 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service conducted a 30-day initiative called Operation North Star (ONS) that resulted in the arrest of 122 fugitives, sex offenders, and violent criminals wanted in the Bluff City. ONS was a high-impact fugitive apprehension initiative focusing on the country's most violent offenders in 10 cities, including Memphis, a release said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: **Oath Keeper brought explosives to D.C. ahead of Jan. 6 attack, prosecutor says**, David Morgan, July 9, 2022, 11:57 AM

A member of the Oath Keepers extremist group brought explosives to the Washington, D.C., area ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump, according to the U.S. Justice Department. In a court filing federal prosecutors alleged that Jeremy Brown, an Oath Keepers member from Florida, drove explosives to a Virginia hotel in his recreational vehicle on Jan. 6. A second member of the group, Thomas Caldwell, was later found in possession of a "death list" that included the name of a Georgia election official, according to the document. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Politico](#) , [Axios](#), [UPI](#)

Reuters: **Putin warns West: sanctions risk energy price spike catastrophe**, Guy Faulconbridge, July 8, 2022, 12:23 PM

President Vladimir Putin warned the West on Friday that continued sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine risked triggering catastrophic energy price rises for consumers around the world. Putin, who casts the sanctions imposed on Russia as a declaration of economic war, said that Western calls to reduce reliance on Russian energy had made global markets "feverish" with spikes in oil and gas. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#)

NYT: Florida Man Sentenced to 20 Years for Uploading Bomb-Making Video, Vimal Matel, July 9, 2022, 9:25 AM

A Florida man who had pledged support to ISIS was sentenced on Thursday to 20 years in prison for uploading a video he believed would help the terrorist group make bombs, the federal authorities said on Thursday. The man, Romeo Xavier Langhorne, 32, of St. Augustine, Fla., pleaded guilty in March 2021 to one count of providing material support to ISIS, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. The sentence, handed down in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville, also included an additional 15 years of supervised release, the statement said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [EDITORIAL] U.S.-supplied artillery is helping Ukraine's defense. Send more now, Editorial Board, July 9, 2022, 7:00 AM

Fresh from completing the conquest of Luhansk province in eastern Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin of Russia ordered his troops to rest and issued a kind of challenge to Ukraine's NATO backers. "Today we hear that they want to defeat us on the battlefield," he said Thursday. "What can you say? Let them try." President Biden responded to Mr. Putin a day later in exactly the right way: by announcing an additional military aid package for Kyiv worth \$400 million, which included four new HIMARS long-range rocket launchers. This will bring the total number of U.S. HIMARS transferred to Ukraine to 12; the German and British governments have pledged similar systems. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: How John Eastman's role in Jan. 6 still haunts the California university where he taught, Teresa Watanabe, July 8, 2022, 8:00 AM (EDT)

Try as it might, Chapman University just can't seem to get past John Eastman. The conservative legal scholar abruptly retired 18 months ago from the small private Orange County university after he appeared at then-President Trump's Jan. 6 rally, firing up the crowd with unproven allegations of election fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: Tyler Ethridge appears in court on Capitol riot charges, Jennifer McRae, July 8, 2022, 5:56 PM (EDT)

Another person with ties to Colorado has been accused of rioting at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. Tyler Etheridge appeared in court on Friday for an initial appearance. The FBI received a tip the day after the riots about Etheridge when someone recognized him from Bible College in Woodland Park. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KKTV-CBS \(Colorado Springs, CO\)](#), [KMGH-ABC \(Denver, CO\)](#), [KRDO-AM \(Colorado Springs, CO\)](#), [KUSA-NBC \(Denver, CO\)](#)

KCRG-ABC/MyNetworkTV/CW (Cedar Rapids, IA): CRCSD will resume summer operation on Monday after "cybersecurity incident", give no specific details over incident, Ethan Stein, July 8, 2022, 11:05 PM (EDT)

According to an email to parents, The Cedar Rapids Community School District will resume summer operation on Monday, July 11. The email gives no specific information related to a week-long district closure after a "cybersecurity incident" announced on July 4. [...] The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which manages cybersecurity threats across the United States within the Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI both said they are aware of the situation involving the Cedar Rapids Community School District. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KKTV-CBS (Colorado Springs, CO): Colorado Springs man who served as a pastor arrested for alleged

role in U.S. Capitol riot, Tony Keith, July 8, 2022, 7:49 PM

A Colorado Springs man allegedly filmed himself storming the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 saying he would probably lose his job as a pastor for doing so. The Department of Justice shared some details on the case against 33-year-old Tyler Ethridge with the public on Friday. You can read the charging document at the bottom of this article. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KGW-NBC (Portland, OR): Capitol riot suspect from Southwest Washington sentenced to 21 days in prison, Kyle Iboshi, July 8, 2022, 7:44 PM (EDT)

A Battle Ground man who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge for his role in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol has been sentenced to 21 days in prison and supervised release. Jeremy Grace, 38, was among the very first wave of rioters to enter the U.S. Capitol building, according to federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE

AP: 4 days in January: Trump push for Capitol coda to 2020 vote, Lisa Mascaro, July 9, 2022, 11:00 AM

It would have been something never quite before seen in America — a defeated president, Donald Trump, standing at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, with a mob of supporters, some armed, contesting the election outcome. Trump intended to go there that day. His allies had been planning for the moment, envisioning the president delivering a speech outside the building or even entering the House chamber amid objections to Congress certifying the 2020 election results for Democrat Joe Biden. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Trump WH counsel Cipollone meets with 1/6 panel for 8 hours, Lisa Mascaro and Farnoush Amiri, July 8, 2022, 6:26 PM

Former White House counsel Pat Cipollone met for a private interview with the Jan. 6 committee for about eight hours Friday regarding his role in trying to prevent then-President Donald Trump from challenging the 2020 presidential election and joining the violent mob that laid siege to the Capitol. Cipollone, once a staunch presidential confidant who had defended Trump during his first impeachment trial, had been reluctant to appear formally for an on-record interview. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CNN](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [Politico](#) [WSJ](#)

Reuters: Steve Bannon's lawyer asks to leave Jan. 6-related case, says he may be witness, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 10:13 AM

A lawyer for Steve Bannon is seeking to withdraw from representing the adviser to former President Donald Trump in his criminal contempt case, citing the possibility of being called as a witness at trial, a court document on Friday showed. Bannon was charged last year with two counts of contempt of Congress for defying a subpoena issued by a House of Representatives committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Trump considers waiving claim of executive privilege for Steve Bannon, Isaac Stanley-Becker, Josh Dawsey and Jacqueline Alemany, July 8, 2022, 5:31 PM

Former President Donald Trump is considering sending a letter to Stephen K. Bannon saying that he is waiving his claim of executive privilege, potentially clearing the way for his former chief strategist to testify before the House select committee investigating the pro-Trump riot at the Capitol. The letter would reiterate that Trump invoked executive privilege in September 2021, when Bannon was first subpoenaed by the House committee. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Oath Keepers Founder Offers Jan. 6 Testimony If Hearing Public, Billy House, July 8, 2022, 4:02 PM

The founder of the Oath Keepers militia group, Elmer Stewart Rhodes, is willing to testify to the House Committee investigating the Jan. 6 assault on the US Capitol, his attorney said, but only if it is during a public session. "He's willing to waive his Fifth Amendment rights, he wants to testify in public, and he wants to testify live," James Lee Bright said in a telephone interview. "I don't think they'll go along with that." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Jan. 6 Committee Is Considering a Prime-Time Hearing for Next Week, Billy House, July 8, 2022, 9:58 AM

The House committee investigating the insurrection at the US Capitol is considering a second televised hearing next week, this one in prime time on Thursday, people familiar with the planning said. Those people did not provide a specific topic, or say whether the tentative hearing, which would be the committee's eighth since June, would be its last one until a late August or September presentation of a report on its findings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Evidence of firearms in Jan. 6 crowd grows as arrests and trials mount, Tom Jackman, Rachel Weiner and Spencer S. Hsu, July 8, 2022, 9:40 AM

Some of the startling revelations of the recent blockbuster Jan. 6 House committee hearing came in snippets of police radio traffic captured during President Donald Trump's rally on the Ellipse and from Trump's purported response to being told there were armed protesters just outside a secured area. The chatter included reports of a man with an AR-15 in a tree on Constitution Avenue who was accompanied by two men with pistols on their hips. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

Reuters: Florida man charged with selling fake Cisco equipment in \$1 bln scheme, Jonathan Stempel, July 8, 2022, 4:55 PM

U.S. prosecutors on Friday announced the arrest of a Florida man accused of importing counterfeit Cisco networking equipment that if authentic would be worth more than \$1 billion, and reselling the fake products on Amazon.com, eBay and elsewhere. Onur Aksoy, 38, of Miami, allegedly worked with suppliers in China and Hong Kong from 2013 to 2022 to import tens of thousands of fake devices through at least 19 entities in New Jersey and Florida dubbed the Pro Network. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Middletown Press (Middletown, CT): Feds: Man sentenced to three months in prison for construction project scheme, Ben Lambert, July 9, 2022, 11:00 AM

A New Hampshire man was sentenced to three months in prison Friday after allegedly defrauding his employer of more than \$40,000 through his role in managing construction projects, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for Connecticut. William Sacco, 49, of Pelham, N.H., previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in February. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Magnolia State Live: Former postal worker sentenced for stabbing Mississippi postmaster with screwdriver, Unattributed, July 9, 2022, 5:39 AM

A Southaven woman was sentenced today to five years and three months in prison for assaulting an employee of the United States. According to court documents, Tamekia Scott, 36, a former U.S. Postal employee, forcibly assaulted the Postmaster of the U.S. Post Office in Hernando on July 13, 2021, by stabbing the woman with a screwdriver. The victim was engaged in the official performance of her duties at the time of the attack that resulted in bodily injury. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Bharat Express News: US: CEO of 19 companies accused of selling fake Cisco devices worth \$1 billion, Unattributed, July 9, 2022, 5:00 AM

A US court has charged a man who ran 19 companies and owned at least 15 Amazon storefronts, 10 eBay storefronts and multiple other entities that sold fraudulent and counterfeit Cisco network devices worth \$1 billion. A federal grand jury in the New Jersey district has accused Miami Onur Aksoy, aka Ron Aksoy, aka Dave Durden, 38, of leading a massive operation for many years to trade fraudulent and counterfeit Cisco network equipment with an estimated retail value of over \$1 billion.. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fulton Sun (Fulton, MO): **Fulton man receives over 10 years on meth, firearm charges**, Michael Shine, July 9, 2022, 4:00 AM

A Fulton man was sentenced in federal court Friday on charges of possession of methamphetamine to distribute and illegal possession of a firearm over a 2019 case. Antonio Jerome Beard, 46, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Roseann Ketchmark to 10 years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Albuquerque Journal: **Albuquerque man sentenced to 14 years for armed robbery**, Raul Flores, July 8, 2022, 11:26 PM

A 24-year-old Albuquerque man has been sentenced to more than 14 years in prison for threatening people with a gun and robbing an insurance business in 2019. A federal jury convicted Jacquan Abe in February of armed robbery, assault with intent to commit a violent felony and aggravated battery charges in the case. U.S. Chief District Judge William Johnson sentenced him Thursday to 14 years and three months in prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Times Leader (Wilkes-Barre, PA): **Hazleton man sentenced on federal drug, fraud charges**, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 10:00 PM

A Hazleton man was sentenced on Friday to 25 years imprisonment on combined drug trafficking and pandemic unemployment fraud offenses. Fredy Mendoza, 34, was sentenced by District Judge Malachy E. Mannion to 300 months in prison for methamphetamine trafficking and 18 months for pandemic unemployment fraud, to be served concurrent with the meth trafficking sentence. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WOLF-Fox \(Hazleton, PA\)](#)

The Bakersfield Californian: **Bakersfield man gets nearly 4-year sentence for federal weapons charge**, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 7:00 PM

A Bakersfield man was sentenced Friday for a federal weapons charge, according to a Department of Justice news release. Spencer Manning, 28, of Bakersfield, was sentenced to three years and 10 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. On Oct. 13, 2021, Manning was inside a Bakersfield grocery store when loss-prevention staff observed him placing store merchandise into his backpack, according to court documents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Deming Headlight (Deming, NM): **Deming man pleads guilty to production of child pornography**, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 8:12 PM (EDT)

Alexander M.M. Uballez, United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, announced that Guillermo Rodriguez Garcia pleaded guilty on July 6 to production of a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Garcia, 40, of Deming, New Mexico, will remain in custody pending sentencing, which has not been scheduled. In his plea agreement, Garcia admitted that on Aug. 27, 2021, he produced a video of himself engaging in sexual conduct with a victim who was 12 years old. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, CA): **Seven indicted for drug trafficking in South Lake Tahoe during 'Operation Bear Trap'**, Dante Motley, July 8, 2022, 6:58 PM (EDT)

A federal grand jury has indicted six South Lake Tahoe residents and one Sacramento resident in connection with a drug trafficking ring, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Friday. Prosecutors say the seven worked together from August 2020 to May of this year, according to court documents, in an intertwined effort to sell methamphetamine and heroin around South Lake Tahoe. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Buffalo News: **Central New Yorker gets eight years for robbing banks in Buffalo, outside Rochester**, Scott Scanlon, July 8, 2022, 6:00 PM

Aman from outside Syracuse was sentenced Friday to more than eight years in federal prison for robbing banks in Buffalo and a Rochester suburb, as well as trying to rob a bank in Niagara Falls. U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer handed down the 100-month sentence to Michael Tyo, 34, of Liverpool. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Post-Standard \(Syracuse, NY\)](#)

Vacaville Reporter (Vacaville, CA): **Fed grand jury indicts Vallejo man, 38, for drug possession with intent to distribute**, Richard Bammer, July 8, 2022, 5:55 PM

A federal grand jury on Friday in Sacramento returned a two-count indictment against a 38-year-old Vallejo man, charging him with possessing methamphetamine with intent to distribute and being a felon in possession of a firearm, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California said. Christopher Matthew Rougeau will return to court for a status conference at 9 a.m. Aug. 22, when he will face Senior Judge William B. Shubb. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arizona Republic: **Chandler woman sentenced to 10 years for 2019 fatal stabbing**, Laura Daniella Sepulveda, July 8, 2022, 4:49 PM

A Chandler woman was sentenced to 10 years in prison Wednesday after pleading guilty to stabbing and killing a woman in 2019, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona. The woman was identified as Alanna Marleice Jackson, 23. According to a statement released by the U.S. Attorney's Office on Thursday, Jackson and a man identified as Jose Luis Carpio, 25, fatally stabbed a woman on Oct. 27, 2019. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Ex-Monessen man sentenced to 5 years in prison on drug charges**, Joe Napsa, July 8, 2022, 4:00 PM

A 27-year-old former Monessen man will spend five years in a federal prison for attempting to distribute cocaine in Monessen last year, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh. Shaiquane Harrison was sentenced Friday by federal Judge William S. Stickman in Pittsburgh after he pleaded guilty on March 2 to attempting to possess with the intent to deliver 500 grams or more of cocaine he had received in the mail, according to court documents. The judge recommended that Harrison, who also will serve four years of probation, be placed in a federal prison close to Pittsburgh. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFGO-AM (Fargo, ND): **Man sentenced to 40 years for fatal attack in St. Francis**, Ashley Jung, July 9, 2022, 9:38 AM

A man accused of a fatal attack after breaking into a St. Francis home last year has been sentenced to 40 years in federal prison. A federal judge also ordered 23-year-old Isaiah Young to serve five years of supervised release for second-degree murder. Lange on Thursday imposed a 10-year sentence for assault with a dangerous weapon to run concurrently with the 40-year term. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFGO-AM (Fargo, ND): **West St. Paul felon charged with drug trafficking, firearms violations**, Unattributed, July 9, 2022, 6:43 AM

A West St. Paul man has been indicted for cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking and firearms violations. According to court documents, on two separate occasions between January 2021 and May 2022, Christopher Allen Stengle, 32, possessed quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine and two semi-automatic pistols. Stengle has multiple prior felony convictions in Ramsey, Anoka, and Washington Counties. He is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTAR- ABC/Compass Media Networks/Westwood One (Glendale, AZ): **Arizona man sentenced to 4 years**

in prison for human smuggling, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 11:00 PM (EDT)

An Arizona man was sentenced to four years in prison for his role in smuggling undocumented immigrants into the United States, authorities said Thursday. Benjamin Gallegos, 24, of Tucson, previously pleaded guilty on Feb. 3 to conspiracy to transport and harbor undocumented immigrants for profit for his role in organizing, managing and supervising others within an organization that smuggled individuals, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona said in a press release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WOWT-NBC (Omaha, NE): Federal court sentences Iowa man to over 2 years for assault on an officer, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 9:21 PM

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska reported weekly sentencing updates. U.S. Attorney Jan Sharp's office in Omaha reminds the public that there is no parole in the federal system. Anthony Dwayne Jackson, 39, of Lincoln, was sentenced Thursday by Judge John M. Gerrard sentenced Jackson to almost 10 years for distribution of 50 grams or more of actual methamphetamine and 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine with a prior serious drug felony conviction. In an investigation with the Lincoln/Lancaster County Narcotics Task Force, Jackson was arrested last April and officers found about an ounce of meth, a digital scale with assumed meth residue, and a number of baggies. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KCPQ-Fox (Seattle, WA): Former National Guard member sentenced to 4 years in prison for sending child porn overseas, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 8:59 PM

A Maple Valley man and former National Guard member was sentenced to four years in prison for molesting a young child and sending child porn overseas. 56-year-old Paul Von Nahme was arrested in April 2021 after an overseas law enforcement agency reported that he was using a social media platform to send images of child sexual abuse. The agency also reported Von Nahme was making claims online that he raped a 9-year-old child. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJXT-CW (Jacksonville, FL): Man gets 9 years in prison for Regency-area bank robbery, Erik Avancier, July 8, 2022, 8:33 PM

A 39-year-old Jacksonville man was sentenced Friday to nine years and six months in federal prison for his role in an armed robbery at a Wells Fargo on Regency Square Boulevard, according to a news release from the Department of Justice. Brett Amante was arrested in February 2021 and pleaded guilty to charges on Feb. 22 of this year. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): Georgia man pleads guilty to possessing a firearm as a felon, Nicole Sanders, July 8, 2022, 8:33 PM

A Bainbridge, Georgia, man is facing up to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, according to The United States Attorney's Office for Middle District Georgia. James Currin, 44, was under investigation as of September 2019 for distribution of methamphetamine and illegal possession of various firearms. On April 1, 2020, Decatur County deputies learned that six stolen firearms were traded to Currin in exchange for meth. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSLI-ABC/Westwood One (Salt Lake City, UT): Utah working with DEA sought to tip off suspect about wiretap, but not for obvious reasons, Annie Knox, July 8, 2022, 8:15 PM (EDT)

A longtime interpreter who used to work on federal narcotics cases in Utah admitted he tried to warn a suspect last year about a wiretap, but not to protect any criminal network or for a kickback. [...] Araujo, 36, was trying to "buy some relief," U.S. District Judge David Barlow said in federal court in Salt Lake City on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WVNS-CBS/Fox (Lewisburg, WV): Beckley woman pleads guilty to Heroin, Meth distribution, Harper Emch, July 8, 2022, 5:14 PM

A Beckley woman pleaded guilty on Friday to the distribution of a quantity of methamphetamine. According to court information, Brenda Crewey, 49, admitted to selling about four ounces of methamphetamine to a confidential informant at her home on February 21, 2020. Crewey also admitted to being responsible for the distribution of at least 1,000 kilograms of methamphetamine and heroin over the previous year. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KCRG-ABC (Cedar Rapids, IA): Vinton man sentenced to federal prison for distributing meth, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 4:58 PM

55-year-old Chad Allen Havens was sentenced to more than six years in federal prison after pleading guilty to two counts of distributing methamphetamine. Court documents show that on three occasions between May and September 2021, Havens distributed approximately 4 ounces of ice methamphetamine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WROC-CBS (Rochester, NY): Local man pleads guilty to rioting during civil unrest in May 2020, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 4:45 PM

Officials announced that 29-year-old Marquis Frasier of Rochester pleaded guilty to rioting after a May 2020 protest turned violent. On May 30, 2022, Frasier participated in a protest near the Public Safety Building on Exchange Street. The protest then turned violent and resulted in vandalism, looting, and fires. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WROC-CBS (Rochester, NY): Local felon arrested on drug and firearm charges, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 4:17 PM

32-year-old Jesus Santiago was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, according to U.S. Attorney Trini E. Ross. On June 23, 2022, U.S. probation officers searched Santiago's residence on Glide Street and recovered a loaded semi-automatic handgun, ammunition, marijuana, and drug packaging materials. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSWO-ABC (Lawton, OK): Former Marlow band teacher pleads guilty to sexual battery charge, Kevin Haggemiller, July 8, 2022, 3:57 PM

A former Marlow High School band director entered a plea of guilty today in Federal court on charges that he sexually abused a student. 46 year old William Joseph Daniel pleaded guilty to one count of sexual battery. A second count of rape by instrumentation was dismissed by the judge due to that plea. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS (St. Louis, MO): Mexican national pleads guilty to having more than 9 kg of methamphetamine in St. Charles, police say, Joshua Robinson, July 8, 2022, 3:26 PM

A man from Mexico pleaded guilty Friday to a federal drug crime in St. Charles. During a Feb. 19, 2020 traffic stop, police found 26 packages containing a total of nine plus kilograms of methamphetamine, a stolen gun, and \$5,046 in cash in a speaker in a pickup truck driven by 35-year-old Juan Manuel Barajas-Magana. He and his companion, Susana Esmeralda Salazar-Amaya, pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute meth. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTVI-Fox \(St. Louis, MO\)](#)

WUTR-ABC (Utica, NY): Ilion man pleads guilty to distributing child pornography, Thad Randazzo, July 8, 2022, 3:22 PM

On Friday, July 8th, the United States Department of Justice Office Northern District of New York reported that an Ilion man pled guilty to distributing and receiving child pornography. 31-year-old John Patrick Galusha has admitted that in January 2022, he willingly traded child pornography through social media on his cellphone and distributed approximately 35 files in exchange for 163 images and 7 videos of child pornography. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCCO-CBS (Minneapolis, MN): Man sentenced to more than 17 years in armed robberies of gas stations, hotel, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 3:15 PM

A Minneapolis man has been sentenced to more than 17 years in prison for robbing two gas stations and a hotel at gunpoint in February of 2020. Court documents say Keanu Dewone Ross, 30, pulled what appeared to be a firearm when he robbed a Speedway in Columbia Heights on Feb. 4, 2020. He stole \$140 in cash, tobacco, and lottery tickets and ran to his accomplice Antoinette Deniece Mae Dobyne, who was parked in an SUV a few blocks away. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCYB-NBC/CW- (Bristol, VA): Man who conspired to traffic 200 pounds of meth into SW Virginia convicted, DOJ says, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 3:00 PM

A former California man, who had recently moved to Southwest Virginia, was found guilty of conspiracy and drug distribution charges, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Guy Benjamin Bowman, 56, of Meadowview, was convicted following a three-day jury trial in United States District Court in Abingdon, United States Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh and Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares announced Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTEN-ABC (Albany, NY): Watervliet woman accused of benefits theft, Richard Roman, July 8, 2022, 2:56 PM

A woman faces charges for allegedly obtaining compensation benefits they were not entitled to. United States Attorney Carla B. Freedman said, that Eunice Ting, 68, of Watervliet was arraigned on an indictment charge of theft of government property and providing false information to collect worker's compensation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WXIN-Fox (Indianapolis, IN): Indy man had 175 grams of meth in center console, Matt Christy, July 8, 2022, 2:38 PM

A 39-year-old from Indianapolis has been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to trafficking methamphetamine. Richard Hornsby pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute meth and for carrying a firearm during and in relation to drug trafficking crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WABI-CBS/CW (Bangor, ME): Driver in fatal Acadia National Park crash to spend 41 months in prison, Allegra Zamore, July 8, 2022, 2:25 PM

A New Jersey man charged in a fatal crash that killed three people in Acadia National Park in August 2019 will serve more than three years behind bars. 31-year-old Praneeth Manubolu pleaded guilty in January to three manslaughter charges, two OUI charges, and one unsafe operation of a motor vehicle charge. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KYMA-NBC (Yuma, AZ) : Yuma Border Patrol rescue migrants, man sentenced to prison for human smuggling, Faith Rodriguez, July 8, 2022, 1:27 PM

A man was sentenced to 63 months in prison, along with five years of supervised release for illegally smuggling three immigrants into the U.S., resulting in one death. Rafael Almanza-Guillen is a 41-year-old man from Mexico and on August 1, 2021, he smuggled three undocumented immigrants from Mexico into the U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KPNX-NBC \(Phoenix, AZ\)](#)

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): Texas man sentenced to 27 years for sexual exploitation of Alabama child, Jolyn Hannah, July 8, 2022, 1:04 PM

A man from Texas has been sentenced to 27 years in federal prison after pleaded guilty in a child sexual exploitation case involving an Alabama child. According to a news release from the United States Attorney's Office Middle District of Alabama, John David Twomey, age 24, was sentenced to 324 months in federal prison on July 6, 2022, following his guilty plea at an earlier date. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWQC-NBC (Davenport, IA): Man sentenced to 30 years in prison for child pornography, extortion charges, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 12:48 PM

A Fulton, Missouri man was sentenced Thursday to 360 months; or 30 years; in federal prison for the production of child pornography and interstate communications with intent to extort charges. Chad Alan Craghead, 45, will serve five years of supervised release once he completes his prison sentence. He will also be required to register as a sex offender. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WOLF-Fox (Hazleton, PA): Local drug dealer sentenced to 11 years behind bars, Rayna McGlynn, July 8, 2022, 11:00 AM

An East Stroudsburg man was sentenced on Tuesday to 11 years in prison for drug trafficking and firearms charges. According to U.S. Attorney Gerard Karam, 44-year-old Ramon Williams pleaded guilty on May 25th to one count of possessing two handguns in furtherance of drug trafficking, and to a separate count of distributing over 28 grams of crack cocaine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTVM-ABC (Atlanta, GA): Opelika man sentenced to 10 years in prison after federal gun conviction, Jessie Gibson, July 8, 2022, 9:08 AM

An Opelika man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison following a federal gun conviction. On Thursday, July 7, 43-year-old Thaddeus Dimarggio Holstick, of Opelika, was sentenced to 120 months - or 10 years - in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to Holstick's plea agreement and other court records, in June of 2020, an officer with the Opelika Police Department saw Holstick inside a convenience store having an argument with another man. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Family of man hurt in police van seeks civil rights charges, Pat Eaton-Robb, July 8, 2022, 6:47 PM

The family of a Black man in Connecticut, paralyzed when a police van without seatbelts braked suddenly, asked federal authorities Friday to file civil rights charges against the officers involved. The driver was taking Randy Cox, 36, to a police station in New Haven, Connecticut, on June 19 for processing on a weapons charge when he braked hard to avoid a collision, police said, causing Cox to fly headfirst into the wall of the van. His family said he remains paralyzed from the chest down. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#)

NYT: [OPINION] Why Does It Take Federal Intervention to Fix the N.Y.P.D.?, Mara Gay, July 9, 2022, 11:00 AM

The saga of the Special Victims Division is the latest illustration of the extraordinary measures required to meaningfully reform the nation's largest police department. When the N.Y.P.D. conducted sweeping surveillance of Muslim communities in the years after the Sept. 11 attacks, class-action litigation was needed to put an end to the practice. When the department violated the civil rights of millions of innocent Black and Latino men by targeting them for unconstitutional police searches, years of lawsuits were needed to curb the tactic. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: New Biden Title IX rules would use civil rights office...to strip civil rights from students, Ingrid Jacques, July 9, 2022, 10:00 AM

College students across America could soon be at risk of losing fundamental rights. And they have the Biden administration to thank for that. A lot of attention has been paid to President Joe Biden's efforts to broaden the definition of "sex" in Title IX to include gender identity and sexual orientation. What hasn't gotten as much scrutiny are other changes that could undermine due process and free speech on campus. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: New Arizona law criminalizes filming police from less than 8 feet away, Lindsey Bever, July 8, 2022, 4:20 PM

A new Arizona law will make it illegal to film law enforcement encounters from closer than 8 feet away except in certain circumstances, such as when the person recording is the one being questioned by the authorities. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R) signed the bill into law on Wednesday, which will make it a misdemeanor offense to record police activity at close range after officers have issued a verbal warning. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Colorado Politics: 10th Circuit reinstates student's First Amendment lawsuit over anti-Semitic 'joke', Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 9:05 PM

A Cherry Creek High School student has credibly alleged school officials violated his First Amendment rights when they expelled him for an offensive social media post, the federal appeals court based in Denver decided on Wednesday. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit reinstated the lawsuit of a teenager identified as C.G., largely due to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling from last year limiting the authority of administrators to regulate students' off-campus speech. Senior Judge Paul J. Kelly Jr., writing for the three-judge panel that heard C.G.'s appeal, called the two cases "materially similar." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTHR-NBC (Indianapolis, IN): Former New Castle police officer charged for excessive use of force in 3 arrests, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 11:00 AM

A federal grand jury in Indianapolis charged a former New Castle Police Department officer for excessive use of force against three people. According to the indictment, 44-year-old Aaron Strong violated three people's civil rights by using unreasonable force when he arrested them, with all three injured in the incidents. The indictment also alleged Strong used dangerous weapons against two of the victims. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WISH-CW \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#)

CIVIL LAW

AP: Appeals court: Congress can see some Trump financial records, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 4:52 PM

A federal appeals court on Friday narrowed the range of documents House Democrats are entitled to in their years-long investigation of Donald Trump's finances. The decision from the federal appeals court in Washington almost certainly won't be the last word in the legal fight that began in 2019, when Trump was president and Democrats newly in charge of the House of Representatives subpoenaed a wealth of records from Trump's accounting firm, Mazars USA. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#)

Reuters: Exxon, Shell may pursue part of \$1.8 bln Nigerian award--US appeals court, Jonathan Stempel, July 8, 2022, 12:11 PM

A U.S. appeals court on Friday said Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N) and Royal Dutch Shell Plc affiliates may try to enforce part of a \$1.8 billion arbitration award against Nigeria's state-run oil company, in a dispute concerning oil extraction near the African country's coastline. In a 3-0 decision, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said a lower court judge erred in rejecting the entire October 2011 award, which by 2018 had grown to \$2.67 billion including interest, against Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: 9th Circ. Says Man's Residency Bid Nixed By Retroactive Law, Rae Varona, July 8, 2022, 8:53 PM

The Ninth Circuit on Friday declined to review a Mexican man's bid to vacate a deportation order, saying he should have applied for a green card before a law preventing inadmissible individuals from becoming lawful permanent residents took effect. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: 7th Circ. Vacates Biofuel Fraud Forfeiture Interest Ruling, Celeste Bott, July 8, 2022, 7:02 PM

The Seventh Circuit on Friday found the wife of convicted biofuel credit fraudster Joseph Furando should have been given a chance to make her case to exclude certain assets from government...[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ Says Aerojet Cybersecurity FCA Settlement Worth \$9M, Daniel Wilson, July 8, 2022, 6:47 PM
Aerojet Rocketdyne has paid \$9 million to end a high-profile False Claims Act suit alleging the company misled the government about its cybersecurity compliance, the U.S. Department of Justice said Friday as it touted a whistleblower's role in the case. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Business Journals \(Sacramento, CA\)](#), [City News Service](#), [My News LA](#)

Law360; Checking In On DOJ's Promised White Collar Crackdown, Ilan Graff, July 8, 2022, 5:17 PM
In October 2021, Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General John P. Carlin announced that the U.S. Department of Justice was building up a surge in resources for white collar enforcement,^[1] a theme...
[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WRIC-ABC (Richmond, VA): Two plead guilty to racketeering conspiracy in 'grandparent scam' that stole thousands of dollars from elderly, Ivy Tan, July 8, 2022, 5:47 PM
The U.S. Department of Justice announced in a release on Friday, July 8, that two scammers have been convicted for their involvement in a large-scale "grandparent scam" that resulted in the theft of thousands of dollars from elderly Americans. According to the DOJ's release, 74-year-old Lyda Harris, of Laveen, Arizona, and 35-year-old Tracy Ginton, of Orlando, Florida, pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy. The DOJ also noted that Harris had been extradited to the U.S. from Albania on Nov. 12, 2021. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: Four U.S. border agency employees could face discipline over treatment of Haitian migrants, Mica Rosenberg and Ted Hesson, July 8, 2022, 5:44 PM
Four employees from U.S Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have been referred for disciplinary review over their treatment of Haitian migrants who they sought to push back across the Rio Grande using horses last September, officials said on Friday as the agency released a more than 500-page report on the widely filmed and photographed incident. CBP Commissioner Chris Magnus in a press conference stressed the disciplinary process related to the Sept. 19 incident was ongoing, and he did not identify the employees. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)
See also: [LAT](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)

NYT: Review Finds Agents Used Unnecessary Force Against Black Migrants, Eileen Sullivan and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, July 9, 2022, 2:22 AM
Border Patrol agents on horseback used "unnecessary" force in September against Black migrants who crossed into Del Rio, Texas, en masse, amid a humanitarian crisis that exposed the Biden administration's struggle to manage a record number of southwestern border crossings. In the absence of clear instructions from their supervisors, the agents took commands from the Texas state police and improperly "used force or the threat of force" to drive migrants back into the Rio Grande. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

LAT: Children separated from relatives at the border could be reunited under new Biden program, Hamed Aleaziz, July 8, 2022, 5:59 PM (EDT)
After the girl's grandfather died, she traveled from Guatemala to the Texas border with her uncle. Border Patrol agents separated them. The girl, then 10, ended up in foster care, while her uncle was deported, according to her attorney, Miriam Enriquez. Such painful separations could be avoided under a new Biden administration program that will allow children to quickly reunite with relatives like uncles and grandparents at the border.
[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: 'Dreamers,' DACA and Biden's First Try on Immigration: What to Know, Laura Litvan and Erik Larson, July 8, 2022, 11:16 AM

The young immigrants known in the US as Dreamers, and the federal program known as DACA that was designed to protect them from deportation, have dominated the fraught debate over immigration reform in Washington for the better part of a decade. President Joe Biden wants to put Dreamers on a fast track to citizenship. But nine states are suing to have DACA declared illegal, which could lead to these immigrants being kicked out of the country. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: [OPINION] Punishment of Border Patrol agents is about protecting a president, not migrants, Jonathan Turley, July 9, 2022, 9:30 AM

President Eisenhower once said that "The search for a scapegoat is the easiest of all hunting expeditions." When it comes to subordinates, that can become a virtual canned hunt for a president. Worse yet, presidents often use other subordinates to pull the trigger. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: Leaked data show US bracing for 161,000 unaccompanied children at border this year, Anna Giaritelli, July 9, 2022, 7:00 AM

The Department of Homeland Security anticipates as many as 161,000 children coming across the border alone without a parent or guardian this year, surpassing last year's record, according to federal data obtained by the Washington Examiner. The soaring numbers of children traveling north to the United States with the aid of cartels, which charge families thousands of dollars each to transport a child, has remained unchecked since President Joe Biden took office a year and a half ago. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: 9th Circ. Says Man's Residency Bid Nixed By Retroactive Law, Rae Ann Varona, July 8, 2022, 8:53 PM

The Ninth Circuit on Friday declined to review a Mexican man's bid to vacate a deportation order, saying he should have applied for a green card before a law preventing inadmissible... [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: ICE Agrees To Stop Use Of Contractors In California Arrests, Rae Ann Varona, July 8, 2022, 6:16 PM

Private contractors will no longer be used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to make immigration arrests at California jails and prisons, as part of a settlement ICE reached with a... [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFOX-Fox (El Paso, TX): 93 migrants, 3 stash houses found by El Paso Sector Border Patrol, Fallon Fischer, July 8, 2022, 11:16 PM (EDT)

U.S. Border Patrol Agents from the El Paso Sector found 93 migrants and three stash houses over the last several days, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. On Tuesday, agents received information of possible smuggled migrants being in the Segundo Barrio area in El Paso. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KQED-PBS/NPR (San Francisco, CA): ICE Detainees Protested \$1-a-Day Wage. Now They're in Solitary Confinement, Farida Jhabvala Romero, July 8, 2022, 7:49 PM (EDT)

Two immigrant detainees have been held in solitary confinement for over a week for backing a labor strike seeking better wages and conditions at the privately run facility where they are held in Bakersfield, the men told KQED. [...] Mohamed Mousa and Pedro Figueroa said they were moved to a restricted housing unit after signing a declaration on June 28 that they and 15 others were joining a months-long peaceful work stoppage by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees who are paid \$1 a day to clean dormitories and bathrooms. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFOX-Fox (El Paso, TX): CBP Air and Marine Operations provide advantage to Border Patrol from above,

Jonathan Mejia, July 8, 2022, 7:27 PM (EDT)

KFOX14 was able to fly along with U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in their helicopter over the Borderland skies. The aerial view provides authorities an advantage from the sky. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KENS-CBS (San Antonio, TX): Border Patrol Chief chimes in on Gov. Abbott's executive order to arrest and return migrants to the border, Zack Briggs, July 8, 2022, 6:54 PM (EDT)

The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is now reacting to Governor Greg Abbott's executive order that permits state authorities to apprehend and return migrants to the southern border. Commissioner Chris Magnus spoke during a press conference Friday to announce recommended disciplinary actions for four Border Patrol agents who according to a 511-page report, used 'unnecessary' force in a 2021 confrontation near Del Rio involving Haitian immigrants. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KVIA-ABC/CW+ (El Paso, TX): CBP officers foil multiple concealment efforts to smuggle hard narcotics in El Paso, David Gonzalez, July 8, 2022, 6:35 PM (EDT)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers say they made multiple seizures for hard narcotics in the El Paso area over the last week. Drugs included fentanyl, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. Concealment attempts included hiding drugs under clothing, in bras and in cars. Some pedestrians had drugs strapped to their backs and stomachs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Reuters: Google offers concessions to avoid U.S. antitrust lawsuit -WSJ, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 2:38 PM

Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) Google has offered concessions to avoid a potential U.S. antitrust lawsuit alleging that the company abuses its clout in the advertising technology business, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter. Google has proposed spinning off parts of its business that auctions and places ads on websites and apps into a separate company under Alphabet that could be valued at tens of billions of dollars, the report added. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: 5 poultry industry execs found not guilty of price fixing, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 12:00 PM

Five executives from the poultry processing industry have been found not guilty of conspiring to fix prices. A jury in a Denver federal court acquitted former Pilgrim's Pride CEOs Jayson Penn and William Lovette; Roger Austin, a former Pilgrim's vice president; Mikell Fries, president of Claxton Poultry and Scott Brady, a Claxton vice president. In October 2020 Pilgrim's Pride reached a plea agreement with the U.S. government over charges of price-fixing in the chicken industry. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#)

WSJ: Justice Department Fails for Third Time to Convict Chicken Executives in Price-Fixing Trial, Patrick Thomas and Dave Michaels, July 8, 2022, 1:49 PM

Federal prosecutors failed for a third time to convict five chicken-company officials of allegedly conspiring to fix prices, dealing a blow to the Justice Department's antitrust division and its efforts to rein in the meat industry. Jurors in a Denver federal court on Thursday evening acquitted all five defendants, who had been accused of illicitly coordinating what their companies would charge restaurant buyers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: Millions in refunds await those who used Western Union to pay scammers, Kate Gibson, July 8, 2022, 3:56 PM

People tricked into wiring money to fraudsters through Western Union have until the end of August to file for a full refund as part of a \$586 million settlement reached by the company and the government. The Department of Justice has already distributed more than \$366 million to more than 148,000 victims, many of them elderly, and

refunds are still available, with the deadline to file a claim recently extended, according to the Federal Trade Commission. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: [ANALYSIS] 2 Mistrials, 1 Acquittal & A DOJ Listening Problem, Bryan Koenig, July 8, 2022, 7:50 PM

The defense said the case should have never been brought. The judge told the U.S. Department of Justice's top antitrust official to "reflect" on the evidence after two separate juries deadlocked on price-fixing charges against chicken industry executives. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: 7th Circ. Backs Spoofing Convictions Of Ex-Deutsche Traders, Tom Zanki, July 8, 2022, 7:03 PM
The Seventh Circuit on Thursday upheld the convictions of two Deutsche Bank metals traders for wire fraud, ruling that the pair engaged in an unlawful spoofing scheme that tricked competing market... [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: DOJ Defends Army Swag Bid Rigging Case Against Dismissal, Matthew Perlman, July 8, 2022, 5:03 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice has urged a Florida federal court not to toss antitrust charges against a man accused of rigging bids for customized promotional products sold to the U.S. Army, saying his dismissal bid misconstrues the law. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WVNS-CBS/Fox (Lewisburg, WV): Attorney General sends letter to FTC on baby formula shortage, Danielle Sandler, July 8, 2022, 3:40 PM

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey sent a letter, including 15 other states, to the Federal Trade Commission responding to the commission's request for possible causes of solving the baby formula shortage nationwide. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Law360: Ex-Ohio Terminix Franchisees Must Clean Contaminated Site, Eric Heisig, July 8, 2022, 9:45 PM
A federal judge has ordered a family that owned a Terminix franchise to clean up suburban land soaked in decades-old pesticides in Columbus, Ohio. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Federal Approval Of Lobster Fishery Violates ESA, Judge Says, Clark Mindock, July 8, 2022, 7:28 PM

A federal judge Friday invalidated approvals for a lobster fishery in the North Atlantic after finding the government failed to adequately protect a threatened whale species, which environmental groups said needs strict protection so the whales don't die in fishing lines. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Biden Admin Floats State Roadway Emissions Tracking, Clark Mindock, July 8, 2022, 3:32 PM
The Biden administration has set its sights on reducing transportation emissions as its latest step in the fight against climate change with a new rule that will require states to establish declining greenhouse gas emissions targets for vehicles. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

WaPo: By firing his enemies, Trump made their taxes more interesting to the IRS, Jacob Bogage and Josh Dawsey, July 8, 2022, 1:28 PM

The tax audits that examined the returns of two former senior FBI officials and adversaries of former president Donald Trump are part of a little-known research program designed to help the Internal Revenue Service collect data on possible future tax cheats. James B. Comey and Andrew McCabe, the former FBI director and deputy director, were subject to inquiries from the IRS's National Research Program for their tax returns from 2017 and 2019, respectively. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [MSNBC](#)

Law360: 4th Circ. Greenlights IRS Summons In \$220M Easement Case, Asha Glover, July 8, 2022, 6:15 PM
The IRS can proceed with a summons seeking bank account information on a company that claimed a \$220 million conservation easement deduction and is being audited by the agency, the Fourth [...] [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMIZ-ABC (Columbia, MO): Versailles tax preparer sentenced to prison, Matthew Sanders, July 8, 2022, 10:00 PM

A tax preparer from Versailles will spend more than a year in federal prison and pay more than \$180,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to filing false tax returns. Angela Jo Campbell Young, 56, was sentenced Thursday in federal court after admitting to filing tax returns under two Social Security numbers from 2008 to 2014, according to a U.S. attorney's office news release. She had been issued a new Social Security card and number in 2006 after a claim of identity theft, according to the release. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KOMU-NBC/CW \(Columbia, MO\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WaPo: Domestic terror cases increasingly cross borders, FBI director says, Devlin Barrett, July 8, 2022, 3:20 PM

Many domestic terrorism cases now have an international component, as would-be killers are "egging each other on" and drawing inspiration from racist or neo-Nazi attacks overseas, the head of the FBI and his British counterpart said Friday. FBI Director Christopher A. Wray, speaking to reporters alongside Ken McCallum, director general of the British domestic security agency MI5, said their agencies have spent decades developing tip-sharing systems to handle international terrorism cases, but that "muscle memory" is now being applied to domestic terrorism investigations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: 5,000 pounds of meth seized in San Diego County when truck is followed after crossing border, officials say, Sharif Paget, July 9, 2022, 6:23 AM

More than 5,000 pounds of methamphetamine were seized this week after authorities in San Diego County tracked and intercepted a truck that crossed the US border from Mexico, officials said Friday. [...] "This monumental seizure represents another win against drug cartels that fuel addiction in the United States," said Shelly S. Howe, a Special Agent in Charge at the US Drug Enforcement Administration. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: [VIDEO] FBI Director weighs in on investigation into January 6 riot, July 8, 2022, 9:38 PM

CNN's Evan Perez interviewed FBI Director Christopher Wray and asked him about the ongoing January 6 Capitol riot investigation. Here's what he said. [[Watch](#)]

CNN: FBI Director Wray tells CNN there are 'way, way too many people' acting violently on political grievances, Evan Perez and Hannah Rabinowitz, July 8, 2022, 2:00 PM

Hours after the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday, top US and British law enforcement leaders decried threats facing public figures around the globe in an exclusive interview with CNN, saying that there is a "right way" to protest political grievances. "There are way, way too many people in today's world who are taking their very passionately held views and manifesting them through violence," FBI Director Christopher Wray told CNN. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Greeley Tribune (Greeley, CO): **The Fed confiscated missing medals from the Springfield Armory in the 1990s**, Amelia, July 9, 2022, 7:39 AM (EDT)

Investigators confiscated 24 shooting medals from the 1880s and 1890s after a collector called the armory to inquire about similar items. According to federal officials, these shooting medals from the late 1800s were taken illegally from Springfield Armory nearly 30 years earlier. Federal agents in Boston recovered 24 shooting medals from the late 1800s, they say were illegally taken from the Springfield Armory nearly 30 years earlier. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Boston Herald (Boston, MA): **Republicans slam Joe Biden, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton over ‘lack of transparency’**, John Dwinell, July 8, 2022, 8:43 PM

A newly declassified FBI memo states the discovery of Hillary Clinton’s secret email server came from a Freedom of Information Act request — raising concerns over John Kerry’s lack of transparency. The Republican National Committee told the Herald Friday the “political elite” in the Democratic Party are angering voters over a failure to quickly share public records. The FBI document posted this month states a FOIA request from an unnamed source helped identify “the possible compromise of classified national security information” by Clinton. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPLG-ABC (Miami, FL): **Faculty member at Jamaican university arrested for decades-old sexual assaults in Margate**, Michelle Solomon and Joseph Ojo, July 8, 2022, 7:41 PM

A man who police said is responsible for several sexual batteries that happened between June of 1996 and November of 1997 in Margate will remain in jail without bond. Russell McLean was arrested in May in Jamaica where he was a faculty member at Northern Caribbean University, which identifies itself as a “Seventh-day Adventist institution, which has as its mission, quality Christ-centred education . . .”. [...] On May 24, 2022, with the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Service, McLean was located in Jamaica, where he was serving as a faculty member at Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WMAR-ABC (Baltimore, MD): **“Making it safer”: U.S. Marshals Service arrests 1,501 fugitives nationwide, including 89 in Baltimore area**, Bryna Zumer, July 8, 2022, 5:54 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service arrested 89 fugitives in the Baltimore area last month, as part of a nationwide fugitive apprehension initiative that targeted 10 high-crime cities. The results of “Operation North Star” were announced this morning. Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and Police Commissioner Michael Harrison were on hand for the press conference. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJZ-CBS (Baltimore, MD): **Joint Law Enforcement Sweep ‘Operation North Star’ Results In 89 Fugitive Arrests, Officials Say**, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 5:45 PM

“Operation North Star,” a joint action by the U.S. Marshals Service and local law enforcement, resulted in the arrest of 89 fugitives in the Baltimore area, including nine people wanted for murder, officials said. Following the 30-day sweep, 20 people wanted on attempted murder charges, 10 people wanted on firearms charges, 32 people wanted on aggravated assault charges and seven people wanted on robbery charges were also detained. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

NYT: [OPINION] Why Does It Take Federal Intervention to Fix the N.Y.P.D.?, Mara Gay, July 9, 2022, 11:00 AM

The saga of the Special Victims Division is the latest illustration of the extraordinary measures required to meaningfully reform the nation’s largest police department. [...] The Justice Department is investigating the New

York Police Department's handling of sex crimes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Ahwatukee Foothills News (Phoenix, AZ): **Federal probe of Phoenix PD costs \$1.9M so far**, Paul Maryniak, July 9, 2022, 4:04 AM (EDT)

The city so far has spent \$1.9 million on its efforts to cooperate with the U.S. Justice Department civil investigation into Phoenix Police. The bulk of that expense up to now has involved the \$1.35 million in salaries paid to the nine fulltime employees who have been assigned to gather materials requested by the Justice Department since it began its investigation Aug. 5, according to a memo that City Manager Jeffrey Barton and the city Law Department sent City Council on June 30. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Reuters: **States' top lawyers ask Supreme Court to review charity-only class settlements**, Alison Frankel, July 8, 2022, 4:12 PM

State attorneys general are once again calling on the U.S. Supreme Court to restrict the use of charitable donations as an alternative to class payouts in class action settlements. Led by Arizona's Mark Brnovich, 20 state AGs filed an amicus brief on Thursday, backing a petition for Supreme Court review of a \$13 million privacy class-action settlement that called for Google Inc to donate money to universities and non-profits dedicated to internet privacy issues instead of paying the funds to class members. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: **Brett Kavanaugh is the latest target of protests at D.C. restaurants**, Emily Heil and Tim Carman, July 8, 2022, 4:13 PM

After the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, eliminating the fundamental right to abortion, comedian Samantha Bee floated a plan for targeting the conservatives on the court who made up the majority opinion: "We have to raise hell — in our cities, in Washington, in every restaurant Justice Alito eats at for the rest of his life," she implored viewers of her late-night show, "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee." "Because if Republicans have made our lives hell, it's time to return the favor." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Law360: **[ANALYSIS] Experts Split On Gorsuch's Power To Uphold Tribal Rights**, Caleb Symons, July 8, 2022, 9:39 PM

Following Justice Neil M. Gorsuch's fiery dissent in a case involving Oklahoma's authority to prosecute certain crimes on Native American reservations, experts are divided over whether the justice — once poised to reshape the federal judiciary's view of Indian law — can still champion tribal interests at the Supreme Court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **[ANALYSIS] Checking In On DOJ's Promised White Collar Crackdown**, Ilan Graff, July 8, 2022, 5:17 PM

Though U.S. Department of Justice white collar prosecutions have not surged as expected after its October 2021 pivot to corporate enforcement, the DOJ's emphasis on C-suite accountability and new scrutiny of more industries are signs that companies are entering a more demanding era of enforcement, says Ilan Graff at Fried Frank. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFGO-AM (Fargo, ND): **Judge refuses to dismiss tribes' lawsuit over redistricting**, Ashley Jung, July 9, 2022, 7:21 AM

A federal judge in North Dakota has denied the state's request to throw out a lawsuit brought by two Native American tribes that allege the state's new legislative map dilutes tribal members' voting strength. The lawsuit filed in February by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Tribe alleges that the state's Republican-led Legislature's new map violated the Voting Rights Act. U.S. District Judge Peter Welte's ruling Thursday dismissed the state's argument that the tribes lacked the standing to sue. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOKI-Fox (Tulsa, OK): Oklahoma inmate convicted of killing fellow inmate to improve standing in prison gang, Dana Nickel, July 8, 2022, 3:59 PM

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma announced Friday that 39-year-old William Clayton Brown, of McIntosh County, Okla., was found guilty by a federal jury of murder in Indian Country. The jury trial began Tuesday, July 5 and concluded Thursday, July 7. Based on the jury's verdict, Brown is facing a mandatory minimum sentence of life in federal prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

WGBH (Boston, MA): Mass. marijuana equity advocates say federal action would 'level the playing field', Kana Ruhalter, July 8, 2022, 11:00 AM

After a six-month wait, the Department of Justice finally responded to Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Sen. Cory Booker's letter to the White House asking President Joe Biden's administration to effectively decriminalize marijuana and pardon all non-violent cannabis-related offenses. Warren's office called the 230-word, half-page response "extraordinarily disappointing" and issued another statement with five fellow senators on Wednesday urging the administration to take federal action. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Law360: W.Va. Opioid Verdict Widens Judge-Jury Split On Vital Theory, Jeff Overley, July 8, 2022, 11:27 PM

A resounding victory by drug distributors in a bench trial over West Virginia's catastrophic opioid crisis underscores a growing gulf between judges and juries in broader opioid litigation, with judges increasingly rejecting a crucial legal theory while juries embrace it. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

AP: Impassioned Biden signs order on abortion access, Seung Min Kim, Zeke Miller, and Chris Megerian, July 8, 2022, 6:43 PM

President Joe Biden on Friday condemned the "extreme" Supreme Court majority that ended a constitutional right to abortion and delivered an impassioned plea for Americans upset by the decision to "vote, vote, vote vote" in November. Under mounting pressure from fellow Democrats to be more forceful in response to the ruling, he signed an executive order to try to protect access to the procedure. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [LAT](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WSJ](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: US sending \$400 million more in military aid to Ukraine, Lolita C. Baldor, July 8, 2022, 6:05 PM

The Biden administration said Friday that it will send another \$400 million in military equipment to Ukraine, including four more advanced rocket systems. The weapons, said a senior defense official, will bolster Ukrainian efforts to strike deeper behind Russian frontlines in the eastern Donbas region. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#)

Reuters: Biden says he has not decided on China tariffs, reviewing them 'one at a time', David Lawder and Andrea Shalal, July 8, 2022, 4:40 PM

President Joe Biden said on Friday that he has not yet made a decision on whether to cut some U.S. tariffs on imports from China, saying his administration was reviewing them "one at a time."

Biden had been due to discuss the tariffs with his advisers on Friday, but it was unclear when he would make a decision on whether to remove some of them to try to fight inflation, people familiar with the deliberations said.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: EXCLUSIVE Top U.S. LNG producer Cheniere asks Biden admin to drop pollution rule, Valerie Volcovici, July 8, 2022, 4:05 PM

Cheniere Energy Inc (LNG.A) has asked the Biden administration to exempt it from limits on emissions of cancer-causing pollutants, arguing they would force the top U.S. exporter of liquefied natural gas to shut for an extended period and endanger the country's efforts to ramp up supplies to Europe, according to documents reviewed by Reuters. The request imposes an uncomfortable dilemma on President Joe Biden's administration as it tries to balance efforts to slash pollution from the fossil fuel industry against promises to help European allies cut energy ties with Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Biden "stunned, outraged, and deeply saddened" by Abe killing, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 3:00 PM

President Joe Biden expressed outrage at the fatal shooting of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday, calling him a champion of the U.S.-Japan alliance who cared deeply about the Japanese people and democracy. "I am stunned, outraged, and deeply saddened by the news that my friend Abe Shinzo, former Prime Minister of Japan, was shot and killed while campaigning. This is a tragedy for Japan and for all who knew him," Biden said in a statement. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [AP](#), [LAT](#)

Reuters: U.S. women should be wary of period-tracking apps, White House says, Jeff Mason, July 8, 2022, 1:47 PM

Women in the United States should be wary of apps that track their menstrual periods after the rollback of federal abortion rights, a White House official said Friday. "I think people should be really careful about that," Jen Klein, the director of the White House's Gender Policy Council told reporters Friday, when asked whether the administration recommended that women delete such apps. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Biden to visit Japan embassy following ex-PM Abe's death, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 1:36 PM

U.S. President Joe Biden said he will visit the Japanese embassy in Washington to sign a condolence book after Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was gunned down on Friday. He also said he tried to call Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who he called "a very solid guy," adding "Japan is a very, very stable ally." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Public health emergency over abortion rights is 'not off the table' - White House, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 1:26 PM

The Biden administration is still considering declaring a health emergency over abortion rights and it is "not off the table," White House gender policy council chair Jennifer Klein said on Friday. "We are really looking at everything, it is definitely not off the table," Klein said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg](#)

Reuters: Biden says women must vote in November elections to codify abortion rights, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 12:36 PM

President Joe Biden on Friday urged women to vote this November, saying the fastest way to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court's rollback of abortion rights is to have large Democratic majorities in Congress to pass a law

codifying such rights. "This is the fastest route available," he told reporters at the White House. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Family of slain Palestinian-American reporter asks to meet with Biden, Humeyra Pamuk, July 8, 2022, 12:33 PM

The family of slain Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh has accused the United States of providing impunity for Israel over her killing and asked to meet President Joe Biden in person during his trip to Israel next week. In a letter to Biden posted on Twitter on Friday, the family said the administration simply adopted the Israeli government's conclusions over her death, which it described as an extrajudicial killing, while falling short of its own stated goal of ensuring full accountability. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Biden orders U.S flags flown at half-staff to honor Japan's Abe, Unattributed, July 8, 2022, 12:58 PM

President Joe Biden said on Friday he had ordered U.S. flags to be flown at half-staff through July 10 to honor Shinzo Abe after the former Japanese prime minister was gunned down while campaigning for a parliamentary election. Abe "was a proud servant of the Japanese people and a faithful friend to the United States," Biden said in statement. "Even in the moment he was attacked and killed, he was engaged in the work of democracy, to which he dedicated his life." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Supreme Court 'will not protect the rights of women,' Biden says, John Wagner and Mariana Alfaro, July 8, 2022, 8:20 PM

President Biden said that the Supreme Court "has made clear it will not protect the rights of women" as he held an event to sign an executive order that, among other things, seeks to safeguard access to abortion medication and emergency contraception and to protect patient privacy. At a White House event, Biden reiterated his call for voters to elect supporters of abortion rights in the fall to counter what he called "an exercise in raw political power." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: [EDITORIAL] What the Biden Administration Could Do Now to Protect Abortion Rights, Editorial Board, July 8, 2022, 6:36 PM

Less than three weeks have passed since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, and already chaos reigns. Several states are moving to ban abortion almost completely, abortion-rights proponents are challenging those bans in court and in some cases, judges have been asked to issue injunctions that could, for a time, prevent the bans from going into effect. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Biden Lauds CIA for Punching 'Gigantic Hole' in Putin's Playbook, Akayla Gardner, Justin Sink, and Jordan Fabian, July 8, 2022, 5:43 PM

President Joe Biden praised the Central Intelligence Agency's efforts to expose Russia's plans to invade Ukraine, telling the staff that they had "punched a gigantic hole" in President Vladimir Putin's objectives. "It was thanks to the incredible work of our intelligence professionals that we were able to forewarn the world what Vladimir Putin was planning in Ukraine," Biden said during his first visit as president to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: Biden Administration Asks Supreme Court to Rule on Immigration Enforcement, Jess Bravin and Michelle Hackman, July 8, 2022, 5:36 PM

The Biden administration asked the Supreme Court Friday to reinstate immigration enforcement guidelines that a lower court blocked after Texas and Louisiana filed suit arguing that the policy lets too many noncitizens with criminal records go free while their cases are processed. The guidelines focus detention efforts on noncitizens deemed to threaten national security, public safety and border security. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#), [Roll Call](#), [USA Today](#), [Washington Times](#)

Bloomberg: US Says All Options on Table to Deal With Mexico Energy Policy, Eric Martin and Max De Haldevang, July 8, 2022, 1:55 PM

President Joe Biden's trade chief reiterated US concerns over Mexico's state-favoring energy policies and said all options will be considered in dealing with the dispute. "I have made very clear that all options are on the table and that we'll continue to explore those options," US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said during a press conference Friday following meetings with her Mexican and Canadian counterparts in Vancouver. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Biden Brags There Are More Private-Sector Jobs Now Than Under Trump, Justin Sink, July 8, 2022, 10:06 AM

President Joe Biden said Friday's jobs report showed that "our private sector has recovered all of the jobs lost during the pandemic, and added jobs on top of that" but predicted employment gains would slow in the coming months as the country transitions to "stable growth." "We have more Americans working in the private sector today than any day during Donald Trump's Presidency -- more people than any time in our history," Biden said in a statement, adding that the employment situation left the US "uniquely well positioned to tackle a range of global economic challenges -- from global inflation to the economic fallout from Putin's war" in Ukraine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: Calls for TikTok Probe Widen, Adding to Pressure on Biden to Weigh In, John D. McKinnon, July 8, 2022, 8:05 AM

Calls for an investigation into the security risks posed by the video app TikTok are widening, adding to pressure on President Biden to make good on his year-old promise to get tough on apps that could share Americans' personal data with foreign adversaries. The Democratic chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and the panel's top Republican sent a joint letter to the Federal Trade Commission this week urging an investigation of TikTok's data-handling and other practices. TikTok's parent, ByteDance Ltd., has its headquarters in Beijing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: [AUDIO] Podcast: Biden's bold moves abroad to win at home, July 8, 2022, 8:00 AM (EDT)

In the five months since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the American public's attention has turned back to problems at home — and President Biden hasn't gotten a good grade for his handling of them. But last week, he was able to lead major policy breakthroughs at the NATO and Group of 7 summits. Today, can Biden's push to spread democracy abroad help him deal with various crises back home? [[Listen](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. House panel to investigate companies sharing reproductive data, Rose Horowitz, July 8, 2022, 4:53 PM

A U.S. congressional committee has asked data brokers and personal health apps to explain how they handle users' reproductive health data amid concerns states will use the information to track patients seeking abortion where it is illegal. Democrats on the House of Representatives Oversight Committee said they were concerned that location data, search history and other information on mobile phones could create "digital bread crumbs" that reveal interest in an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: JULY 8, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with Whit Johnson

CBS: Evening News with Jericka Duncan

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- Japan's Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated as he gave a campaign speech for his party's candidate on Friday in Nara, Japan. The alleged suspect, 41 y/o Tetsuya Yamagami admitted to shooting Abe with a handmade firearm fashioned out of metal and wood. World leaders expressed condolences, President Biden stating, "I am stunned, outraged, and deeply saddened by the news that my friend Abe Shinzo, former Prime Minister of Japan, was shot and killed while campaigning." [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Billionaire Elon Musk called off his \$44 Billion deal to buy Twitter stating Twitter was in material breach of their agreement because the company made false and misleading statements during negotiations. The Twitter Board plans to pursue legal action to enforce the merger agreed upon with Musk. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden under pressure signed an Executive Order aimed at protecting access to reproductive health services even while admitting his power on the issue was limited. Biden spoke of a 10y/o seeking an abortion having to travel to another state to obtain an abortion, urging women to vote for Democrats in the midterm to make the right to an abortion federal law. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Biden Administration is celebrating the June Jobs Report which noted 372K new jobs added with an unemployment rate of 3.6%, exceeding expectations. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The first two funerals and a memorial service for 3 of the 7 victims shot and killed at the July 4th Highland Park parade. One of the youngest victims, 8 y/o Cooper Roberts is awake and off a ventilator asking for his twin brother who was wounded by shrapnel, even as the community attempts to come together and heal from the shootings. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Former White House counsel Pat Cipollone, a key witness to the chaos inside the West Wing as the events of Jan. 6 unfolded, testified in front of the House Jan. 6 Committee. Cipollone told the Jan. 6 Committee he would not discuss his direct conversations with former President Donald Trump but was expected to testify to the things he saw and heard on Jan. 6 and the days leading up to it. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The US is sending an additional \$400 Million dollars in military aid to Ukraine. Ukraine has received 4 long range high precision rocket systems, as well as a thousand precision military rounds which may help tip the scales against the Russians. [[ABC](#)]
- Calls to bring Brittney Griner home have increased, 24 hours after Griner pled guilty to charges brought against her in Russia. Cherelle Griner thanked President Biden for his hand delivered letter to Griner, while it was also revealed Biden called Paul Wheelan's sister [[ABC](#)]
- In an interview with Vice President Kamala Harris to be aired on Face The Nation the Sunday, Harris stated, "all of us share a deep sense of outrage that the United States Supreme Court took a Constitutional Right that was recognized. . . ." regarding the ending of Roe v. Wade. [[CBS](#)]
- COVID cases are on the rise, fueled by the BA.5 Omicron strain, which appears to be 3 to 4 times resistant to antibodies, and is responsible for 53.6% of new infections. The rise in infections is forcing some cities to reconsider mask mandates. [[CBS](#)]
- As abortion laws change from state to state there are growing concerns regarding IVF and reproductive rights. Several clinics are working with women to transfer fertilized eggs of women in states with restrictive abortion laws. [[NBC](#)]

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- "Suspect in Shooting of Japan's Abe Thought to Have Trained in Rifle Use" [[WSJ](#), [WaPo](#), [NYT](#)]

- “Sri Lankan prime minister says he’ll resign as protesters storm president’s home” [[WaPo](#), [WSJ](#), [NYT](#)]
- “As Musk moves to abandon deal, Twitter faces ‘worst case scenario’” [[WaPo](#), [WSJ](#), [NYT](#)]
- “Blinken Urges China to ‘Stand Up’ Against Russia” [[NYT](#)]

END

RENDON Media News Alert Notice:

This RENDON product is distributed as part of a deliverable for the DOJ News Clipping Service Solicitation 15JPSS18RQZM00005 for DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov.

The original recipient is currently subscribed to doj-digests as: DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov

To unsubscribe, please email DOJ.News.Clips.Shared.Mailbox@usdoj.gov with "UNSUBSCRIBE ME" in the subject line. Your request will be processed within 7 business days.

From: DOJ Digests <doj-digests@rendon.com>

To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk <dojdesk@rendon.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Weekend Digest

Date: Sat, 9 Oct 2021 13:05:01 -0500

Importance: Normal

Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
October 9, 2021
2:00 PM EDT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Department of Justice News
2. National Security
3. Criminal Law
4. Civil Rights
5. Civil Law
6. Immigration & Border Security
7. Antitrust
8. Environment
9. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
10. Criminal Justice/Corrections
11. US Supreme Court
12. Native American Affairs
13. Marijuana Legalization
14. Opioid Crisis
15. Administration
16. Congress
17. Network Evening News Lineup
18. Afternoon Headlines

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: Marathon bomber faces revived death sentence in high court, Mark Sherman and Alanna Durkin Richer, October 9, 2021, 12:21 AM

The Biden administration will try to persuade the Supreme Court this week to reinstate the death penalty for convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev by arguing that a jury had no need to examine evidence that the government itself relied on at an earlier phase of the case. Tsarnaev's guilt in the deaths of three people in the shocking bombing near the finish line of the marathon in 2013 is not at issue in the case the justices will hear Wednesday — just whether he should be sentenced to life in prison, or death. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Feds won't seek charges against cop in Jacob Blake shooting, Todd Richmond, October 8, 2021, 8:00 PM (EDT)

Federal prosecutors announced Friday that they won't file charges against a white police officer who shot Jacob Blake in Wisconsin last year — a shooting that sparked protests that led to the deaths of two men. Officer Rusten Sheskey shot Blake, who is Black, during a domestic disturbance in Kenosha in August 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WMAQ-NBC \(Chicago, IL\)](#), **See also:** [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#), [CNN](#), [CBS](#), [ABC](#), [NBC](#), [Fox](#), [The Hill](#), [The Guardian](#), [Forbes](#), [Newsweek](#)

ABC: 'Dangerous times': Four federal agents shot this week, Luke Barr, October 9, 2021, 10:01 AM

It has been a particularly perilous week for federal law enforcement. On Monday, DEA Special Agent Michael Garbo, a 16-year veteran of the agency, was shot and killed during an operation in Tucson, Arizona. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Blinken, Garland and Mayorkas stress US-Mexico ties as they unveil new security pact, Nicole Gaouette and Jennifer Hansler, October 8, 2021, 5:29 PM

Three top Biden officials stressed the importance of the US-Mexico relationship Friday and the importance of the new bilateral security arrangement between the two nations alongside their Mexican counterparts in Mexico City. "We're here because this high-level security dialogue is vital" to the "most urgent challenges facing our time," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in opening remarks before a high-level security dialogue at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Beast: Merrick Garland Isn't 'Criminalizing Parenting'—He's Protecting Schoolkids, Ruben Navarrette Jr., October 09, 2021, 3:23 AM

The latest eruption in the overheated culture war over how public schools are run began with a cry for help from a national association tasked with looking out for school board members. And it ended with hyperventilating right-wingers crying about how Attorney General Merrick Garland and the Justice Department are supposedly targeting concerned citizens and "criminalizing parenting." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#)

Daily Caller: Merrick Garland Cites Unexplained Threats Of Violence To Involve Authorities In Culture War Issues, Mary Margaret Olohan and Kendall Tietz, October 8, 2021 8:31 PM

Merrick Garland, once hailed as a "moderate" choice for President Joe Biden's attorney general, has now twice referenced unexplained threats of violence in directing authorities to investigate hot button culture issues. The attorney general directed the FBI on Oct. 4 to target parents who allegedly threaten violence against public school officials. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Warren, Booker Urge AG Garland To Decriminalize Cannabis, Katryna Perera, October 8, 2021, 7:39 PM

Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D- Mass., and Cory Booker, D-N.J., on Friday said they have urged U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to use his authority to decriminalize marijuana by removing it from the list of federally controlled substances. Currently, cannabis is classified as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, alongside other substances like heroin and ecstasy. Schedule I drugs are substances defined as those with no accepted medical use and a "high potential for abuse," according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: U.S. Pushes Back Against Military Vaccine Mandate Lawsuit, Erik Larson, October 8, 2021, 6:55 PM

A Justice Department lawyer pushed back on military personnel claims that kicking them out of the service for refusing to get vaccinated will result in harm that can never be compensated by a court. The service members sued this week to vacate a Pentagon vaccine mandate for all those in the military, arguing they face imminent harm if a court order isn't issued temporarily blocking the requirement. They say they face dishonorable discharge or even two years in jail. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Slate: Merrick Garland Is About To Face His Most Important Test, Jeremy Stahl, October 8, 2021, 4:39 PM
Former Trump White House aide Dan Scavino is one of a number of former Trump officials and confidantes who, along with the planners of the Jan. 6 rally, are facing October deadlines to turn information about the insurrection over to Congress and appear for depositions. On Tuesday, CNN reported that Scavino was hiding

from a subpoena by the House select committee, perhaps partly because former President Donald Trump told him to. [[Continue Reading](#)]

New Yorker: **[PODCAST] Susan Orlean’s Animal Obsession, and an Interview with Merrick Garland**, David Remnick, October 8, 2021, 4:30 PM

The staff writer Susan Orlean talks about her obsession with animal stories. The renowned investigative journalist Jane Mayer asks Attorney General Merrick Garland about the prosecution of January 6th insurrectionists, and about what the Justice Department can do to protect abortion access and voting rights.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

National Review : **[PODCAST] Episode 146: The Wrong Kind of Parental Oversight**, Rich Lowry and Andrew McCarthy, October 8, 2021, 4:11 PM

Today on The McCarthy Report, Andy and Rich discuss Merrick Garland’s memo, the Texas abortion law injunction, and more. [[Continue Reading](#)]

South Arkansas Sun (Hampton, AR): **Arkansas’s Attorney General: Biden Weaponizing The Department Of Justice Against ‘Our Citizens’**, Kyra Sarsaba, October 9, 2021, 9:38 AM

Arkansas’s demagogues want the Department of Justice to turn a blind eye to crime. “We have President Biden weaponizing the Department of Justice against our citizens. It’s a dangerous road for this President to go down. It’s one that I will be throwing roadblocks up,” said Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge on Tuesday’s “American Agenda.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: **Biden will not block documents sought by House committee**, Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick, Zeke Miller, and Jill Colvin, October 9, 2021, 12:23 AM

The White House says that President Joe Biden will not block the handover of documents sought by a House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, setting up a showdown with former President Donald Trump, who wants to shield those White House records from investigators. The Friday letter from White House counsel Dana Remus to the Archivist of the United States comes at the start of a potentially lengthy legal battle over the investigation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: **Judge: Sentence in Capitol riot case should send message**, Lindsay Whitehurst, October 8, 2021, 3:26 PM

A federal judge said Friday he hopes a three-month sentence behind bars in a U.S. Capitol insurrection case will send a message to other defendants who don’t seem to be “truly accepting responsibility.” U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan spoke as he sentenced Robert Reeder, a Maryland man who had originally described himself as an “accidental tourist” before video emerged of him grabbing a police officer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: **Biden won’t invoke executive privilege on Trump docs**, Zeke Miller, Eric Tucker, and Mary Clare Jalonick, October 8, 2021, 3:00 PM

President Joe Biden is not asserting executive privilege over a tranche of documents sought by a House committee’s investigation into the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, setting up a showdown with former President Donald Trump, who has pledged to try to block records from his time in the White House from being turned over to investigators. In a letter to the Archivist of the United States, White House counsel Dana Remus writes that Biden has determined that invoking executive privilege “is not in the best interests of the United States.” [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN-1](#), [CNN-2](#), [NBC](#), [Politico](#), [USA Today](#)

CNN: US Capitol rioter who downplayed the attack is sentenced to three months in jail, Hannah Rabinowitz, October 8, 2021, 5:25 PM

A federal judge on Friday sentenced one of the US Capitol rioters to three months in jail, saying that the punishment should be a warning to other defendants that they deserve incarceration if they deflect responsibility or downplay the attack. "It has become evident to me in the riot cases that many of the defendants who are pleading guilty are not truly accepting responsibility," District Judge Thomas Hogan said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Dems Want More Crypto Scrutiny To Fight Ransomware Swell, Allison Grande, October 8, 2021, 8:52 PM

A group of congressional Democrats is urging the Biden administration to do more to clamp down on the cryptocurrency payments that have fueled an explosion of ransomware attacks that have targeted critical infrastructure operators, private companies, and governments across the U.S. Democratic Sens. Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, along with Reps. Ted Lieu of California and Jim Langevin of Rhode Island, fired off a letter calling on the U.S. Department of Justice and three other federal agencies to pursue all options available to protect American communities and Infrastructure from the growing threat of ransomware. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: New DOJ Crypto Team Puts Exchanges In Hot Seat, Elise Hansen, October 8, 2021, 8:13 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice's new cryptocurrency enforcement team is the latest signal that the federal government has its sights on illicit uses of digital assets- particularly the role of cryptocurrency in ransomware payments and money laundering, attorneys told Law360. The DOJ on Wednesday announced the launch of the National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team, or NCET, which will focus on activity by cryptocurrency exchanges and infrastructure providers that enables money laundering. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: Capitol Police whistleblower delivers scathing rebuke to two of its senior leaders on Jan. 6, Daniel Lippman and Betsy Woodruff Swan, October 8, 2021, 3:30 PM

A former high-ranking Capitol Police official with knowledge of the department's response to the Jan. 6 attack has sent congressional leaders a scathing letter accusing two of its senior leaders of mishandling evidence and failing to respond properly during the riot. The whistleblower, who requested anonymity for privacy reasons and left the force months after the attack, sent the 16-page letter late last month to the top members of both parties in the House and Senate. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFLA-NBC (Tampa, FL): Here's what we know about Green Beret, Tampa congressional candidate arrested in insurrection probe, Walt Buteau, October 8, 2021, 7:08 PM

The latest Florida defendant in the Jan. 6 insurrection is a retired Green Beret who spent 20 years in the military and ran for the Republican nomination in 2020 for the Congressional seat currently held by Kathy Castor. Forty-seven-year-old Jeremy Brown was also featured in an Army Special Forces recruiting poster several years ago, but he now faces federal charges for forcing his way into the U.S. Capital to disrupt the validation of the presidential election. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Farmer charged in alleged \$500K wheat crop scam, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 11:29 AM

A farmer in southeastern Washington is accused of collecting tens of thousands of dollars in hidden wheat sales while collecting on crop insurance for alleged losses. Rick T. Gray of Prosser and his company, Gray Land and Livestock LLC, are being sued by the federal government for the alleged multi-year scheme involving wheat

farming operations in Klickitat County, The Tri-City Herald reported. He reportedly received over a half-million dollars in crop insurance indemnity payments. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: North Carolina man faces prison for shooting police officer, Unattributed, October 8, 2021, 3:45 PM
A North Carolina man has been sentenced to 21 years in prison in connection with a crime rampage that including a police officer being shot, prosecutors said. Cedric Jamal Kearney, 26, of Henderson pleaded guilty to the charges in March and was sentenced on Thursday, said G. Norman Acker, III, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: 2 parents convicted in 1st trial of college bribery scandal, Alanna Durkin Richer, October 8, 2021, 3:15 PM

Two wealthy parents were convicted Friday of buying their kids' way into school as athletic recruits in the first case to go to trial in the college admissions cheating scandal that embroiled prestigious universities across the country. Gamal Abdelaziz, a former casino executive, and John Wilson, a former Staples Inc. executive, were found guilty after about 10 hours of deliberations in the case that exposed a scheme to get undeserving applicants into college by falsely portraying them as star athletes. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Reuters](#), [CNN](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: Ex-bank employee pleads guilty to roles in 2 fraud schemes, Unattributed, October 8, 2021, 3:15 PM
A former employee of a Massachusetts bank pleaded guilty on Friday to her role in two separate fraud schemes, federal prosecutors said. Rushell Harris, 32, of Nantucket, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Boston to two counts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office. Harris worked at Nantucket Bank between June 2014 and November 2018. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Alaskan man accused of threatening senators to remain detained ahead of trial, Lexi Lonas, October 9, 2021, 8:36 AM

An Alaskan man that has been accused of threatening both of the state's U.S. senators will remain detained at least until Oct. 19 ahead of his trial. Jay Allen Johnson appeared in court Friday after he allegedly threatened Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, The Associated Press reported. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patriot-News (Harrisburg, PA): Harrisburg woman formally charged with stealing Pelosi's laptop in US capitol riot, Sean Adams, October 9, 2021, 9:32 AM

A formal indictment has been revealed against a Harrisburg woman suspected of stealing the laptop of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi during the riot at the United States Capitol on Jan. 6. CNN reports that an indictment was unsealed against Riley Williams, a 22 year old Harrisburg resident, accusing her of stealing a laptop from Pelosi's office and later disposing of it. She is also charged with resisting police. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Georgia Virtue (Brooklet, GA): 'Stranded Bandit' Meth Traffickers Sentenced To Substantial Federal Prison Terms, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 8:45 AM

A gang member and leader in a major methamphetamine trafficking operation and a codefendant each have been sentenced to more than 20 years in federal prison for spreading drugs into coastal and south Georgia. David Hamilton Sharpe, a/k/a "David Dukkedoff," 28, of Pembroke, Ga., was sentenced to 292 months in federal prison, and Jose Zepeda, 36, of Gray, Ga., was sentenced to 235 months in prison, said David H. Estes, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Greater New Milford Spectrum (Danbury, CT): Feds: Hartford man sentenced to 18 months for role in shootout, Peter Yankowski, October 8, 2021, 10:52 PM

A Hartford man was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison Friday for his role in a gunfight in the city last year. William Tisdol, 22, also faces three years of supervised release at the conclusion of his sentence, the U.S.

Attorney's Office said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Laredo Morning Times (Laredo, TX): **Cocaine smuggler sentenced to five years in prison**, César Rodriguez, October 8, 2021, 9:50 PM (EDT)

A man was sentenced to prison for the smuggling attempt of more than nine pounds of cocaine via the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge, according to court documents. Rafael Martinez was sentenced to 60 months in prison on Oct. 5. He had pleaded guilty to conspire to import cocaine on Aug. 3. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Beaver Falls man faces felony charge after TSA says he brought loaded revolver to Pittsburgh airport**, Megan Guza, October 8, 2021, 3:12 PM

Two days after federal and local law enforcement laid out new penalties for those who bring firearms to Pittsburgh International Airport security checkpoints, inadvertently or otherwise, a Beaver Falls man was arrested for carrying a firearm without a license after a gun was spotted in his carry-on bag. Randolph Copeland, 54, is charged with carrying a firearm without a license, court records show. The charge is a third-degree felony. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTOG-CBS (Petersburg, FL): **Man Guilty To Conspiracy To Commit Wire Fraud And Securities Fraud**, Ashley Cox, October 9, 2021, 10:33 AM

Mark Melnick has pleaded guilty to a criminal information charging him with conspiracy to commit wire and securities fraud arising from a years-long scheme to manipulate the prices of short-term call options in large, publicly traded companies. Melnick is the second defendant to plead guilty for his participation in this scheme. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): **South Florida Veterinarian Sentenced For Sexually Abusing Dogs, Created Animal Crush Video**, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 9:59 AM

A licensed veterinarian based in Aventura, Florida who recorded himself sexually abusing dogs, shared the bestiality videos on-line, and collected on-line child pornography, was sentenced today in Miami federal court to over 21 years in prison. Prentiss K. Madden, is guilty of producing videos of himself engaged in sexual activity with dogs and sharing them with others in chats. Madden kept these bestiality videos, as well as chats about bestiality, in his cellular telephones. Madden also is guilty of accessing a Dropbox account containing images of child pornography, receiving child pornography photographs and videos through social media chats, talking about child sexual abuse during chats, and storing thousands of child pornography images in his Dropbox account and cellular telephones. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WPGG-AM/FM (Atlantic City, NJ): **Feds: Ringleader of Camden County, NJ, Drug Ring and His Son Sentenced**, Chris Coleman, October 9, 2021, 9:46 AM

Authorities say a Camden County man has been sentenced for leading a conspiracy to distribute and sell oxycodone, Adderall, and Xanax while also defrauding the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and his son was sentenced for conspiring with his father. 68-year-old Rocco DePoder of Gloucester City was sentenced to 70 months in prison on Friday. His son, 41-year-old Michael DePoder, also of Gloucester City, was sentenced to five years of probation with 14 months of home detention with location monitoring, according to U.S. Attorney Rachael Honig. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTOG-CBS (Petersburg, FL): **West Palm Beach Man Sentenced After Shooting Inside A VA Medical Center**, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 9:33 AM

Today, federal district judge Kenneth A. Marra sentenced Larry Ray Bon, 62, a former West Palm Beach resident who shot a firearm inside the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach to a federal prison term of 198 months. According to court records, Bon brought the firearm and ammunition to the emergency room of the VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Florida Man Guilty For Threatening To Kill A Defense Attorney, Ashley Cox, October 9, 2021, 9:20 AM

A 42-year-old Coral Gables, Florida man pled guilty yesterday in federal district court to threatening the defense attorney of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer convicted earlier this year of murdering George Floyd. During yesterday's hearing before U.S. District Judge Donald L. Graham, William John Hartnett admitted that on April 6, from his location in Miami, he called the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association ("MPPOA") in St. Paul, an organization that funded Chauvin's defense. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KBMT-ABC/NBC (Beaumont, TX): Port Arthur man faces up to 10 years behind bars for firearms violation, Kierra Sam, October 8, 2021, 9:42 PM

A Beaumont man is facing a maximum sentence of ten years for federal firearms violations in the Eastern District of Texas. Charles Nicholas Lock, 34, pleaded guilty Friday to being a felon in possession of ammunition, acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas Ganjei announced in a news release. Investigators said Lock was involved in a shooting that happened on 7th Street in Port Arthur on Oct. 22, 2018. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXXV-ABC (Waco, TX): Man in Murkowski threat case kept low profile in Alaska town, Mark Thiessen, October 8, 2021, 9:33 PM

A man described as a "normal guy" who kept a low profile in his rural Alaska community faces charges he threatened to hire an assassin to kill a U.S. senator. Jay Allen Johnson was scheduled to be arraigned later Friday on charges related to phone threats authorities say he made against U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Johnson was arrested Monday and was being held in a Fairbanks jail ahead of the federal court hearing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHBQ-Fox (Memphis, TN): Dept. of Justice looks to join investigation into alleged Methodist kickback scheme, Mandy Hrach, October 8, 2021 at 8:14 PM (EDT)

The United States Department of Justice announced Friday that it's looking to join an investigation into Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. The investigation comes after a whistleblower's lawsuit that claims Methodist and the West Cancer Clinic were involved in a kickback scheme with Methodist allegedly making payments to the West Clinic to entice doctors to send patients to their hospitals. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WICU-NBC (Erie, PA): Erie Man Sentenced to Decade in Prison for Child Pornography, Unattributed, October 8, 2021, 11:41 AM EDT

An Erie man will spend a decade behind bars for child pornography, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Friday. Adam Ryzinski, 43, was sentenced to 10 years in jail followed by 10 years supervised release for violating federal laws related to the sexual exploitation of children. He was ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution to two separate victims. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: US appeals court lets Texas resume ban on most abortions, Paul J. Weber, October 9, 2021, 1:13 AM (EDT)

A federal appeals court Friday night quickly allowed Texas to resume banning most abortions, just one day after clinics began racing to serve patients again for the first time since early September. A one-page order by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the nation's strictest abortion law, which bans abortions once cardiac activity is detected, usually around six weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [Reuters](#), [CBS](#)

Law360: Conn. Schools Tell 2nd Circ. Transgender Athlete Case Is Moot, Ivan Moreno, October 8, 2021,

7:17 PM

Connecticut schools urged the Second Circuit to uphold a lower court's decision backing the state's policy of allowing transgender students to compete in sports based on their gender identity, saying a challenge to the rule is moot because the two transgender girls at the center of the case have graduated. The four mothers who filed the Title IX lawsuit on behalf of their cisgender daughters - two of whom have also graduated - have not identified any other transgender girls who would potentially compete against the two remaining athletes seeking to overturn the policy, the Connecticut interscholastic Athletic Conference and several . . . [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Texas judge halts execution of inmate who wants chaplain to pray while he gets lethal injection, Emily Zantow, October 8, 2021, 3:20 PM

A federal judge in Texas has halted the execution of an inmate who says state prison officials are violating his religious rights because they will not allow a chaplain to pray and have physical contact with him while he is put to death. U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt on Thursday stayed the execution of Stephen Barbee, who argued that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was violating his religious rights as a Christian. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Little Rock, family of slain Black driver reach settlement, Andrew Demillo, October 8, 2021, 5:33 PM (EDT)

The city of Little Rock and the family of a Black driver fatally shot by a white police officer during a traffic stop have tentatively reached a settlement, court records show. U.S. District Judge D. Price Marshall on Thursday canceled the trial in the lawsuit the family of Bradley Blackshire had filed, saying the city had informally advised him of a settlement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: 3M to face four more trials in massive military earplug litigation, Nate Raymond, October 8, 2021, 4:11 PM EDT

A federal judge overseeing thousands of lawsuits by military veterans who say they suffered hearing damage as a result of using defective earplugs sold by 3M Co has scheduled four more trials in the largest multidistrict litigation ever. U.S. District Judge M. Casey Rodgers in Pensacola, Florida, on Tuesday scheduled four more bellwether trials to take place from March to May. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Pfizer Sold Carcinogen-Tainted Chantix, Buyers Claim, Hailey Konnath, October 8, 2021, 9:28 PM
Pfizer has allegedly been peddling "adulterated, misbranded and unapproved" Chantix, a drug designed to help people quit smoking, consumers said in a proposed class action on Friday, specifically claiming that the drug was contaminated with a carcinogen. Named plaintiff Karen Duff said in her complaint filed in Pennsylvania federal court that the so-called varenicline-containing drugs, like Chantix, that Pfizer sold were actually "rendered worthless"

because they were contaminated with a probable human carcinogen, n-nitrosovarenicline. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: Psychic Mail Fraud Scheme That Scammed Millions Shut Down by Florida District Court, Aila Slisco, October 8, 2021, 6:26 PM

An alleged "psychic" mail fraud scheme involving three residents of France who promised elderly Americans "good fortune" in exchange for money has been shut down by a Florida judge. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida entered a permanent injunction against Robert Lhez, Mireille Dayer and Julie Poulleau for allegedly perpetrating the psychic fraud scheme, according to a Friday release from the Department of Justice (DOJ). The injunction also applied to Delaware corporation Arcana Center and the Swiss

corporation Partners VAD International Sàrl, both companies that allegedly helped facilitate the scheme. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: U.S. Ordered to Return, Destroy Harbor Healthcare's Documents, Daniel Seiden, October 8, 2021, 10:10 AM

Federal prosecutors must return to Harbor Healthcare System all privileged hard copy documents obtained from the company's director of compliance during investigations into possible False Claims Act violations, a Texas district court said. Any electronically stored documents must be destroyed, and the government must confirm their destruction under oath, Judge Andrew S. Hanen of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas said in an order entered Thursday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Border Patrol arrests 4 crossing into NW WA from Canada, Unattributed, October 8, 2021, 11:04 PM (EDT)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol agents from the Blaine Sector arrested four people Monday who they say were trying to illegally cross from Canada into northwestern Washington. Blaine Sector Chief Patrol Agent David BeMiller said on Twitter Wednesday that advanced drone technology was used in their response to what he called "cross border threats." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Caller: Where Are Migrants Crossing The Southern Border?, Kaylee Greenlee, October 9, 2021, 9:11 PM

Border officials reported that most encounters with migrants illegally entering the U.S. occurred in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, according to Customs and Border Protection data. Immigration officials encountered 441,855 migrants in the Rio Grande Valley sector between January and August 2021, according to CBP data. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: Mayorkas still hasn't wrapped up mounted Border agent investigation despite vowing speedy conclusion, Anna Giaritelli, October 9, 2021, 7:00 AM

The federal investigation into whether mounted Border Patrol agents committed any wrongdoing in mid-September has yet to be concluded despite a vow from the Biden administration that it would be wrapped up in a matter of days. "The investigation is ongoing. The Department is committed to a thorough, independent, and objective process. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The News-Tribune (Tacoma, WA): Truck carrying migrants goes off-road, crashes into gas pipeline in Texas, agents say, Vandana Ravikumar, October 8, 2021 4:55 PM

An injured migrant woman was found alone near a truck that crashed into a gas pipeline near Kingsville in South Texas, according to Border Patrol agents from the Rio Grande Valley sector. The truck was likely driven by a smuggler, but that person and any other passengers in the vehicle fled the area without contacting anyone to help the injured woman, a news release from U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Laredo Morning Times (Laredo, TX): Woman gets probated sentence in child smuggling attempt, César Rodriguez, October 8, 2021, 8:41 PM (EDT)

A woman who tried smuggling a child via International Bridge 2 has received a probated sentence along with home detention, according to court documents. Josaid Lee Dimas pleaded guilty to conspire to transport an undocumented migrant within the United States on July 8. On Oct. 5, She was sentenced to three years

probation with five months of home detention. After 1 ½ years of no violations, the court will consider terminating it early, according to court documents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch: Former South Texas Police Officer Joel Alex Sandate Sentenced For Recording Video Of Minor, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 10:57 AM (EDT)

Former South Texas police officer Joel Alex Sandate will spend the next 10 years behind bars for possessing child pornography, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. ICE's HSI Rio Grande Valley Child Exploitation Task Force conducted the investigation with assistance from the Primera Police Department, Texas Rangers and the Cameron County District Attorney. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Laredo Morning Times (Laredo, TX): Laredo business owner admits to cash smuggling, César Rodríguez, October 9, 2021, 4:03 AM

A business owner and footwear designer has admitted to attempting to smuggle more than \$72,000 out of the United States, according to court documents. Linda Alcala pleaded guilty on Oct. 6 to bulk cash smuggling in or out of the country. A sentencing date is pending. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Virgin Islands Daily News (St. Thomas, VI): D.R. man living in V.I, pleads to illegal reentry, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 12:55 AM

A Dominican man could be in his 90s before he is released from prison after he plead guilty Wednesday to illegally reentering the United States. Timoteo Upia-Frias, 74, plead guilty to a single count before Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller, according to U.S. Attorney Gretchen Shappert. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSVN-Fox (Miami, FL): Traveler at FLL accused of trying to smuggle gold disguised as jewelry painted black, Unattributed, October 9, 2021,

Federal authorities struck gold at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. U.S. Customs And Border Protection officers said a passenger tried to smuggle gold disguised as bracelets, keychains and belt buckles on Tuesday. Investigators said the gold was painted black so it wouldn't be detected by X-ray machines. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRGV-ABC (Weslaco, TX): DHS to terminate border barrier contracts in Laredo, Rio Grande Valley sectors, Unattributed, October 08, 2021 4:53 PM

The Department of Homeland Security announced Friday it intends to cancel the remaining border barrier contracts located within U.S. Border Patrol's Laredo and Rio Grande Valley sectors. The termination is consistent with DHS' border barrier plan and will be done in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Reuters: Apple asks judge to pause Epic Games antitrust orders as it appeals ruling, Stephen Nellis and Paresh Dave, October 8, 2021, 7:03 PM

Apple Inc (AAPL.O) on Friday asked a U.S. federal judge to put on hold orders that could require it to change some of its App Store practices and said that it is also appealing the ruling in an antitrust case brought by "Fortnite" creator Epic Games, according to court filings. U.S. district Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers in September largely ruled in Apple's favor after a weeks-long trial. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: Justice Department Makes Quiet Push on Antitrust Enforcement, Brent Kendall, October 9, 2021, 9:00 AM

The Justice Department has been quietly ramping up antitrust enforcement under the Biden administration, despite not having a politically confirmed official to serve as antitrust chief. The department shares antitrust authority with the Federal Trade Commission, whose new liberal leadership has drawn much of the early spotlight. Yet in recent months the DOJ has blocked a major insurance-industry merger between Aon PLC and rival Willis Towers Watson PLC; filed an aggressive challenge to a partnership between American Airlines Group Inc. and JetBlue Airways Corp. ; and withdrawn from a real-estate industry settlement in order to take a deeper look at whether industry practices keep some broker commissions artificially high. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Medical Specialty Board Wins Antitrust Appeal Over Credentialing, Mike Leonard, October 8, 2021, 3:22 PM

The American Board of Medical Specialties secured its win Friday against antitrust litigation over its credentialing and renewal programs for physicians, when a federal appeals court in Chicago became the latest to uphold a medical board's "maintenance of certification" requirements. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed a ruling dismissing the case, part of a wave of challenges brought by doctors and the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, an organization that has portrayed the recredentialing process as a waste of time and a money grab. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Reuters: EPA challenges decision on water cleanup standards, Sebastien Malo, October 8, 2021, 3:57 PM

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has appealed a lower court ruling that held it improperly failed to revise nearly three-decade-old regulations governing what chemicals are permitted to break down oil slicks in water. In a Thursday court filing, the EPA said it is asking the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review an August ruling by a San Francisco federal judge who held the agency failed its nondiscretionary duty under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to update criteria that determine which oil dispersants are safe enough according to the latest science. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

The Hill: Trump-era EPA board member sues over firing, Zack Budryk, October 8, 2021, 3:06 PM

A former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advisory committee member sued the agency Thursday, alleging his dismissal was part of a purge of members with ties to the energy industry. In the lawsuit, S. Stanley Young, who was appointed to the EPA's science advisory board in 2017 under then-President Trump, claimed he was fired earlier this year as part of an "unprecedented purge" when the committees were disbanded. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Growth Energy Asks High Court to Review EPA Ethanol Rule, Maya Earls, October 8, 2021, 12:05 PM

Growth Energy wants the U.S. Supreme Court to step in and decide that the EPA reasonably interpreted a Clean Air Act provision to allow summer sales of fuel containing more than 15% ethanol. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit tossed part of the agency's ethanol rule in July after finding that Congress intended the ethanol waiver to apply only to fuels containing 10% ethanol. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: DEA agent slain in Amtrak shooting remembered as key leader, Unattributed, October 8, 2021, 4:54 PM

A federal agent shot and killed while questioning a passenger on an Amtrak train in Arizona was remembered Friday as a venerated leader and mentor with an unparalleled work ethic. Dozens of family, friends and colleagues filled Calvary Chapel in Tucson to honor Michael Garbo, a longtime Drug Enforcement Administration group supervisor. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [KVOA-NBC \(Tucson, AZ\)](#), [KOLD-CBS \(Tucson, AZ\)](#), [KPNX-NBC \(Phoenix, AZ\)](#).

NY Daily News: **U.S. Marshals arrest nine sex offenders in ‘Operation Dunder Mifflin’**, Jessica Schladebeck, October 9, 2021, 1:27 PM

Nine sex offenders were taken into custody under Operation Dunder Mifflin, a multi-agency effort lead by the U.S. Marshals Service in the city of Scranton, Penn. The operation — seemingly named for the paper company featured in the sitcom, “The Office,” which takes place in Scranton — was carried out in coordination with the local police department between August 2 to September 17. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, NC): **As FBI investigates school board threats, NC political leaders split along party lines**, T. Keung Hui and Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan, October 9, 2021, 11:09 AM

The federal government’s new investigation into threats being made against local school boards is splitting North Carolina’s elected officials along partisan lines. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced this month that he would have the FBI investigate the “disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school administrators, board members, teachers, and staff.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

Santa Fe New Mexican (Santa Fe, NM): **New Mexico experiences a slew of bank robberies in 2021**, Victoria Traxler, October 9, 2021, 5:04 AM (EDT)

In the first five days of October, robbers struck three banks in New Mexico and walked away with an undisclosed amount of cash. One man flashed a gun in his waistband before handing a note to a teller in a bank inside a Walmart Supercenter in Albuquerque, the FBI said in a news release. Another claimed he had a bomb in a bag as he robbed a bank in Socorro, the agency said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJW-Fox (Cleveland, OH): **New York man traveled to North Olmsted for sex with 14-year-old: FBI**, Jen Steer, October 8, 2021, 3:15 PM

A New York man is accused of driving to North Olmsted with plans to have sex with a 14-year-old girl. Brandon Thomas Kern, 27, of Bayport, New York, was arrested and charged with traveling with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WIMS-Grand Valley State Laker (Michigan City, IN): **Indiana State Police Participating in the National DEA Drug Takeback Day October 23**, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 3:16 AM

The DEA is sponsoring the 21st nationwide “Prescription Drug Take Back” On Saturday, Oct. 23. The initiative seeks to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft through the proper disposal of prescription drugs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFOR-CBS (Miami, FL): **Colombian Police Captain Extradited To Miami In Latest Overseas Stain For DEA**, Unattributed, October 9, 2021 at 12:04 PM

A Colombian national police officer has been extradited to Miami to stand trial on charges he betrayed the Drug Enforcement Administration to the same traffickers they were jointly fighting. Capt. Juan Pablo Mosquera, who was part of an elite unit that worked closely with U.S. anti-narcotics agents, faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted of obstructing justice for allegedly selling evidence and information. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJZZ-NPR (Phoenix, AZ): **Phoenix police partner with feds on violent crime**, Matthew Casey, October 8, 2021, 9:26 PM (EDT)

About two months have passed since the Civil Rights arm of the U.S. Justice Department launched a sweeping investigation of Phoenix police. Now another DOJ entity called the Bureau of Justice Assistance is running a partnership with Phoenix Police Department to work on reducing violent crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WKRN-ABC (Nashville, TN): **Businesses reopen following ATF shootout in South Nashville**, Nikki McGee, October 8, 2021, 9:04 PM (EDT)

The FBI has cleared the scene following Tuesday's deadly shootout involving the ATF in South Nashville. Friday morning, crews towed away the two main vehicles involved in the shooting. Bullets rang out between the two cars, as shown in surveillance footage obtained by News 2. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOP-CBS (Washington, D.C.): **Snapchat cracks down on illegal drug sales amid fentanyl crisis**, Unattributed, October 8, 2021, 6:53 PM

Snapchat has unveiled new safety policies aimed at confronting the rampant sale of illegal drugs on its platforms, the company announced Thursday. The crackdown comes amid what the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says is a "staggering increase" of fentanyl-laced pills in the country that are contributing to a national uptick in drug overdoses. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Reuters: **Judiciary panel weighs expanding disclosure rule for amicus filers**, Mike Scarcella, October 8, 2021, 3:56 PM

A federal judiciary panel on Thursday said it would further consider crafting a rule to require parties in litigation to more broadly reveal financial ties to outside groups that file friend-of-the-court briefs. The judiciary's Advisory Committee on Appellate rules directed a subcommittee to explore possible amendments to the disclosure rule, which now requires a friend-of-the-court filer, or amicus curiae, to disclose whether a party contributed money to the preparation of a court brief. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: **Bank of Oswego Officers Get Fraud Conspiracy Convictions Vacated**, Bernie Pazanowski, October 8, 2021, 3:17 PM

The fraud conspiracy convictions of two Bank of Oswego officers must be vacated because the prosecution used legally insufficient theories to present its case, a divided Ninth Circuit said Friday. Dan Heine and Diana Yates were accused of altering the bank's books to make them more acceptable to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation inspectors. Heine and Yates were charged with conspiring to defraud the bank, which required deceiving the bank of something of value. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: **Texas judge halts execution of inmate who wants chaplain to pray while he gets lethal injection**, Emily Zantow, October 8, 2021, 3:00 PM

A federal judge in Texas has halted the execution of an inmate who says state prison officials are violating his religious rights because they will not allow a chaplain to pray and have physical contact with him while he is put to death. U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt on Thursday stayed the execution of Stephen Barbee, who argued that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was violating his religious rights as a Christian. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Hot Springs Sentinel-Record (Hot Springs, AR): **[PODCAST] 'First Step' offers blueprint that can 'bring people together,' director says**, Brad Parker, October 9, 2021, 5:05 AM (EDT)

Director Brandon Kramer says he hopes his film "The First Step" will offer a blueprint on how to "bring people together on the issues that are most affecting this country: addiction and criminal justice reform." [...] Kramer and his brother, Lance, the co-founders of Meridian Hill Pictures, spent five years working on the film, which

follows CNN political contributor Van Jones, a Black progressive activist and political commentator who attempts to pass a criminal justice reform bill called "The First Step Act" during the Trump administration. As Jones attempts to build bridges on both sides of the aisle, his efforts seem to make him a pariah to many in his own community, according to a news release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

Bloomberg Law: **PDVSA Trust Seeks High Court Review Over Rejected Hacking Suit**, Maya Earls, October 8, 2021, 11:21 AM

The U.S. Supreme Court should reject a rule that an argument can't be raised in a footnote, a litigation trust attempting to revive its lawsuit over an alleged hacking scheme targeting Venezuelan state-owned oil company Petróleos de Venezuela SA said, in a petition for review. PDVSA U.S. Litigation Trust said the high court should instead find that appellate briefs can be read "liberally so that cases can be decided on the merits wherever reasonably possible." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Law360: **25 States, DC Urge Justices To Restore ICWA**, Diamond Naga Siu, October 8, 2021, 9:12 PM

Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday to hear petitions on the Indian Child Welfare Act's constitutionality after the Fifth Circuit upheld and overturned parts of a lower court decision that found the law unconstitutional. A Texas federal judge in October 2018 ruled in a summary judgment that ICWA was unconstitutionally race-based and gave tribes too much power over states to decide how to implement it in adoption and custody cases. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

WSJ: **Canada's Pot Companies Are Missing the Best Party**, Carol Ryan, October 9, 2021, 10:03 AM

Canadian marijuana companies started with big advantages over American ones, thanks to a fully legal home market. Now the slow pace of U.S. legalization risks turning them into bystanders. Recent Democratic proposals for a legal overhaul are considered too ambitious to pass. Counterintuitively, this has hit the Canadian names hardest as they are locked out of the booming U.S. marijuana market until federal prohibition ends. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

York Dispatch (York, PA): [OPINION] **Legalization of adult-use marijuana is inevitable**, Mike Regan, October 9, 2021, 10:00 AM

As a Republican state senator who spent more than two decades in law enforcement, it may come as a surprise to some people that I have circulated a co-sponsorship memo outlining my intent to introduce legislation legalizing adult-use marijuana in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For decades, marijuana has been used by adult residents in the state, but such use has financially benefited and perpetuated organized crime, gangs, and cartels. The street-level marijuana sold by these organizations is often laced with illicit drugs and toxic additives, and these criminals have been responsible for violence, mayhem, and murder across our state and country. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

San Francisco Chronicle (San Francisco, CA): **Why police are raiding California pot farmers and what can be done about it**, Randal John Meyer, October 9, 2021, 9:50 AM (EDT)

Growing, selling and using cannabis is legal in California under state law. So many people across the country were shocked last week to see images of Alameda County sheriff's deputies hacking through marijuana plants with hedge trimmers during a bust at 18 locations across the Bay Area that netted up to 500,000 plants and millions in cash. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Pot Biz Owner Owes Tax Fraud Penalties, 9th Circ. Affirms, Theresa Schliep, October 8, 2021, 7:34 PM

A tax preparer owes around \$103,000 in fraud penalties, as the Ninth Circuit ruled Friday that the U.S. Tax Court was justified in finding he underpaid his marijuana business's taxes, hid income, and failed to cooperate with the IRS. The Ninth Circuit affirmed the lower court's decision finding that Raymond Chico owes fraud penalties under Internal Revenue Code Section 6663 for 2010 through 2012 for underreporting income from his marijuana cigarette container company, Doobtubes, and other ventures. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Reuters: Purdue Pharma appeals judge tells lawyers to stop 'deluge of letters', Maria Chutchian, October 8, 2021, 5:37 PM

A New York federal judge said she's had enough with a 'deluge of letters' in the Purdue Pharma appeal. U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon in Manhattan on Thursday told lawyers involved in appeals of a deal providing legal protections for the Sackler family members that owned Purdue Pharma to stop sending her letters as the appeals get underway. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Northcentral PA (Williamsport, PA): Nationwide opioid epidemic impacts all communities, Unattributed, October 9, 2021, 11:59 AM

Over the course of August and September, working in concert with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) seized 1.8 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and arrested 810 drug traffickers in cities, suburbs, and rural communities spanning the United States. The amount of deadly fentanyl-laced fake pills seized by DEA since August 3rd is enough to kill more than 700,000 Americans, the DEA reports. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

AP: Marathon bomber faces revived death sentence in high court, Mark Sherman and Alanna Durkin Richer, October 9, 2021, 11:45 AM

The Biden administration will try to persuade the Supreme Court this week to reinstate the death penalty for convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev by arguing that a jury had no need to examine evidence that the government itself relied on at an earlier phase of the case. Tsarnaev's guilt in the deaths of three people in the shocking bombing near the finish line of the marathon in 2013 is not at issue in the case the justices will hear Wednesday — just whether he should be sentenced to life in prison, or death. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

WaPo: Trump's D.C. hotel made millions from foreign governments but still struggled, federal documents show, Jonathan O'Connell and David A. Fahrenthold, October 8, 2021, 11:05 AM

Donald Trump's luxury Washington hotel lost more than \$70 million while he was in office despite reaping millions in payments from foreign governments, according to federal documents released by the House

Committee on Oversight and Reform on Friday. The committee, chaired by Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.), released hundreds of pages of financial documents on the property Friday that it received from the General Services Administration, the agency that leased the federally owned property to Trump's company beginning in 2013. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

NBC: Why Trump's January DOJ election meeting failed to subvert justice, Chuck Rosenberg, October 9, 2021, 5:00 AM

"Subverting Justice" is a catchy name for the report issued Thursday by the majority staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee, regarding a deplorable attempt by former President Donald Trump to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. The interim report — based on persuasive documents and testimony — finds that "[i]n attempting to enlist [the Department of Justice] for personal, political purposes in an effort to maintain his hold on the White House, Trump grossly abused the power of the presidency." [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Democrats urge federal agencies to address use of cryptocurrencies for ransomware payments, Maggie Miller, October 8, 2021, 3:25 PM

A group of Democrats on Friday urged the Biden administration to do more to confront the growing use of cryptocurrency markets in ransomware attacks, which have become an increasing national security threat over the past year. Sens. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Reps. Jim Langevin (D-R.I.) and Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) sent a letter to the leaders of the Homeland Security, Justice, State and Treasury departments on Friday asking them to pursue "stronger coordination" between the agencies on the issue of cryptocurrency. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Colorado Newsline (Denver, CO): Report sheds new light on Pennsylvania lawmaker's role in Trump election denial, John L. Micek October 9, 2021, 7:00 AM (EDT)

A newly released congressional report on efforts by former President Donald Trump and his allies to pressure the U.S. Department of Justice and overturn the 2020 election prominently highlights a Pennsylvania lawmaker who is a close Trump ally, and who was in the vanguard of lawmakers who objected to certifying President Joe Biden's victory in November. The report by the majority-Democrat U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee is the end result of an eight-month-long investigation into the events that finally ended with the Jan. 6 siege on the U.S. Capitol, where pro-Trump extremists attempted to disrupt the legally mandated certification process. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Santa Clarita Valley Signal (Santa Clarita, CA): Garcia calls for answers on DOJ's targeting of parents, Unattributed, October 8, 2021, 12:28 AM (EDT)

Rep. Mike Garcia, R-Santa Clarita, and fellow lawmakers sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding answers on why the Department of Justice is targeting parents who speak out in opposition to school board decisions. The letter comes in response to the attorney general's recent memorandum on targeting "criminal conduct" at school board meetings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: OCTOBER 8, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Margaret Brennan

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- President Biden has rejected former President Trump's request to shield the White House documents from a House Committee investigating the January 6th Capital riot. White House Counsel, Dana Remus,

stated, "President Biden has determined that an assertion of executive privilege is not in the best interests of the United States. . . ." President Trump responded, " The Democrats are drunk on power, but this dangerous assault on our Constitution and important legal precedent will not work." Several Trump aides and advisors have also been subpoenaed by the Committee. [\[ABC, CBS, NBC\]](#)

- President Biden is dealing with the disappointing September jobs report and economy. The number of new jobs in September were much lower than expected with only 194,000 jobs created. Analysts say the Delta variant and persistent supply shortages contributed to the shortage. Unemployment is down to 4.8%, but the number is down because people just gave up looking for work. [\[ABC, CBS, NBC\]](#)
- The first two parents to stand trial in the college cheating scandal have been found guilty. John Wilson and Gamal Abdelaziz were convicted on fraud and bribery-conspiracy charges for paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to have their children labeled as recruited athletes to be admitted into the University of Southern California. [\[ABC, CBS, NBC\]](#)
- The FDA announced their advisory panel will consider the Pfizer vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old on October 26th. The CDC stated it would meet on November 2nd and 3rd and could issue a decision immediately. Children 5 to 11 y/o would get 1/3 of the adult dose in 2 separate shots 3 weeks apart. Hesitancy among parents having their children vaccinated remains. [\[ABC, CBS\]](#)
- The Justice Department has stated they will not pursue Civil Rights charges against Officer Rusten Sheskey stating, ". . . the evidence obtained is insufficient to prove that the . . . officer willfully used excessive force." Officer Sheskey shot Blake, who is Black, during a domestic disturbance in August 2020, leaving Blake paralyzed from the waist down. [\[ABC, NBC\]](#)
- The Islamic State Khorasan claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing attack in a Shiite mosque in Kunduz, Afghanistan. Dozens of worshipers were wounded while 46 were killed during Friday Prayer when the mosque was crowded. This was the group's second attack against a mosque in just a few days [\[ABC, CBS\]](#)
- At least 5 people have died from flash flooding across the southeast. The same system that brought flooding to the southeast will kickstart the new system brewing along the East Coast this weekend. There is a 40% chance of it developing into a tropical cyclone. [\[ABC\]](#)
- The search for a 3y/o Christopher Ramirez who vanished 3 days ago continues. Multiple agencies, including the FBI, and civilians have been searching for Christopher who was last seen playing with a family dog near Plantersville, Texas. Sheriff Don Sowell said Friday that there's no sign of foul play or an abduction but that investigators are looking at all possibilities. [\[ABC\]](#)
- The ripple effect noted across the country as the U.S. experiences major supply shortages with cargo ships waiting off both coasts. Each piece of the supply chain is under pressure with back logs at ports, a shortage of truck drivers and factory workers. The demand for shipping containers is so high, the cost of using them has gone up by 300% in the last year, affecting retailers getting their goods delivered from Asia to the U.S. [\[ABC\]](#)
- The House Oversight Committee released information that the DC Trump Hotel lost \$70 Million over 4 years, requiring \$24 Million infused by the Trump Organization. Revenues of about \$4 Million were taken in from foreign governments, which may pose as a potential conflict of interest. [\[CBS\]](#)
- Fifty-six percent of Americans are fully vaccinated. The toll of COVID is evident in Idaho which only has 42% of fully vaccinated people, the third worst number in the country. Idaho has the highest number of COVID occupied ICU beds in the nation. Hospitals have lost more than 50% of the medical staff due to burn out. [\[CBS\]](#)
- Journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia were awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. The two journalists were honored for their fight for freedom of expression in countries where reporters have faced persistent attacks, harassment and murder. [\[CBS\]](#)
- Throughout the country fights over vaccine and mask mandates are raging. Weekly COVID test positivity rate has gone from 10% to 6% in the last month. Questions as to whether the COVID Pandemic is now

From: DOJ Digests <doj-digests@rendon.com>

To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk <dojdesk@rendon.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest [CORRECTED SUBJECT LINE]

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 2021 08:08:20 -0400

Importance: Normal

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 21, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Washington & DOJ Schedule
2. US Attorneys
3. National Security
4. Criminal Law
5. Civil Rights
6. Civil Law
7. Immigration & Border Security
8. Antitrust
9. Environment
10. Tax
11. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
12. Criminal Justice/Corrections
13. US Supreme Court
14. Native American Affairs
15. Marijuana Legalization
16. Opioid Crisis
17. Administration
18. Congress
19. Network Evening News Lineup
20. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- 9:30 AM: Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Hybrid hearing on 'Threats to the Homeland: Evaluating the Landscape 20 Years After 9/11', with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas; FBI Director Christopher Wray; and National Counterterrorism

Center Director Christine Abizaid. Held via videoconference and in-person in Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

- 2:30 PM: Senate Committee on the Judiciary Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights Subcommittee hearing on 'Big Data, Big Questions: Implications for Competition and Consumers'. Held in Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

US ATTORNEYS

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Campaign for drug treatment, recovery programs unveiled for Westmoreland, eastern Allegheny residents**, Rich Cholodofsky, September 20, 2021, 5:30 PM

The U.S. Justice Department on Monday announced a new public campaign to promote local addiction and recovery programs to combat the still climbing numbers of drug overdoses and deaths in Western Pennsylvania. The Press Play PA program will target Westmoreland County and eastern Allegheny County communities to highlight efforts being undertaken to curb addiction, show current statistics and link residents to services. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTAE-ABC \(Pittsburgh, PA\)](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: **Mother, son charged in Jan 6 riot have not responded to plea deal offers**, Mark Hosenball, September 20, 2021, 3:45 PM

A Tennessee mother and son facing felony charges for participating in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot have not responded to plea bargain proposals advanced to them by federal prosecutors, a federal judge heard on Monday. At a status hearing before U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth, Assistant U.S. Attorney Leslie Goemaat said plea deal offers set to expire on Monday had been extended last month to accused riot participants Eric Munchel, 30, and Lisa Eisenhart, 57. Both face charges including conspiracy and obstructing an official proceeding. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: **Iowa Grain Cooperative Hit by Cyberattack Linked to Ransomware Group**, David Uberti, September 20, 2021, 5:22 PM

An Iowa grain co-op said it was hit with a cyberattack that security researchers are linking to newly launched ransomware group BlackMatter, which the researchers said demanded \$5.9 million to unlock the organization's data. Fort Dodge, Iowa-based New Cooperative Inc. said Monday that it took its computer networks down after some of its devices and systems recently were hacked. The organization notified law enforcement and is working with data-security experts to investigate what happened, it said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

Bloomberg: **After Biden Warning, Hackers Define 'Critical' as They See Fit**, William Turton, September 20, 2021, 2:42 PM

After a furious run of ransomware attacks in the first half of the year, President Joe Biden in July warned his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, that Russia-based hacking groups should steer clear of 16 critical sectors of the U.S. economy. In recent days, a Russia-linked ransomware group called BlackMatter attacked a grain cooperative in Iowa, an incident that appears to test Biden's terms since "food and agriculture" is one of the protected sectors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: **Alaskan health department still struggling to recover after 'nation-state sponsored' cyberattack**, Sean Lyngaas, September 20, 2021, 9:00 PM

Some computer networks at the Alaskan health department are still offline after foreign government-backed hackers breached the department in May, a spokesperson told CNN on Monday. News of the breach first

emerged in May, but Alaskan officials now say that "nation-state sponsored" hackers exploited a vulnerability in the health department's website to gain further access to department data. The hackers may have accessed Alaskans' Social Security numbers and health and financial information, officials said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: Rioter who hit police with a baseball bat loses bid for jail release, Samantha Hawkins, September 20, 2021, 9:00 PM

Despite the man's claims of abuse in jail and other issues, a federal judge refused Monday to order the release of a 26-year-old who fought police for over two hours during the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. According to video evidence, some of which the upstate New York filmed himself, Edward Jacob Lang hit officers with an aluminum baseball bat and protective shields, and kicked an officer that was on the ground. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: 'Cowboys for Trump' founder's Jan. 6 case highlights challenges facing prosecutors, Kyle Cheney and Josh Gerstein, September 20, 2021, 5:20 PM

A New Mexico county official charged with two misdemeanors for breaching Capitol grounds on Jan. 6 lashed out Monday after a federal judge set a March 2022 trial date to resolve his case. "I broke nothing, I didn't fight with anybody," Couy Griffin, an Otero County commissioner and the founder of "Cowboys for Trump," said during a video hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden. "My life's been turned upside down. ... I'm being punished every day I don't have a trial." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Man with gun arrested at 'Justice for J6' rally is a federal law enforcement officer: Reports, Emily Zantow, September 20, 2021, 3:20 PM

A man with a handgun who was arrested on Saturday at the "Justice for J6" rally is a federal law enforcement officer who will not be prosecuted, according to media reports. The man, 27, is from New Jersey and works as an officer for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, according to The Associated Press. He was arrested during the rally after someone alerted U.S. Capitol Police officers that they "spotted what appeared to be a handgun on a man in the crowd." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Princeton, NJ): 'Justice For J6 Rally' To Be Held In Trenton On Saturday, Sarah Salvadore, September 20, 2021, 4:03 PM

A Washington DC-based group has announced a "Justice For J6 Rally" in Trenton on Saturday, Sept. 25. The rally follows a similar demonstration held on Sept. 18 outside the U.S. Capitol. According to the organizers, Looking Ahead America (LAA), the purpose of the rally is to "oppose the tyrannical and inhumane treatment of the January 6 political prisoners who have been targeted by the Department of Justice and the FBI." [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: California militia member pleads guilty to conspiracy charge, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 9:00 PM

An alleged member of a California right-wing militia group pleaded guilty Monday to charges stemming from the fatal shooting of a federal guard in Oakland more than a year ago. Kenny Miksch, 21, became the fourth member of the so-called Grizzly Scouts to plead guilty to conspiring to obstruct justice, KTVU-TV reported. He faces 20 years in prison when sentenced. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [KTVU-Fox \(Oakland, CA\)](#), [The Mercury News \(san Jose, CA\)](#), [NBC](#)

AP: Ex-Armored Truck Driver Sentenced to 2 Years in Fake Robbery, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 6:17 PM

A former armored truck driver admitted he staged a phony robbery with two others in Alabama was sentenced to two years in federal prison Monday. Jonah Bessard, 26, had pleaded guilty earlier this year to the Jan. 5 scheme, according to WALA-TV. The sentencing judge, U.S. District Judge William Steele, also recommended that Bessard participate in a substance abuse program, the station reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: Two GOP operatives indicted for allegedly routing money from Russian national to support Trump campaign, Felicia Sonmez and Isaac Stanley-Becker, September 20, 2021, 10:29 PM

A political strategist who was pardoned by the former president after being convicted in a 2012 campaign finance scheme is facing new charges related to an alleged 2016 plot to illegally funnel donations made by a Russian national to support then-candidate Donald Trump's White House bid. Jesse Benton, 43, who was previously a top aide to former congressman Ron Paul (R-Tex.) and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and later ran a pro-Trump super PAC, was charged this month, according to a federal indictment in Washington unsealed Monday. Also charged is Roy Douglas "Doug" Wead, 75, a conservative author and former special assistant to President George H.W. Bush. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Axios](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [Politico](#), [UPI](#)

WaPo: [OPINION] Two miscarriages of justice reveal a sickening disparity, Ruth Marcus, September 20, 2021, 6:15 PM

Two individuals allegedly made false statements to federal investigators. One now faces trial on a felony charge. The other does not. I defy you to read about their cases and conclude that justice is served in either instance, or that it is being applied even-handedly. Let's start with the person who has been let off the hook, because the decision is so infuriating and underscores so dramatically the unfairness of the other prosecution. W. Jay Abbott was the special agent in charge of the FBI's Indianapolis field office in 2015, when it received reliable reports that USA Gymnastics physician Larry Nassar had sexually abused multiple gymnasts. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Ex-State Dept. Staffer Cops To Contractor Kickback Scheme, Max Jaeger, September 20, 2021, 5:08 PM

A longtime U. S. Department of State employee has copped to taking \$60,000 in bribes and handing a government contractor insider bidding information on a multi-million-dollar consulate security project, the U. S. Department of Justice announced on Monday. May Salehi, 66, voluntarily surrendered to authorities and pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit honest services fraud for helping a winning contractor raise its bid by nearly \$1 million before it was selected, the government said. Salehi was released pending sentencing. "As a State Department employee, May Salehi was entrusted to serve the public. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Man Can't Toss Charges Tied to Ex-NFL Player's Insider Trading, Andrew Ramonas, September 20, 2021, 4:59 PM

A friend of former NFL linebacker Mychal Kendricks must face criminal charges in an insider trading case connected to the athlete and an ex-Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analyst, after a federal judge found the allegations adequate to proceed. Federal prosecutors produced a "legally sufficient" indictment alleging Mark Wayne Ramsey traded on inside information in a scheme with Kendricks and former Goldman analyst Damilare Sonoiki, Judge Gene Pratter of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania ruled Sept. 17. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

VOA: Assets Seized From Equatorial Guinea VP to Pay for Vaccine, Medicine, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 4:13 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice says it will use money from assets seized from Equatorial Guinea Vice President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, which the DOJ alleges Obiang obtained through corruption. Of that amount, \$19.25 million will go to the United Nations to buy COVID-19 vaccines, and \$6.35 million will pay for medicine and medical supplies for Equatorial Guinea. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY): Riverside man faces up to life in prison on federal gun, drug charges, Stephen T. Watson, September 20, 2021, 10:00 PM

A 37-year-old Riverside man faces a maximum of life in prison and a \$1 million fine on federal weapons and drug charges after, authorities say, police searches of his home and another residence in Buffalo turned up numerous firearms and caches of suspected cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Luis Miguel Cruz Del Moral was arrested Friday after Buffalo police, FBI agents and officers from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives executed a pair of search warrants. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WV News (Clarksburg, WV): Ohio man sentenced to prison on heroin charge, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 9:00 PM

Jacob Benjamin Loper, 20, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute heroin. According to court documents and statements made in court, law enforcement officers executed search warrants on June 12, 2019 at residences on 26th and 27th Streets in Huntington pursuant to a shooting investigation. Officers located Loper, a baggie of 7.9 grams of heroin and digital scales inside a 26th Street residence. In a Mirandized interview, Loper admitted that he possessed the heroin. [[Continue Reading](#)]

GV Wire (Fresno, CA): FBI, Fresno PD Nabbed Drug Dealer Who's Going to Prison for 10 Years, Bill McEwen, September 20, 2021, 6:00 PM

U.S. District Judge Dale A. Drozd sentenced Hector Kioni Gongora, 44, of Fresno, on Monday to 10 years in prison for his guilty pleas to drug trafficking and gun possession. Gongora's convictions follow his arrest on charges involving methamphetamine trafficking and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition after being convicted of a felony, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert said in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Sacramento Bee: Woman swindled \$77,000 in housing relief by lying about Camp Fire damage, feds say, Don Sweeney, September 20, 2021, 5:04 PM

A former Paradise woman falsely claimed to be living in a mobile home destroyed by the 2018 Camp Fire to receive \$77,000 in federal housing aid, prosecutors say. Deborah Laughlin, 64, pleaded guilty Monday to making false statements to collect Federal Emergency Management Agency relief following the catastrophic blaze, the U.S. Attorney's office for the eastern district of California said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fort Myers News-Press: Fort Myers career felon sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for firearms offense, Michael Braun, September 20, 2021, 3:57 PM

A Fort Myers man who ran from police during a 2020 traffic stop, leaving a loaded 9mm handgun and a bag of drugs, will serve 15 years in federal prison. Larry Lynn Gary, 29, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge John L. Badalamenti Monday on a charge of possessing a firearm and ammunition as a previously convicted felon. Gary pleaded guilty May 6. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Bakersfield Californian: Delano resident pleads guilty to being a felon in possession of a handgun, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 3:00 PM

Delano resident Christopher Howard, 33, pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to being a felon in possession of a handgun, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice. On April 28, police officers encountered Howard in Delano carrying a bag with a loaded, 9 millimeter-caliber handgun and an additional, high-capacity magazine, the release said. Howard has been convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of stolen property, escape and two counts of second-degree burglary, and so according to the release he cannot lawfully possess firearms. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAVY-NBC (Portsmouth, VA): Former VB investment advisor, Williamsburg attorney among sentenced in nationwide fraud scheme targeting elderly, Julius Ayo, September 20, 2021, 8:28 PM

A former investment advisor in Virginia Beach, an attorney from Williamsburg, and a salesman from Chesapeake are part of a group recently sentenced in a nationwide fraud scheme that targeted the elderly. According to a release from the Department of Justice Monday, the group consisting of Daryl Bank, 51, of Port St. Lucie, Florida, and his co-conspirators—including his attorney, Billy Seabolt, 56, of Williamsburg; corporate executive Raeann Gibson, 49, of Florida; and salesman Roger Hudspeth, 52, of Chesapeake deceived investors across the country which caused the victims over \$25 million. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Mahwah, NJ): **Feds: Bergen Tour Company Manager, 76, Admits Embezzling Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars**, Jerry DeMarco, September 20, 2021, 8:10 PM

A 76-year-old Bergen County guided-tour company manager told a federal judge Monday that she and a company accountant embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from their employer. Estela Laluf of River Edge, began working at the East Rutherford-based company in 1989 and took a management position in 1996, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Mahwah, NJ): **Six Jersey City Gang-Bangers Charged With Stabbing Rival**, Jerry DeMarco, September 20, 2021, 6:47 PM

Federal authorities have charged six purported members of a Jersey City gang with stabbing a rival in broad daylight on a busy city street. All were part of a street gang that operated in and around the Curries Woods housing complex near the Bayonne border, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced today. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJHL-CBS/ABC (Johnson City, TN): **Marion man pleads guilty to distributing child pornography on messaging app**, Mackenzie Moore, September 20, 2021, 6:46 PM

A Marion, Virginia man has pled guilty to distributing child pornography through the online messaging platform KIK. Travis Shane Smith, 38, pleaded guilty to distributing images that depicted prepubescent girls engaging in sexually explicit conduct, a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WINK-CBS (Fort Myers, FL): **Man sentenced to life for 2020 Fort Myers nightclub shooting**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 6:00 PM

A Gibsonton man was convicted in March of shooting two men outside a Fort Myers nightclub last year. Jonathan Anthony Reid, 32, was found guilty of possessing a firearm and ammunition as a previously convicted felon in the shooting outside Babe's on Jan. 29, 2020. On Monday, Reid was sentenced to life in prison for the shooting that injured the two men. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTVJ-NBC (Miami, FL): **Man Charged in Violent Miami Crime Spree That Ended With Man Shot in Chest**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 6:00 PM

A man who went on a violent one-night crime spree in Miami that included an armed robbery, carjacking, burglary and shooting has been indicted on numerous charges, authorities said Monday. Frankie David Vargas, II, 33, is charged with armed robbery, carjacking, and discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WWLP-NBC/CW (Springfield, MA): **Dominican national pleads guilty to identity theft and government fraud**, Waleed Azad, September 20, 2021, 5:59 PM

A woman facing charges related to identity theft and government fraud was in federal court Monday. According to a news release by the Department of Justice, Andrea Perez, 48, pleaded guilty Monday in federal court in Springfield in connection with using another individual's identity to fraudulently obtain government benefits. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJZ-CBS (Baltimore, MD): **Chevy Chase Man Charged With Wire Fraud Related To A Scheme To Steal**

\$750K From A Non-Profit Organization, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 6:56 PM

A Chevy Chase man is facing federal charges for allegedly posing as an investment advisor to steal nearly \$800,000 from a non-profit organization that provides services for wounded veterans. Officials said 70-year Brian McQuade has been charged with wire fraud related to a scheme to steal \$750,000 from a non-profit organization providing services to military veterans. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTOP-FM \(Washington, DC\)](#)

WBOY-NBC/ABC (Clarksburg, WV): Westover woman pleads guilty to federal drug charge in Texas to Morgantown ring, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 5:53 PM

A Monongalia County woman has admitted to a federal drug charge, Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Bernard announced. Kelsey McClung, 28 of Westover, pleaded guilty Monday to one count of "Distribution of Cocaine Base." McClung admitted to distributing cocaine base, also known as "crack cocaine," in March 2020 in Monongalia County. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRTV-CBS (Great Falls, MT): Suspect pleads guilty to possession of meth with intent to distribute on Blackfeet Reservation, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 5:40 PM

Steven Roy DeCarlo of Browning, accused of being a methamphetamine dealer on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, admitted in federal court in Great Falls on Monday to a trafficking crime. Court documents state that law enforcement officers had several encounters with DeCarlo in 2020, including responding on July 31, 2020 to a report of gunshots in a field on the reservation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Kent Reporter (Kent, WA): Kent man, 36, receives seven-year sentence for teen rape, Steve Hunter, September 20, 2021, 5:32 PM

A 36-year-old Kent man received a sentence of seven years and three months for the rape of a teen in 2020 in Olympic National Park. Christopher James Kuna was at a gathering with family and close friends when he provided alcohol to the 14 year old and committed the sexual assault, according to an U.S. Department of Justice news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KAAL-ABC (Austin, MN): Dodge Center man arrested, charged with impersonating a federal agent, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 5:11 PM

A federal criminal complaint has been filed against a Dodge County man for impersonating a federal law enforcement officer, announced Acting United States Attorney W. Anders Folk. According to court documents, on August 17, 2021, the FBI received a tip that Reyel Devon Simmons, 52, of Dodge Center, was impersonating a federal agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security. The investigation revealed that Simmons used the false name "Rey Reeves," and regularly held himself out as a federal agent on social media. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WABI-CBS (Bangor, ME): Convicted sex offender from Bangor sentenced on child porn charges, Catherine Pegram, September 20, 2021, 5:09 PM

A convicted sex offender from Bangor caught with child pornography has been sentenced to 16 years in federal prison. 46-year-old Robert Goguen appeared in court in Portland Monday. He pleaded guilty four years ago to having child porn and admitted that it violated his conditions of release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Union, NJ): Confessed NJ ID Thief Admits Stealing \$450,000 In Pandemic Unemployment Benefits From NY State, Jerry DeMarco, September 20, 2021, 4:57 PM

A Union County man admitted Monday that he stole \$450,000 in pandemic unemployment insurance benefits from New York State by using other people's identities. Maurice Mills, 29, of Union Township took a deal from the government rather than face trial, pleading guilty to wire fraud during a video conference with a federal judge in Newark. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WKXW \(Trenton, NJ\)](#)

KLBK-CBS (Lubbock, TX): Judge accepts plea deal of Lubbock dentist who admitted to creating child porn, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 4:47 PM

On Monday, a judge accepted the production of child pornography plea deal of a well-known former Lubbock dentist, according to a release by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas. Jason White, 42, admitted to – among other things in the plea agreement – creating pornographic videos of a 17-year-old boy. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WJZ-CBS (Baltimore, MD): Three Maryland Men Facing Federal Charges Related To \$2.7M Unemployment Fraud Scheme, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 4:23 PM

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging three Maryland men on federal charges related to a scheme to receive more than \$2.7 million in unemployment benefits. The three men charged were 34-year-old Gladstone Njokem of Hyattsville, 32-year-old Martin Tabe of Bowie and 31-year-old Sylvester Atekwane of Hyattsville.. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WJLA-ABC \(Washington, DC\)](#).

KPIX-CBS (San Francisco, CA): Manteca Woman Gets 21 Years in Prison For Trafficking Meth, Heroin to Alaska, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 3:30 PM

Authorities on Monday announced the recent sentencing of a Manteca woman involved in an interstate drug operation that was distributing methamphetamine and heroin in Alaska. According to a release issued by the Eastern District of California's U.S. District Attorney, 58-year-old Manteca resident Alecia Trapps was sentenced last Friday to 21 years in prison for conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and heroin. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KCAU-ABC (Sioux City, IA): Sioux City woman receives prison sentence for COVID-19 unemployment fraud, John Murphy, September 20, 2021, 12:29 PM

A Sioux City woman who stole government funds using a COVID-19 unemployment scheme was sentenced to 6 months in federal prison. According to the release, Linda Bosquez, 59, of Sioux City, Iowa, received the prison term after a guilty plea to theft of government funds. In a plea agreement, Bosquez admitted that from April 30, 2020, to July 22, 2020, she stole at least \$24,235 from the United States Department of the Treasury and the states of Georgia, Michigan, and Ohio. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KMEG-CBS \(Sioux City, IA\)](#), [KTIV-NBC \(Sioux City, IA\)](#).

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): 3 men sentenced for Smyrna's largest meth bust ever, Joyce Lupiani, September 20, 2021, 12:00 PM

Three men have been sentenced for Smyrna's largest methamphetamine seizure ever, according to the acting U.S. Attorney for Northern Georgia. Alejandro Salazar-Gama, Miguel Salazar-Gama and Arturo Acevedo were sentenced for their roles in a drug trafficking conspiracy that involved nearly 40 kilograms of 100% pure meth. According to Acting U.S. Attorney Erskine, the charges and other information presented in court: On April 10, 2019, an undercover agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration's Atlanta-Carolinas High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program arranged via telephone to purchase 40 kilograms of methamphetamine at a business in Smyrna. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): Man sentenced in connection to international firearms, drug trafficking conspiracy, Mariya Murrow, September 20, 2021, 11:00 AM

A 30-year-old man has been sentenced for his apparent involvement in an international weapons trafficking conspiracy to purchase and illegally export firearms and drugs from the United States to the United Kingdom and the Caribbean via the U.S. Postal Service. Jahziah Roy Lewis, a U.K. citizen, was sentenced to serve four years and nine months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Feds `examining' shooting of Black man by Georgia trooper, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 5:00 PM

Federal authorities said Monday they are looking into the shooting death of a Black man by a Georgia state trooper, who tried to stop the motorist last year over a broken tail light. The family of Julian Lewis have been urging federal investigators to take up the case after a grand jury in rural Screven County declined in June to indict the trooper on murder charges. Lewis' son and family attorneys arrived in Savannah to meet with federal prosecutors Monday after concluding a 63-mile (100-kilometer) march that began last week at the shooting scene. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTOC-CBS \(Savannah, GA\)](#)

Reuters: DOJ's historic week was more about restoration than reform, Hassan Kanu, September 20, 2021, 3:28 PM

It was an eventful week at the U.S. Justice Department. Starting last Monday, the DOJ announced a slate of new policies that represents a historic extension of its mission to guard civil and constitutional rights and a sharp pivot from the Trump administration's ultraconservative tough-on-crime approach to law enforcement. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said on Sept. 13 that the DOJ will toughen oversight of the federal monitors who oversee police reforms required under agreements the agency typically reaches with cities (instead of suing them). [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Asian American lawmakers want quicker action from hate-crimes law, David Nakamura, September 20, 2021, 2:30 PM

A pair of Asian American lawmakers are pressing the Justice Department to speed up implementation of provisions in a new federal law combating hate crimes, citing a recent FBI report showing the highest number of bias attacks in the United States in two decades. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), co-sponsors of the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act that took effect in May, warned Attorney General Merrick Garland in a letter Monday that public fatigue and frustration with coronavirus restrictions and public safety mandates could lead to another spike in "hate-based violence." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: Texas sues Biden administration over workplace LGBTQ protections, David Lee, September 20, 2021, 7:00 PM

The state of Texas sued the Biden administration in federal court Monday, opposing new guidance from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission allowing exceptions in the workplace for gay and transgender employees regarding use of gender pronouns, dress codes and bathrooms. Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton said the state, as an employer, has the "sovereign right" to choose its own workplace policies regarding bathroom usage and that the EEOC guidance amounts to "extreme federal overreach" by President Joe Biden. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Forbes](#), [The Hill](#), [Texas Tribune](#)

CIVIL LAW

AP: Federal appeals court to hear Missouri abortion law case, Jim Salter, September 21, 2021, 12:00 AM

A federal appeals court on Tuesday will consider whether Missouri can implement a sweeping law aimed at limiting abortions. The law adopted in 2019 would ban abortions at or around the eighth week of pregnancy. It also would prohibit abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis isn't expected to rule for several weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Texas doctor who defied state's new abortion ban is sued, Jamie Stengle, September 20, 2021, 10:00 PM

A San Antonio doctor who said he performed an abortion in defiance of a new Texas law all but dared supporters of the state's near-total ban on the procedure to try making an early example of him by filing a lawsuit — and by Monday, two people obliged. [...] Two federal lawsuits were already making their way through the courts over the law, known as Senate Bill 8. In one, filed by abortion providers and others, the Supreme Court declined to block the law from taking effect while the case makes its way through the legal system. It's still proceeding in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In the second case, the Justice Department is asking a federal judge to declare the law invalid, arguing it was enacted "in open defiance of the Constitution." [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [NYT](#)

AP: Men suing Ohio State over doc's sex abuse want judge recused, Kantele Franko, September 20, 2021, 4:00 PM

Some of the hundreds of men who sued Ohio State over its failure to stop sexual abuse by a team doctor are seeking the recusal of the federal judge overseeing the remaining unsettled cases after he disclosed this month that his wife's business has ties with the university. The attorneys involved already knew U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson is an adjunct professor for OSU's law school, and over the past three years they hadn't objected to his handling the cases related to decades-old misconduct by the late Dr. Richard Strauss. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] Biden's U.N. Speech, Texas Abortion Lawsuits, Debt Politics, September 21, 2021, 5:53 AM

President Biden will address the United Nations General Assembly today. How will he explain America's role in the world? (1:32). And why are anti-abortion rights activists upset about a lawsuit against an abortion provider? (5:22). Plus, the showdown between Democrats and Republicans over the debt ceiling (9:04). [\[Listen\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Chinese Couple Accused of Sagent Stock Insider Trading Sanctioned, Lydia Beyoud, September 20, 2021, 4:39 PM

A California federal judge sanctioned a Chinese couple who have refused to appear in the U.S. or Hong Kong for depositions related to their alleged roles in an \$8.5 million insider trading scheme involving Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Magistrate Judge Rozella Oliver of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California declined the SEC's bid for summary judgment against Chinese nationals Zhuobin Hong and Caixia Jiang. But Oliver recommended that the defendants be prohibited—even at trial—from using their testimony, statements, or interrogatory responses to support their defenses. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Navy Vets With PTSD Settle Suit Over Discharge Upgrade Denials, Kathleen Dailey, September 20, 2021, 4:21 PM

Thousands of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps veterans agreed to settle class claims that the Naval Discharge Review Board unfairly denied them discharge upgrades without fully considering the impact of their PTSD, TBI, and related mental health conditions. If approved, the proposed deal would require the NDRB to automatically reconsider all unfavorable decisions issued on or after March 2, 2012, six years before the lawsuit was filed. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Florida Telemarketers Who Pitched Free Cruises Settle With FTC, Andrea Vittorio, September 20, 2021, 3:23 PM

Two people who worked for a Florida-based company that pitched free cruises to consumers are banned from making telemarketing robocalls as part of a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission. Johnathan Blake Curtis and Anthony DiGiacomo, who controlled call centers that marketed cruises for Grand Bahama Cruise Line LLC, must also each pay a \$50,000 civil penalty to the U.S. Treasury, the FTC announced Monday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: **Ex-Mylan VP Pleads Guilty in Inside Trade Case, Settles With SEC**, Jennifer Bennett, September 20, 2021, 2:34 PM

A former Mylan NV vice president accused of trading on inside information about the company pleaded guilty and agreed to settle a parallel SEC suit, according to government filings in two federal court cases in Pennsylvania. Dayakar Mallu allegedly made more than \$7.3 million in illicit gains and avoided more than \$700,000 in losses through his use of material nonpublic information about the pharmaceutical company's financial results, a merger, and two Food and Drug Administration drug application approvals, the Securities and Exchange Commission said in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: **Federal appeals court revives Rep. Nunes' defamation lawsuit against Hearst, reporter**, Alex Swoyer, September 20, 2021, 2:00 PM

A federal appeals court has revived Rep. Devin Nunes' defamation lawsuit against reporter Ryan Lizza and Hearst Magazine Media Inc. after the reporter shared the allegedly defamatory article on his Twitter account. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit last week reversed a lower court's dismissal of the complaint, noting that Mr. Lizza shared the contested article on his Twitter account roughly a month after the lawsuit was originally filed in September 2019. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFDM-CBS (Beaumont, TX): **DOJ seeks to shut down Beaumont tax preparer; business owner denies allegations**, DeAngelo Vaxter, September 20, 2021, 7:02 PM

The United States Department of Justice has filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas seeking to bar a Beaumont tax return preparer from owning or operating a tax return preparation business and preparing federal income tax returns for others. DOJ: "The civil complaint filed against Michelle Denise Johnston alleges that, since at least 2011, she has operated a tax preparation business in Beaumont under the name "Allen and Johnston Tax Service." [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: **Biden follows through on pledge to take in more refugees**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Biden administration said the U.S. would take in 125,000 refugees and their families next year, fulfilling an earlier pledge to raise a cap that had been cut to a historic low under his predecessor. The White House set the proposed annual cap in a report to Congress, saying there was unprecedented number of displaced people around the world because of conflict, humanitarian crises and climate change. Administrations make an annual recommendation in consultation with lawmakers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: **US officials defend expulsion of Haitians from Texas town**, Juan A. Lozano, Eric Gay, Elliot Spagat, and Evens Sanon, September 20, 2021, 5:55 PM

More than 6,000 Haitians and other migrants have been removed from an encampment at a Texas border town, U.S. officials said Monday as they defended a strong response that included immediately expelling migrants to their impoverished Caribbean country and using horse patrols to stop them from entering the town. Calling it a "challenging and heartbreaking situation," Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas issued a stark warning: "If you come to the United States illegally, you will be returned. Your journey will not succeed, and you will be endangering your life and your family's life." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Courthouse News](#), [The Hill](#), [LAT](#), [Miami Herald](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [VOA](#), [USA Today](#), [USA Today-1](#), [WaPo](#)

WaPo: **[ANALYSIS] The myth of 'open borders'**, Anna O. Law, September 20, 2021, 6:00 AM

A federal judge recently halted an executive policy by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) that would have allowed state troopers to intercept cars suspected of transporting migrant passengers. Abbott claimed that this policy was necessary to enforce immigration laws and protect the state from the spread of the coronavirus. The Department of Justice intervened, however, because immigration policy is supposed to be under the purview of the federal government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [EDITORIAL] Biden's mixed messaging on immigration brings a surge of Haitian migrants to the Texas border, Editorial Board, September 20, 2021, 3:39 PM

The sight of federal officers from the Western hemisphere's wealthiest country corralling and deporting migrants from the hemisphere's poorest one is a wrenching tableau, and nothing for Americans to be proud of. That is what is underway now, as U.S. Border Patrol agents unleash a show of force against thousands of desperate Haitian and other asylum seekers camped on the banks of the Rio Grande in South Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: DC Circ. Mulls Giving Muslim Family 2nd Shot At Search Suit, Nadia Dreid, September 20, 2021, 8:33 PM

The D.C. Circuit seemed Friday like it was leaning toward giving a Muslim family another shot at their claims that U.S. Customs and Border Protection violated their constitutional rights through a series of in-depth searches at the airport. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: DHS asks Pentagon to help move migrants from Del Rio, Texas, Ellen Mitchell, September 20, 2021, 6:25 PM

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has asked the Pentagon to help move migrants awaiting asylum processing in Del Rio, Texas, to other facilities, the Department of Defense's (DOD) top spokesman said Monday. Press secretary John Kirby said the Pentagon has "received a request for transportation support" from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to help "efforts moving non-U.S. citizen migrants from Del Rio, Texas, to other CBP processing facilities." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: NY Trusted Traveler Suit Ends With \$115K Payout, Jennifer Doherty, September 20, 2021, 5:30 PM

A New York federal judge signed a stipulation order laying to rest the state of New York's suit against the federal government for excluding Empire State residents from travel preclearance programs, with authorities agreeing to pay the state \$115,000. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Release From Ga. ICE Facility Moots Women's Habeas Claim, Jennifer Doherty, September 20, 2021, 5:07 PM

A federal judge has refused to grant a temporary restraining order to a group of women suing over alleged medical misconduct at an immigration detention facility in Georgia, ruling that they are not at risk of retaliatory deportation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSWB-Fox (San Diego, CA): Border agents find \$215,000 worth of meth hidden in SUV floorboard, Domenick Candelieri, September 20, 2021, 6:35 PM

A 55-year-old male who is accused of smuggling \$215,000 worth of methamphetamine through an immigration checkpoint in Salton City was arrested Saturday morning, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced Monday. At around 9:05 a.m., an El Centro Sector Border Patrol agent examined a blue 2005 Ford Escape at the Highway 86 checkpoint. CBP says the agent referred the car aside for further investigation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Reuters: States rally around proposed U.S. laws to rein in Big Tech, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 1:54 PM

A bipartisan group of U.S. state attorneys general sent a letter to lawmakers on Monday urging them to pass a series of bills that tighten antitrust laws aimed at Big Tech companies like Facebook and Alphabet's Google. The letter, which was addressed to leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, expressed explicit support for six bills that passed the House Judiciary Committee in June. Four of the bills directly address Big Tech's platform powers while two others empower enforcers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

Law360: Lupin Will Pay \$150M To End Glumetza Antitrust Suit, Lauren Berg, September 20, 2021, 10:10 PM

Direct buyers of blood sugar medication Glumetza on Monday inked a \$150 million deal in California federal court with Lupin Pharmaceuticals, which is accused of taking part in a scheme to stave off the launch of a generic version of the blockbuster drug. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Amazon, Publishers Ask Court To Ax E-Book Price-Fix Suit, Hailey Konnath, September 20, 2021, 8:58 PM

Amazon and the country's five largest book publishers have urged a New York federal court to throw out a proposed class action accusing them of secretly fixing digital book prices, slamming the allegations as "an illogical conspiracy" that lacks credibility and any factual allegations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Scientific Games Must Face Card Shuffler Antitrust Suit, Matthew Perlman, September 20, 2021, 8:02 PM

An Illinois federal court on Monday rejected a bid from Scientific Games Corp. to escape allegations that it used sham patent suits to corner the automatic card shuffling market after finding there was still insufficient evidence to conclude a rival should have filed suit sooner. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: JetBlue CEO Says DOJ Has No Case in American Alliance Inquiry, Mary Schlangenstein, September 20, 2021, 4:04 PM

JetBlue Airways Corp. Chief Executive Officer Robin Hayes on Monday defended the airline's alliance with American Airlines Group Inc., saying the U.S. Justice Department doesn't have evidence to support allegations that it is anti-competitive. The so-called Northeast Alliance has increased competition in the New York area and Boston, Hayes said in an interview. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: Ranchers, beef consumers ask 10th Circuit to revive US product label challenge, Amanda Pampuro, September 20, 2021, 3:00 PM

New Mexico cattle ranchers and beef consumers asked a 10th Circuit panel Monday to revive a lawsuit against beef manufacturers over cattle that are raised overseas but labeled as products of the United States. In January 2020 a class of meat consumers and New Mexico ranchers sued Tyson Foods, Cargill Meat Solutions, JBS USA Food Company and National Beef Packing Company for mislabeling cattle raised overseas and shipped to the U.S. for slaughter and packaging as "products of the U.S." A federal judge granted Tyson's motion to dismiss in November 2020. Plaintiffs Robin Thornton and Michael Lucero appealed. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Law360: Walmart Beats Greenpeace's Recycling Label Suit, For Now, Melissa Angell, September 20, 2021, 10:56 PM

A California federal judge on Monday dismissed Greenpeace's lawsuit accusing Walmart Inc. of falsely labeling certain products as recyclable, finding that the environmental nonprofit lacked standing since it failed to show

that it relied on the veracity of Walmart's recycling representations. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Green Groups Say \$2B LaGuardia AirTrain Needs More Review, Juan Carlos Rodríguez, September 20, 2021, 7:50 PM

Environmental groups on Monday asked the Second Circuit to strike down the Federal Aviation Administration's approval of a controversial \$2 billion light rail project that would connect New York City's LaGuardia Airport to its subway system. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: 9th Circ. Vacates \$3.7M Water Pollution Ruling For Fresh Look, Clark Mindock, September 20, 2021, 6:23 PM

The Ninth Circuit on Monday vacated a lower court's \$3.7 million Clean Water Act judgment against a California clay processor, directing the parties to address a 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on what water pollution triggers the federal act. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Snowmobiling Group Drops Challenge to Permit for Winter Huts, Maya Earls, September 20, 2021, 4:37 PM

The U.S. Forest Service will get out of a lawsuit over its decision to issue a permit to a company planning to build winter huts near snowmobiling routes after a snowmobiling group dropped its challenge in a Washington federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Corona Clay Pollution Ruling Needs Redo After Maui Decision, Maya Earls, September 20, 2021, 4:18 PM

A lower court needs to reconsider its finding that Corona Clay Co. violated the terms of its water pollution permit after the U.S. Supreme Court limited the Clean Water Act's pollution standard, the Ninth Circuit ruled Monday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Oil Cos. Ask 1st Circ. To Put Climate Fight In Federal Court, Mike Curley, September 20, 2021, 4:14 PM

A group of oil companies has told the First Circuit that a suit from Rhode Island alleging they concealed their role in climate change belongs in federal court, saying the case hinges on whether their operations caused pollution across state and country lines, putting it beyond the scope of one state's legal system. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: North Carolina Shrimp Trawlers Avoid Fish Dumping Lawsuit, Maya Earls, September 20, 2021, 4:09 PM

Shrimp trawlers in North Carolina can avoid a lawsuit by environmental groups who said their releases of accidentally caught fish and net dragging activities pollute local waters, a federal court in the state ruled. The North Carolina Coastal Fisheries Reform Group and multiple individuals argued shrimp trawling equipment is disturbing, removing, and re-depositing sediment in violation of the Clean Water Act. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: EPA Answers Queries About Ban of Pesticide Chlorpyrifos in Food, Pat Rizzuto, September 20, 2021, 4:03 PM

The EPA released answers to questions it received since August when it banned the pesticide chlorpyrifos in food and will release more guidance before the ban takes effect, agency officials said Monday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

The Republican (Springfield, MA): **Former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia to be acquitted on handful of wire, tax fraud convictions; sentencing on several corruption charges still likely Tuesday,** Benjamin Kail, September 20, 2021, 3:48 PM

Former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia, convicted of felony fraud and corruption charges in May, will be acquitted on a handful of wire and tax fraud counts due to insufficient evidence, a U.S. District Court judge in Boston said Monday. Judge Douglas P. Woodlock said prosecutors did not provide the jury sufficient evidence that six counts of wire fraud actually included interstate wire communications. He also said he intended to dismiss at least two convictions of tax fraud because prosecutors failed to show that a private company's funds — misused by Correia for personal expenses — amounted to reportable income that the former mayor knowingly failed to report on his tax returns. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WPRI-CBS \(Providence, RI\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: **FBI searches Florida home of Gabby Petito's boyfriend,** Curt Anderson, September 20, 2021, 8:00 PM
FBI agents and police Monday searched the home of the boyfriend wanted for questioning in the death of 22-year-old Gabby Petito, whose body was discovered over the weekend at a Wyoming national park months after the couple set out on a cross-country road trip. The FBI gave no details on the search by at least a dozen law enforcement officers, but agents removed several boxes and towed away a car that neighbors said was typically used by 23-year-old Brian Laundrie's mother. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [CNN-2](#), [CNN-3](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [KHOU-CBS \(Houston, TX\)](#), [KNBC-NBC \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#), [KNSD-NBC \(San Diego, CA\)](#), [NBC](#), [Newsday](#), [NY Post](#), [NY Post-2](#), [Orlando Sentinel \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WABC-ABC \(New York, NY\)](#), [WAFB-CBS \(Baton Rouge, LA\)](#), [WALA-Fox \(Mobile, AL\)](#), [WaPo](#), [WBBH-NBC \(Fort Myers, FL\)](#), [WCBS-CBS \(New York, NY\)](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFTS-ABC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFTX-Fox \(Naples, FL\)](#), [WNBC-NBC \(New York, NY\)](#), [WPTV-NBC \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WSJ](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#)

The Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY): **FBI investigations of Byron Brown linger with no charges in sight,** Dan Herbeck, Charlie Specht, September 20, 2021, 4:00 PM
For more than six years, FBI agents and federal prosecutors have investigated people, businesses and political organizations closely associated with Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown. Federal agents raided one of his administration's City Hall offices, seized thousands of City Hall documents, questioned dozens of people, including city employees and contractors who did business with the city, and persuaded Brown's former deputy mayor to become an informant. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Florida Times-Union: **Former Jacksonville police dispatcher arrested on federal child sex abuse video charges,** Dan Scanlan, September 20, 2021, 6:32 PM
A former Jacksonville Sheriff's Office emergency dispatcher has been arrested on charges of distributing images and a video of the sexual abuse of children, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Scott Matthew Yotka, 37, faces up to 20 years in federal prison if convicted, as well as a potential life term of supervised release, prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WJAX-CBS \(Jacksonville, FL\)](#), [WOKV \(Jacksonville, FL\)](#), [WTLV-NBC \(Jacksonville, FL\)](#)

KABB-Fox (San Antonio, TX): **U.S. Marshals looking for this lady with an extensive criminal history,** Yami Virgin, September 20, 2021, 12:00 PM
The U.S. Marshals need your help to find Rochelle Lee. Lee is wanted for allegedly violating the conditions of her pretrial release. In October of 2019, Lee was arrested on charges of wire fraud. She was released on bond promising to appear at all court proceedings, but then she allegedly violated those conditions by not reporting to her Pretrial Services Officer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KDVR-Fox (Denver, CO): **DEA scam tries to get victims to fork over cash to get back identity**, Shaul Turner, September 20, 2021, 11:39 PM

When Kyle Forristall answered his phone, he panicked. He told FOX31 a woman who identified herself as a DEA agent notified him that his identity had been stolen and used to commit federal crimes in his name. In order to remove the charges, Forristall was told he must convert \$5,000 into cryptocurrency like Bitcoin and pay a designated official. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTLV-NBC (Jacksonville, FL): **Convicted St. Augustine sex offender arrested on federal child sex charges**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 8:56 PM

A St. Augustine man is facing a number of charges after allegedly sending an undercover federal agent child pornography. Between late June and late August, Christopher Lee Smith, 39, was engaged in several online conversations with undercover FBI agents, according to the Department of Justice. In one conversation with an agent posing as the parent of a 10-year-old child, Smith said he wanted to have sex with the child, and the acts he wished to perform, the DOJ said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Camden, NJ): **Feds: Duo Caught With AR-Style Rifle, Clothing Used In Camden County Gas Station Robberies**, Jerry DeMarco, September 20, 2021, 7:36 PM

Federal agents captured two men following a pair of Camden County gunpoint gas station robberies, authorities said. Paul Rogers, 27, and Kamau Bradshaw, 19, were both spotted after each robbery returning to a Camden residence with a large duffel bag, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig said Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHBQ-Fox (Memphis, TN): **FBI forensic accountant testifies at Robinson federal criminal trial**, Dakarai Turner, September 20, 2021, 7:13 PM

This week, federal prosecutors will continue trying to prove their case that a state lawmaker took \$600,000 of federal grant money intended for scholarships for low-income students. State Senator Katrina Robinson faces 20 years in prison if convicted. The first week of Robinson's high-profile federal criminal trial wrapped after a flurry of witnesses provided testimony for government prosecutors, each of them tying Robinson to bank accounts or purchases that prosecutors believe proves her guilt. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJTV-CBS (Jackson, MS): **Fomby named as special agent in charge of the FBI Jackson Field Office**, DeAngelo Vaxter, September 20, 2021, 7:02 PM

According to the Department of Justice, director Christopher Wray has named Jermicha Fomby as the special agent in charge of the Jackson Field Office in Mississippi. He recently served as a section chief in the Criminal Investigative Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington. Below is details about Fomby's career provided by the Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WUSA-CBS (Washington, DC): **Lawyer says answers to cold case Shenandoah murders may sit buried in FBI evidence locker**, Bruce Leshan, September 20, 2021, 5:51 PM

It's been 25 years, but Tom Williams still thinks about his murdered daughter every day. Through tears, he said he still thinks about the wonderful Easter weekend he spent in Florida with 24-year-old Julie Williams, the last time he saw her alive. "That was April," he said, "Within 60 days she was dead." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJAX-CBS (Jacksonville, FL): **Breaking: Feds join JSO in investigation on Jacksonville's Southside; man arrested**, Leslie Coursey, September 20, 2021, 5:50 PM

Investigators with the FBI and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office are at a Southside Estates home right now. Details about why they are there are vague at the moment, but the FBI tells Action News Jax there is no threat to the community. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KPVI-NBC (Pocatello, ID): **Caroline prosecutor urges FBI to continue Newell investigation after judge's**

death, Angela Price, September 20, 2021, 5:00 PM

While the FBI won't comment on whether the investigation into videos found in Judge Jonathan Newell's custody is continuing after his death, Caroline County State's Attorney Joe Riley is on record asking that the case continue. "I am asking our federal partners continue to analyze every piece of electronic evidence that was seized in the July search warrant execution. This is important so all survivors of this abuse are identified and if anyone else participated as a perpetrator they are also brought to justice," Riley said in a Facebook post Friday, Sept. 17, just seven days after Newell died at his own hand. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOC-CBS (Savannah, GA): U.S. Attorney's office, FBI examining death of Screven County man shot by trooper, Alyssa Jackson, September 20, 2021, 4:08 PM

The U.S. Attorney's Office is in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding the death of Julian Lewis in Screven County in 2020, according to a statement from the Southern District of Georgia. The statement said, "in accordance with U.S. Department of Justice policy, no further information regarding the matter will be publicly disclosed unless or until a determination is made to pursue federal prosecution."

[[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WGXA-Fox/ABC \(Macon, GA\)](#), [WRDW-CBS \(Augusta, GA\)](#), [WTGS \(Hardeeville, SC\)](#)

WCCO-CBS (Minneapolis, MN): FBI Traces Email Bomb Threat To Lakeville-Area Teen, Police Say, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 4:02 PM

Investigators believe a teenager is responsible for an emailed bomb threat that led to the closure of several Twin Cities schools in May. Lakeville police say the threat was received on May 20 by Lakeville South High School staff members, leading to the closure and search of all ISD194 schools the next day. Students stayed home and spent the day in online learning. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WZTV-Fox (Nashville, TN): FBI, Metro Police searching for bank robbery suspect, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 4:00 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Metro Nashville Police Department are searching for a bank robbery suspect. Investigators say the man pictured robbed the Regions Bank branch at 4410 Ridgefield Way off Harding Pike Monday afternoon. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Oklahoma sets 7 executions in 6 months; 1st since 2015, Terry Wallace, September 20, 2021, 6:00 PM

Oklahoma scheduled seven executions Monday in what would be the first lethal injections for the state since putting them on hold six years ago following a series of mishaps. Among the men scheduled to die is Julius Darius Jones, even though the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board just last week recommended that his death sentence be commuted to life in prison. The case that drew national attention after it was featured in 2018 on the ABC television documentary series "The Last Defense." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Quad-City Times (Davenport, IA): Thomson Federal Prison employees to receive 25% retention pay increase, Sarah Hayden, September 21, 2021, 12:00 AM

Employees at Thomson Federal Prison will soon have added incentive to remain on the job. After pressure from Illinois Democratic Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Moline, the Federal Office of Personnel and Management (OPM) approved a 25% retention pay increase for all officers and staff at USP Thomson in an effort to keep the prison from losing employees. The high-security federal prison has been struggling with a shortage of correctional officers and staff due to low pay, low morale and a lack of affordable housing in the small community. Despite hiring more than 70 new staff members this year, the prison still has 96 open positions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Reuters: Dakota Access pipeline asks U.S. Supreme Court to scrap environmental study order, Devika Krishna Kumar, September 20, 2021, 6:53 PM

Dakota Access on Monday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit whether the largest pipeline out of the North Dakota oil basin requires additional environmental review. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia revoked a key environmental permit for the pipeline last year and ordered an additional environmental study. The pipeline entered service in 2017 following months of protests by environmentalists, Native American tribes and their supporters. Opponents said its construction destroyed sacred artifacts and posed a threat to Lake Oahe, a critical drinking supply, and the greater Missouri River. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Supreme Court sets arguments in big abortion case, Mark Sherman, September 20, 2021, 5:55 PM

The Supreme Court will hear arguments Dec. 1 in Mississippi's bid to have the landmark Roe v. Wade decision guaranteeing a woman's right to an abortion overturned. The court issued its arguments calendar for late November and early December on Monday. Mississippi is asking the high court to uphold its ban on most abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [See also: CNN, Guardian, Law360, NPR, Politico, SCOTUSblog, NYT, WSJ](#)

Reuters: Megan Rapinoe, other women athletes back abortion rights at U.S. Supreme Court, Lawrence Hurley, September 20, 2021, 4:05 PM

A group of prominent women athletes including soccer star Megan Rapinoe and basketball standouts Diana Taurasi and Sue Bird on Monday urged the U.S. Supreme Court to protect abortion rights in a case involving Mississippi's Republican-backed bid to ban the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC, Forbes, USA Today](#)

NYT: At the Supreme Court, a Plea to Reveal Secret Surveillance Rulings, Adam Liptak, September 20, 2021, 12:00 PM

Last year, six months before he was nominated to be attorney general, Judge Merrick B. Garland wrote a forceful opinion on the importance of openness in the justice system. Court decisions, he said, are public documents. "Indeed," he wrote, "since at least the time of Edward III, judicial decisions have been held open for public inspection." [...] Last month, the Justice Department led by Mr. Garland told the Supreme Court that the public had no right of access under the First Amendment to secret decisions issued by a federal court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Native Americans Aim to Boost Voting Power in New Mexico, Morgan Lee, September 20, 2021, 9:51 PM

A coalition of Native American communities has proposed redrawing New Mexico's political map to boost Indigenous voters' influence in elections. The proposed changes from New Mexico's 19 Native American pueblos and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, outlined Monday, would reshape a congressional swing district where Republicans regained control in 2020. They would also bolster Native American majorities among eligible voters in six state House and three Senate districts in northwestern New Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Tribe-Campsite Lease Row Hangs On Voided Contract, Ryan Harroff, September 20, 2021, 6:38 PM

Blackfeet Indian Nation has asked a Montana federal judge to toss a campsite operator's lawsuit seeking to arbitrate a lease dispute, but the tribe's argument that the complaint came too late to review the lease cancellation will depend on whether it is found to have been valid at the start of the parties' battle. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KNAU-NPR (Flagstaff, AZ): Tribal, Federal Officials Tour Abandoned Uranium Mine Site Near Cameron, Ryan Heinsius, September 20, 2021, 6:38 PM

Navajo Nation leaders and federal officials recently toured an abandoned uranium mine on the reservation. The trip highlighted the continued threats posed by radioactive pollution and the massive cleanup effort required to remediate hundreds of such mines. KNAU's Ryan Heinsius reports. Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez along with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan and Arizona Democratic Congressman Tom O'Halleran, among others, met in Cameron last Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Sioux School Board Is Immune To Ex-Principal's Firing Suit, Andrew Westney, September 20, 2021, 6:21 PM

A South Dakota federal judge has tossed a former tribal school principal's suit claiming he was illegally fired as retaliation for his plan to use federal education funding, ruling the school board shared in the Yankton Sioux Indian Tribe's sovereign immunity to suit. Timothy Stathis claimed that the Marty Indian School Board wrongfully fired him in 2017 from his job as high school principal for the school, located on the tribe's southeastern South Dakota reservation, after his intended use of federal grant money to reward higher-performing teachers provoked controversy among some faculty there. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Law360: 6th Circ. Sends Hemp Seed Dispute Back To Ky. Court, Melissa Angell, September 20, 2021, 8:04 PM

The Sixth Circuit on Monday revived Legacy Hemp LLC's contract suit accusing Canadian hemp company Terramax Holdings Corp. of breaching their seven-year hemp seed distribution contract, finding Legacy had demonstrated Terramax had sufficient ties to Kentucky to be sued there. In a nine-page opinion, a three-judge panel found a lower court got it wrong when it dismissed Legacy's lawsuit because it did not meet the personal jurisdiction requirements under Kentucky's long-arm statute. The state statute grants jurisdiction over out-of-state residents in certain circumstances. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Law360: Judge Limits Stanford Doctor's Testimony In Opioid MDL, Jonathan Capriel, September 20, 2021, 5:16 PM

An Ohio federal judge narrowed what a Stanford University doctor will be allowed to testify about when it comes to aspects of opioid pharmacy operations during an upcoming bellwether trial, but she will allow the expert to speak on alleged "red flags" the industry ignored. U. S. District Judge Dan Aaron Polster on Friday partially granted a motion from major-pharmaceutical chains, like Walmart Inc. , CVS Health and Walgreens Co. , which sought to exclude testimony from Dr. Anna Lembke, who is a professor, researcher and the medical director of Stanford University's addiction medicine clinic and program. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Mid Hudson Valley, NY): Ulster Announces Opioid Lawsuit Settlement, Michael Woyton, September 20, 2021, 2:28 PM

Ulster County will receive more than \$7.8 million as part of a statewide settlement between the county, Johnson & Johnson and other opioid companies. The settlement funds will be used as part of the county's continued efforts to combat the opioid crisis. County Executive Pat Ryan said the first payment in the \$7,895,750 settlement is anticipated to be received in February and payments will continue over the course of the next 18 years. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

Reuters: Biden calls on U.S. Supreme Court to protect abortion rights, Lawrence Hurley, September 20, 2021, 7:53 PM

President Joe Biden's administration urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday not to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide in an upcoming case concerning a restrictive Mississippi law. The administration brief backs Jackson Women's Health Organization, the only abortion clinic in Mississippi, in its fight over the state's attempt to ban the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#)

CONGRESS

Reuters: Senators urge U.S. Justice Dept to prosecute unruly air passengers, David Shepardson, September 20, 2021, 8:00 PM

Two senior U.S. Senate Democrats urged Attorney General Merrick Garland on Monday to investigate and prosecute unruly air passengers in the face of a rising number of incidents onboard airplanes. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin and Commerce Committee chair Maria Cantwell called on the Justice Department and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to coordinate efforts to "ensure qualifying passenger behavior is criminally prosecuted." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Democrats Begin Effort to Curb Post-Trump Presidential Powers, Charlie Savage, September 21, 2021, 12:01 AM

House Democrats are planning to introduce a package of proposed new limits on executive power on Tuesday, beginning a post-Trump push to strengthen checks on the presidency that they hope will compare to the overhauls that followed the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War. Democrats have spent months negotiating with the Biden White House to refine a broad set of proposals that amount to a point-by-point rebuke of the ways that Donald J. Trump shattered norms over the course of his presidency. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: After Setback, Democrats Vow to Push Ahead on Immigration Overhaul, Luke Broadwater and Eileen Sullivan, September 20, 2021, 8:00 PM

Congressional Democrats vowed on Monday to continue their efforts to grant legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants, a centerpiece of President Biden's immigration plan, after a top Senate official rejected their bid to include it in their \$3.5 trillion social policy bill. Sunday's decision by the Senate parliamentarian threatened to scuttle what Mr. Biden and Democrats had considered their best chance in decades to enact an initiative that has been stymied amid partisan polarization and procedural obstacles. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

NPR: [AUDIO] A Legal Debate Has Followed Biden's Vaccine Mandates, Carrie Johnson, September 20, 2021, 4:21 PM

Prominent Republicans are threatening to sue over the Biden administration's efforts to use federal power and incentives to mandate vaccines for large employers and healthcare workers. [[Listen](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Weekend News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- Pfizer said Monday its COVID-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek US authorization for this age group soon — a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters. The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech already is available for anyone 12 and older. [[ABC](#), [ABC-1](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- More than 6,000 Haitians and other migrants have been removed from an encampment at a Texas border town, US officials said Monday as they defended a strong response that included immediately expelling migrants to their impoverished Caribbean country and using horse patrols to stop them from entering the town. The Biden administration is speeding up deportations of thousands of Haitian migrants who are camped under a bridge on the Texas border. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The FBI searched the home Brian Laundrie, the fiancé of Gabby Petito, whose body was believed to have been found in Wyoming. Laundrie has also disappeared. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Wall Street had its worst day since May amid fears that a Chinese real estate company could default, and that the Federal Reserve could begin ending stimulus measures it enacted during the pandemic. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Two 17-year-old students were wounded in a shooting Monday at a Virginia high school, and a suspect was in custody, police said. Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew said a boy was shot on the side of his face and a girl was shot in her lower leg at Heritage High School. They were taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- After the Pentagon admitted to mistakenly killing 10 innocent civilians, including seven children, in a drone attack, relatives are calling for the US to get them to a safe place. [[NBC](#)]
- In a major easing of pandemic travel restrictions, the US said Monday it will allow foreigners to fly into the country this fall if they have vaccination proof and a negative COVID-19 test. [[NBC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- “Biden to urge action on climate change and the pandemic at U.N. today” [[LAT](#), [WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Covid Live Updates: Some Parents Aren’t Ready for Young Children to Get Vaccine” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Democrats’ once-sweeping policy agenda continues to shrink” [[WaPo](#)]
- “U.S. Stock Futures Bounce After Global Market Selloff” [[WSJ](#)]

END

RENDON Media News Alert Notice:

This RENDON product is distributed as part of a deliverable for the DOJ News Clipping Service Solicitation 15JPSS18RQZM00005 for DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov.

The original recipient is currently subscribed to doj-digests as: DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov

To unsubscribe, please email DOJ.News.Clips.Shared.Mailbox@usdoj.gov with "UNSUBSCRIBE ME" in the subject line. Your request will be processed within 7 business days.

From: DOJ Digests <doj-digests@rendon.com>

To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk <dojdesk@rendon.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Afternoon Digest

Date: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 15:54:46 -0400

Importance: Normal

**Department of Justice
Afternoon News Digest
September 20, 2021
4:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Attorneys
2. National Security
3. Criminal Law
4. Civil Rights
5. Civil Law
6. Immigration & Border Security
7. Antitrust
8. Environment
9. Tax
10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
12. US Supreme Court
13. Native American Affairs
14. Opioid Crisis
15. Administration
16. Congress
17. Afternoon Headlines

US ATTORNEYS

WTAE-ABC (Pittsburgh, PA): **US attorney speaks on local overdose deaths, recovery resources,**
Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 12:34 PM

The acting U.S. attorney for western Pennsylvania is speaking about local overdose deaths and ways that people who are struggling with addiction can connect to recovery resources. U.S. Attorney Stephen Kaufman announced the new "Press Play on Life" campaign during a news conference at the Westmoreland County Courthouse in Greensburg. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: **Federal officer arrested at Capitol rally won't be charged,** Michael Balsamo, Eric Tucker, and Colleen Long, September 20, 2021, 2:10 PM

A federal law enforcement officer was arrested carrying a gun at Saturday's rally at the U.S. Capitol billed to support the suspects charged in January's insurrection but will not be prosecuted. The 27-year-old New Jersey man is an officer with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He was arrested by Capitol Police for illegally possessing a gun on the grounds of the Capitol after people in the crowd reported seeing him with a handgun and notified nearby officers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Times](#)

Reuters: Mother, son charged in Jan 6 riot have not responded to plea deal offers, Mark Hosenball, September 20, 2021, 12:34 PM

A Tennessee mother and son facing felony charges for participating in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot have not responded to plea bargain proposals advanced to them by federal prosecutors, a federal judge heard on Monday. At a status hearing before U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth, Assistant U.S. Attorney Leslie Goemaat said plea deal offers set to expire on Monday had been extended last month to accused riot participants Eric Munchel, 30, and Lisa Eisenhart, 57. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WUSA-CBS (Washington, DC): Former police officer pleads guilty in Capitol riots after not clearing deleted photos from inside Capitol off his phone, Eric Flack, September 20, 2021, 3:26 PM

A former Houston Police officer pleaded guilty Monday for his involvement in the Capitol riots on Jan. 6. Tam Dinh Pham, 49, pleaded guilty to the petty misdemeanor offense of parading, demonstrating or picketing inside the Capitol Building. Three other criminal charges were dropped by the Department of Justice as part of the plea agreement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Haddonfield-Haddon Township, NJ): More Restrictions For Haddonfield Man Charged In Capitol Riot, Anthony Bellano, September 20, 2021, 9:58 AM

A Haddonfield dating strategist who was charged in connection with the Capitol riots reportedly faces tighter restrictions after he engaged in an online fight with a man he believes reported his actions to the federal government. A federal judge has ruled that Patrick. A. Stedman must avoid contact with anyone known to be a potential witness against him, the Courier Post reports. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Heart disease killed ex-deputy who faced federal sentencing, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 9:40 AM

An autopsy has blamed heart disease in the death of a former sheriff's deputy whose body was found in his home the day before he would have faced sentencing for his role in an \$11 million fraud scheme. The Fremont Tribune reports that former Dodge County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Harbaugh had a history of heart problems and was on medication, according to a news release from the Dodge County Attorney's Office. A toxicology report showed no indication of intentional or accidental drug overdose, and the investigation found no evidence that Harbaugh caused his own death. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: College-Admissions Cheating Trial Reveals a Lot About the Parents' Wealth, Jennifer Levitz, September 20, 2021, 8:30 AM

[...] When the federal investigation dubbed Operation Varsity Blues emerged in 2019, then Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling called the parents charged "a catalog of wealth and privilege." Now, those backgrounds are on display in the first trial in the case, creating a particular challenge for the defense: ensuring wealth doesn't color the jury's perception. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Post: West Virginia woman pleads guilty to trafficking teen to police chief, Yaron Steinbuch, September 20, 2021, 1:36 PM

A 28-year-old West Virginia woman has pleaded guilty to child sex-trafficking conspiracy charges after admitting that she provided an underage relative to a former police chief in exchange for \$100. Kristen Naylor-Legg offered up the 17-year-old girl twice in 2020 to then-Gauley Bridge Police Chief Larry Allen Clay Jr., who also had been working with the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, according to acting US Attorney Lisa Johnston. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WTRF-CBS \(Wheeling, WV\)](#)

Bloomberg Law: Child Exploitation Conviction Vacated Because Film Not Explicit, Bernie Pazanowski, September 20, 2021, 9:36 AM

The sexual exploitation of a minor convictions of a man who secretly filmed his girlfriend's daughter grooming herself in her bedroom nude were vacated by the D.C. Circuit because they weren't sufficiently lascivious. For Charles Hillie's convictions to stand, the videos had to show the girl engaging in conduct displaying her anus, genitalia, or pubic area in a lustful manner that connoted the commission of sexual intercourse, bestiality, masturbation, or sadistic or masochistic abuse, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Miami Herald: Did a Miami man embezzle \$160,000 from an after-school program for immigrant children?, David J. Neal, September 20, 2021, 2:56 PM

An after-school program that the U.S. Department of Justice says was designed to keep kids from violence lost \$160,000 through an embezzling employee, according to a federal court indictment and the department. That former employee, 28-year-old Ramon Rodriguez of Miami, has been charged with nine counts of wire fraud in Miami federal court, where Rodriguez had his first appearance Friday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WPLG-ABC \(Miami, FL\)](#)

MyCentralJersey (Somerville, NJ): Union County man admits stealing \$450K in unemployment benefits, Suzanne Russell, September 20, 2021, 2:43 PM

A 29-year-old Union County man admitted to illegally obtaining more than \$450,000 in unemployment insurance benefits. Maurice Mills, of Union Township, pleaded guilty Monday by video conference before U.S. District Court Judge Brian Martinotti to wire fraud, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced. Mills is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 3, 2022 at which time he faces up to of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Boston Globe: Woman assisting Varsity Blues mastermind testifies she Googled how to create athletic profile for college recruit, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 2:19 PM

Sanford confirmed, under direct examination by prosecutors, that she wrote an email to one of Singer's business associates in September 2013 indicating that Singer wanted the associate to "put together an athletic profile" for two students, including Johnny Wilson, the son of John Wilson. Mikaela Sanford, 35, the former assistant, took the stand in US District Court in Boston, where defendants Gamal Abdelaziz, 64, of Las Vegas, and John B. Wilson, 62, of Lynnfield, are on trial for allegedly paying Singer bribes to get their children into selective schools as phony sports recruits. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Watertown Public Opinion (Watertown, SD): Not guilty plea entered by Watertown man facing federal child pornography charge, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 2:00 PM (EDT)

A Watertown man has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of receipt and distribution of child pornography. Justin D. Kohrt, 38, was indicted on Sept. 9 and made his initial appearance Sept. 16 during which he pleaded not guilty to the count, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

South Bend Tribune (South Bend, IN): South Bend man gets 28 years in prison following \$1 million drug bust, Marek Mazurek, September 20, 2021, 1:36 PM

A man who ordered the delivery of over \$1 million in crystal methamphetamine and heroin to South Bend was sentenced in federal court last week to more than 25 years in prison. Bradley Burns, 33, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced to 28 years in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Damon Leichty. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Boston Globe: Former Fall River mayor Jasiel Correia to be sentenced for fraud and corruption,
Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 11:25 AM

Correia was scheduled to face sentencing at an 11 a.m. hearing before US District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock, but the judge first tackled a defense motion to dismiss all 21 counts the jury in US District Court convicted him of: nine counts of wire fraud, four counts of filing false tax returns, four counts of extortion conspiracy, and four counts of extortion. Former Fall River mayor Jasiel F. Correia II is expected to be sentenced for extorting bribes from marijuana companies vying to open dispensaries, but a federal judge Monday said he is mulling whether to vacate convictions for fraud linked to a smartphone app Correia created and income tax violations. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WBTS-NBC \(Boston, MA\)](#)

CT Insider (Norwalk, CT): Feds: 16 alleged Waterbury gang members indicted on murder, other offenses,
Tara O'Neill, September 20, 2021, 8:46 AM

Sixteen alleged Waterbury gang members were named in a recent federal grand jury indictment in connection with several violent crimes, including murder, attempted murder, gun possession and drug trafficking offenses, prosecutors said. The grand jury in Hartford returned the 36-count indictment on Sept. 14 as part of an ongoing investigation into gang-related violence and drug activity in the city, federal prosecutors said on Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Connecticut Post (Bridgeport, CT): Feds: Bridgeport teen admits role in 2 gang-related shootings,
Tara O'Neill, September 20, 2021, 8:34 AM

A city teen pleaded guilty last week to federal charges in connection with two gang-related shootings, according to prosecutors. Jacquon "Blick" Benejan, 19, pleaded guilty before Judge Janet Bond Arterton in New Haven federal court to conspiracy to engage in a pattern of racketeering activity. Arterton scheduled Benejan to be sentenced on Dec. 10, at which time he faces a maximum term of 20 years in prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The News Herald (Panama City, FL): New details revealed about federal corruption charges against former Lynn Haven mayor,
Tom McLaughlin, September 20, 2021, 6:54 AM

Papers filed last week in U.S. District Court shed additional light on some of the charges facing former Lynn Haven Mayor Margo Anderson and three associates accused of scheming with her to defraud the city and federal government. Judge Mark Walker had ordered federal prosecutors to file what is known as a Bill of Particulars to clear up "ambiguities" in their case against Anderson, businessman James Finch, former Lynn Haven City Attorney Adam Albritton and former City Commissioner Antonius Barnes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Honolulu Civil Beat (Honolulu, HI): The Miske Case: Former Kaneohe Biker Bar Operator Pleads Guilty,
Ian Lind, September 20, 2021, 6:45 AM

Federal prosecutors appear to have chalked up another guilty plea linked to the sweeping racketeering case against former Honolulu business owner Michael Miske Jr. and 13 co-defendants. In the latest case, Steve B. Silva, 48, a groundskeeper with Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation for about 15 years, was arrested in March 2020 and charged with attempting to possess and distribute more than a pound of methamphetamine. He was released just a week after his arrest on a \$25,000 unsecured bond co-signed by his sister. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Sun (Lowell, MA): Brazilian national residing in Lowell among those charged with rideshare, delivery account fraud,
Aaron Curtis, September 20, 2021, 6:01 AM

Fourteen Brazilian nationals — including one who resides in Lowell — were charged in a second superseding indictment by a federal grand jury this week in connection with a nationwide conspiracy to open fraudulent driver accounts with multiple rideshare and delivery service companies, according to a press release from U.S. Attorney Nathaniel Mendell's office. Edvaldo Rocha Cabral, 41, of Lowell, was among the 19 defendants indicted in May on conspiracy to commit wire fraud by using stolen identities and falsified documents, the release states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Philadelphia Inquirer: **Linda Rowden' sister prepares to face Robert Fisher at his fourth trial in her murder**, Vinny Vella, September 20, 2021, 5:16 AM

Fisher, throughout his years of appeals, has consistently denied any involvement in Rowden's death. His final appeal was granted by a federal judge in 2018 who said the trial judge's instructions to the jury were "constitutionally deficient" and deprived Fisher of a fair trial. And Fisher's fourth trial is set to begin Monday in the Norristown courtroom of Montgomery County Judge Todd Eisenberg. DiDomenico didn't attend the three previous trials, for various reasons. But she plans to be there Monday, watching as Fisher, 75, faces his fourth jury. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WMIX-AM (Mount Vernon, IL): **Carterville Nurse Sentenced On Felony Drug And Health Care Fraud Charges**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 2:37 PM

A Carterville man was recently sentenced to four years of probation for drug diversion and health care fraud charges. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois, 42-year-old Joseph M. Mattingly was also ordered to pay a \$500 fine along with a \$200 special assessment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMEG-CBS/Fox (Sioux City, IA): **Sioux City woman sentenced to prison for COVID-19 related unemployment fraud**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 1:38 PM

A Sioux City woman who stole government funds using a COVID-19 unemployment scheme was sentenced on September 16th to 6 months in federal prison. 59-year-old Linda Bosquez, from Sioux City, received the prison term after a guilty plea to theft of government funds. In a plea agreement, Bosquez admitted that from April 30, 2020 through July 22, 2020, she stole at least \$24,235 from the United States Department of the Treasury and the states of Georgia, Michigan, and Ohio. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCYB-NBC (Bristol, VA): **Marion man enters plea to distribution of child pornography**, Paul Hess, September 20, 2021, 1:36 PM

A Marion, Virginia man enters a guilty plea to distributing child pornography through the online messaging board KIK. According to federal prosecutors, Travis Smith, 38, shared four videos of "prepubescent females engaged in sexually explicit conduct, including two videos of adult males having sex with prepubescent females." An undercover law enforcement officer in Wisconsin identified Smith as a member of a known child pornography online chat room. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAGA-Fox (Atlanta, GA): **Three sentenced in Smyrna's 'largest methamphetamine seizure ever'**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 12:30 PM

The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Georgia said three Sandy Springs residents were sentenced in a drug-trafficking operation that involved nearly 40 kilograms of 100% pure methamphetamine. The U.S. Attorney's office said 31-year-old Alejandro Salazar-Gama, 29-year-old Miguel Salazar-Gama and 22-year-old Arturo Acevedo are facing years of prison time for their roles in the conspiracy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WGCL-CBS \(Atlanta, GA\)](#)

WSET-ABC (Lynchburg, VA): **Former Roanoke County EMT sentenced for tampering with fentanyl and hydromorphone**, Brenna McIntosh, September 20, 2021, 11:40 AM

A former Roanoke County EMS worker was sentenced to 36 months in federal prison for tampering with fentanyl and hydromorphone. According to court documents, 32-year-old Jeffery Leedy tampered with at least 50 vials of fentanyl and hydromorphone while working at Centra Lynchburg General Hospital and as an EMS worker for Roanoke County Emergency Medical Services. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHOP-AM (Hopkinsville, KY): Dayton Jones expected to enter guilty plea in federal court, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 11:31 AM

Dayton Jones, who had his sentence vacated by former Governor Matt Bevin for the 2014 sexual assault of a 15-year-old male at a party on Lafayette Road, is expected to change his plea to guilty to his child porn charge in federal court next month. The October 20 docket includes a change of plea hearing for the 27-year-old Jones, who's charged with one count of producing child sex abuse material. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Wayne, NJ): Teaneck, Passaic Co. Men Convicted On Federal Conspiracy Charges, Montana Samuels, September 20, 2021, 11:28 AM

Two men from New Jersey were convicted on federal charges related back to a series of at least 20 burglaries that resulted in \$850,000 worth of stolen property from 2017 to 2018, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Maryland announced. Kamar Beckles, 35, of Teaneck, and Demar Brown, 37, of Paterson and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, were convicted for conspiracy, and for transportation of stolen property, taken during a series of burglaries committed in Maryland and Georgia. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

Reuters: DOJ's historic week was more about restoration than reform, Hassan Kanu, September 20, 2021, 3:00 PM

It was an eventful week at the U.S. Justice Department. Starting last Monday, the DOJ announced a slate of new policies that represents a historic extension of its mission to guard civil and constitutional rights and a sharp pivot from the Trump administration's ultraconservative tough-on-crime approach to law enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Class action for lawsuit claiming abuse at a Louisiana prison, Kevin McGill, September 20, 2021, 2:40 PM

A federal lawsuit in which several inmates at a north Louisiana state prison allege harsh treatment of the mentally ill was granted class action status on Monday by a federal judge. [...] Prisoners allege the conditions at the prison violate the Americans with Disabilities Act and also Eighth Amendment protections against cruel punishment. The suit was filed in the federal court system for the Western District of Louisiana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: Police "tased, choked and hogtied" Manuel Ellis over "false perceptions," wrongful death lawsuit says, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 6:57 AM

The family of Manuel Ellis, a Black man who died while being restrained by Tacoma police officers who have since been charged criminally, has filed a federal lawsuit over his death. Attorneys for Ellis' sister, Monet Carter-Mixon, and mother, Marcia Carter, filed the civil rights and wrongful death lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Tacoma late Friday against the city of Tacoma, Pierce County and several individual officers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Texas Sues EEOC Over LGBT Bathroom and Pronoun Guidance, Paige Smith, September 20, 2021, 1:57 PM

Guidance issued by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission “misstates the law” to allow exceptions for LGBT employees from general workplace policies on bathrooms, dress codes, and locker rooms, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton alleged in a federal lawsuit. The June 15 EEOC guidance improperly interprets the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark 2020 ruling in *Bostock v. Clayton County, GA*, which decided that sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination is prohibited by federal law, according to a complaint filed Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Federal Court Can Hear Voting Case Despite 30-Year-Old Decree, Bernie Pazanowski, September 20, 2021, 11:19 AM

The federal court that accepted a 30-year-old consent decree that created a majority-black voting district to elect a justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court isn’t the only court with jurisdiction over a new suit seeking another majority-black district for the state elections, the Fifth Circuit said. The state argued that only the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana could hear the current Voting Rights Act suit. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

WSJ: Realtors Face Federal Scrutiny of Broker Commissions, John D. McKinnon, September 20, 2021, 7:00 AM

[...] The Justice Department is investigating home sale commissions, and in a wide-ranging executive order President Biden asked the Federal Trade Commission to adopt rules to address unfair or exclusionary practices in the real-estate industry. Several civil lawsuits challenging industry rules and practices around commissions have survived initial procedural challenges and drawn support from the Justice Department, putting added pressure on traditional broker fees. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Nanometrics Keeps Air Force’s \$10 Million Seismic Monitor Award, Daniel Seiden, September 20, 2021, 12:03 PM

Kinometrics Inc. failed to show that the Air Force unreasonably awarded Nanometrics Inc. a \$10 million contract for seismic equipment used to monitor nuclear treaty compliance under a “relatively novel procurement method,” the U.S. Court of Federal Claims said. The Air Force selected Nanometrics under a Commercial Solutions Opening Acquisition, which included an iterative initial proposal and peer review process. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: US launches mass expulsion of Haitian migrants from Texas, Juan A. Lozano, et al., September 20, 2021, 3:20 PM

More than 6,000 Haitians and other migrants have been removed from an encampment at a Texas border town, U.S. officials said Monday as they defended a strong response that included immediately deporting migrants to their impoverished Caribbean country and using horse patrols to stop them from entering the town. Calling it a “challenging and heartbreaking situation,” Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas issued a stark warning: “If you come to the United States illegally, you will be returned. Your journey will not succeed, and you will be endangering your life and your family’s life.” [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NBC](#), [USA Today](#).

Fox: Mayorkas rushes to Texas border sector overwhelmed by migrants, admitting 'challenging situation', Ronn Blitzer, September 20, 2021, 11:25 AM

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas is traveling to Del Rio, Texas, on Monday for a briefing on how the Biden administration is responding to a migrant surge in the area. According to the Department of Homeland Security, Mayorkas will meet with "state and local partners" to address the situation, in which thousands of predominantly Haitian migrants are flooding the border. Many have set up a de facto camp under a bridge to shelter from the 100-degree heat as their numbers swell and they wait to be processed by Border Patrol. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Proposed Rule Protecting ‘Dreamers’ Nears Public Release, Lydia O’Neal, September 20, 2021, 8:35 AM

The White House has completed its review of a proposed rule to preserve and beef up deportation protections for individuals brought to the U.S. as children, often called “dreamers.” The White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs sent the proposal to the Department of Homeland Security on Sept. 17, signaling that it could be released any day now.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

WaPo: Tech giants quietly buy up dozens of companies a year. The Biden administration is finally noticing., Gerrit De Vynck and Cat Zakrzewski, September 20, 2021, 6:00 AM

A soaring number of mergers and acquisitions, many of them never publicly announced, is overwhelming antitrust regulators, a major problem for the Biden administration’s hopes of intensifying scrutiny of corporate power centers like Silicon Valley. [...] The White House, key policymakers such as FTC Chair Lina Khan and progressives on Capitol Hill have signaled intense interest in taking on monopolies, and the inability to keep up with the pace of mergers represents a major challenge. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Bloomberg Law: TC Energy to Remove Keystone XL Pipeline at Canada Border, Maya Earls, September 20, 2021, 11:30 AM

TC Energy Corp. will soon remove part of the Keystone XL pipeline at the Canada border and relinquish its right-of-way, the company told a Montana federal court. Work to remove the 1.2-mile segment of the pipeline will start Sept. 22, TC Energy and TransCanada Keystone Pipeline LP told the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana. TC Energy will relinquish the last part of its right-of-way over land at the border when the work is complete in November, according to the company’s Sept. 17 filing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Field & Stream Magazine (New York, NY): Wyoming Asks Federal Government to Delist Grizzlies from Endangered Species Act, Sage Marshall, September 20, 2021, 10:02 AM

The state of Wyoming is planning to submit an official request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to remove grizzly bears in the broader Yellowstone ecosystem from Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections. After submitting the formal request, the USFWS will have 90 days to determine whether delisting might be warranted—and then if so, another year to officially act on the matter. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Business Insider: Crypto exchange Binance faces a US insider-trading probe into whether it exploited its customer order data, report says, Shalini Nagarajan, September 20, 2021, 10:49 AM

Binance is being probed over possible insider trading and market manipulation by US regulators, who are looking into whether the crypto exchange exploited its access to data on millions of transactions, Bloomberg reported. [...] The crypto exchange is already dealing with a probe by the Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service into whether its services have been used as a channel for money laundering or tax evasion, according to reports. The agencies have reportedly been looking into the company's operations for months, but no findings have been released or action taken. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: Police: 2 wounded in shooting at Virginia high school, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 2:20 PM
Two students were wounded in a shooting at a Virginia high school Monday afternoon, police said. A 17-year-old boy was shot in the face at Heritage High School and a 17-year-old girl was shot in the leg, Newport News police Chief Steve Drew said at a news conference. Both were taken to the hospital and neither injury was thought to be life-threatening, he said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CNN](#), [USA Today](#), [The Virginian-Pilot](#), [WaPo](#), [WAVY-NBC \(Portsmouth, VA\)](#), [WTKR-CBS \(Norfolk, VA\)](#), [WVEC-ABC \(Norfolk, VA\)](#).

AP: FBI searches Florida home of Gabby Petito's boyfriend, Curt Anderson, September 20, 2021, 1:50 PM
FBI agents and police Monday swarmed the home of the boyfriend wanted for questioning in the disappearance of 22-year-old Gabby Petito, whose body was apparently discovered over the weekend at a Wyoming national park months after the couple set out in a van on a cross-country trek. The FBI's Tampa office said in a tweet that it was serving a search warrant, and local media reported that 23-year-old Brian Laundrie's parents were seen getting into a police vehicle outside the home. Agents would not comment further. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [HuffPost](#), [KSTU-Fox \(Denver, CO\)](#), [NBC](#), [Reuters](#), [WSJ](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFLX-Fox \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WPBF-ABC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#).

AP: Arson suspected in fire at historic Kansas City church, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 12:21 PM
A federal investigation is underway after arson damaged a historic Kansas City, Missouri, church that now serves a congregation predominantly made up of people from the South Sudan. John Ham of the Kansas City office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives told the Kansas City Star that authorities have determined that the blaze was intentionally set, making it a federal crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Sun (San Joaquin, CA): Report: Feds engaging in multi-faceted corruption probe of Fresno City Hall, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 10:16 AM (EDT)
Fresno city officials may be facing the hot lights of authorities as Federal prosecutors and FBI agents process testimony before a Federal criminal grand jury, a new report says. Four sources told local publication GV Wire last week that an on-going probe into activities at Fresno City Hall is occurring. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Erie Times-News (Erie, PA): New federal designation to bolster crime-fighting efforts of FBI-led task force in Erie, Tim Hahn, September 20, 2021, 8:00 AM
A federal designation aimed at combatting large-scale drug trafficking in Erie County is expected to bolster the efforts of a task force that has been fighting violent crime and drug activity in Erie for decades. The Erie Area Gang Law Enforcement Safe Streets Task Force, which has been in place since the 1990s, has investigated large-scale drug trafficking as part of its crime-fighting efforts in the city. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Alabama Political Reporter: Alabama House minority leader: No support for new prisons without other

reforms, Eddie Burkhalter, September 20, 2021, 8:45 AM

Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels, in reaction to Gov Kay Ivey on Friday informing lawmakers she'll set a special session to debate prison construction to start Sept. 27, explained that without other measures on the table to address the state's deadly prison crisis, he won't support construction. [...] The U.S. Department of Justice in December filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Corrections, alleging violations of inmates' constitutional rights to protection from prisoner-on-prisoner violence, sexual abuse and excessive force by prison guards. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: Supreme Court sets arguments in big abortion case, Mark Sherman, September 20, 2021, 2:56 PM
The Supreme Court will hear arguments Dec. 1 in Mississippi's bid to have the landmark Roe v. Wade decision guaranteeing a woman's right to an abortion overturned. The court issued its arguments calendar for late November and early December on Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [NBC](#)

Bloomberg Law: Amazon, Microsoft Favoritism Remains, Oracle Tells High Court, Daniel Seiden, September 20, 2021, 10:10 AM

Oracle America Inc. told the U.S. Supreme Court that its cloud computing dispute with the Department of Defense isn't moot despite cancellation of the JEDI contract because DOD admitted it will favor rivals Amazon and Microsoft in a new procurement. Oracle filed a petition in January asking the court to review its claims that the DOD's single-award approach was improper and the procurement was tainted with conflicts of interest. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

The Oklahoman: O'Connor files new petitions asking high court to reverse McGirt, Chris Casteel, September 20, 2021, 10:40 AM (EDT)

Oklahoma Attorney General John O'Connor filed two new petitions with the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday seeking the reversal of last year's decision reaffirming the Muscogee reservation, or at least a ruling that Oklahoma still has jurisdiction over some crimes involving Native Americans in Indian Country. Both petitions focus on cases in which the Supreme Court's decision in McGirt versus Oklahoma led to the reversal of convictions of crimes committed by non-Indians against Native Americans. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Bloomberg Law: Purdue Pharma Challengers Seek to Stop Settlement Pending Appeal, Jeremy Hill, September 20, 2021, 12:33 PM

Washington state and Connecticut asked a judge to temporarily block Purdue Pharma LP's deal to settle a mountain of opioid liabilities while they seek to overturn the agreement on appeal. Attorneys general from the two states on Sunday asked U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain to ensure that the OxyContin maker's settlement won't go into effect before they have had a fair chance to challenge its approval. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

The Hill: [OPINION] Barr-Durham investigation again fails to produce a main event, Dennis Aftergut, September 20, 2021, 11:15 AM

On Sept. 17, John Durham, former Attorney General William Barr's designated special counsel, unveiled a molehill he had made out of the mountain Barr hired him to build. In May 2019, Barr appointed Durham, a former Connecticut U.S. Attorney, to "investigate the investigators" who launched the FBI's 2016 Trump-Russia probe. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

WaPo: **Asian American lawmakers want quicker action from hate-crimes law**, David Nakamura, September 20, 2021, 2:30 PM

A pair of Asian American lawmakers are pressing the Justice Department to speed up implementation of provisions in a new federal law combating hate crimes, citing a recent FBI report showing the highest number of bias attacks in the United States in two decades. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), co-sponsors of the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act that took effect in May, warned Attorney General Merrick Garland in a letter Monday that public fatigue and frustration with coronavirus restrictions and public safety mandates could lead to another spike in "hate-based violence." [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: **Cori Bush, Elizabeth Warren will introduce bill to give HHS power to impose eviction moratoriums**, Savannah Behrmann, September 20, 2021, 5:00 AM

Progressive lawmakers will introduce legislation this week that will give the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to create federal eviction moratoriums – pushing back against a recent decision by the Supreme Court that ruled the agency did not have the authority to do so. The introduction of the legislation, sponsored by Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., comes weeks after the high court blocked the Biden administration's eviction moratorium, ruling the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not have authority to impose the freeze. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: **Threats against members of Congress are skyrocketing. It's changing the job**, Sarah D. Wire, September 20, 2021, 5:00 AM (EDT)

A few months ago Rep. Norma Torres (D-Pomona) received an anonymous video of someone following her car. The camera pans down to a 9mm handgun on the seat as a male voice says: "I see you. I got something for you." In June, police charged a man with making "terroristic threats" against New York Republican Rep. Tom Reed by leaving a dead rat with a noose around its neck and a brick with one of his family member's names on the congressman's doorstep. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: **Dems in Washington, Harrisburg seek to block Pennsylvania GOP from 2020 election audit**, Dave Boyer, September 20, 2021, 11:30 AM

Two top House Democrats have asked the Justice Department to investigate Pennsylvania Republicans' attempt to review voter records from the 2020 presidential election, calling it an effort to intimidate minority voters. House Administration Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren of California and Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon of Pennsylvania, vice chair of the committee, told Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke in a letter that Pennsylvania Republican legislators are engaged in "highly inappropriate" action by issuing subpoenas for private voter information of nearly 7 million registered voters. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- "Democrats unveil funding plan as major showdown with GOP looms" [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "Covid Vaccine Prompts Strong Immune Response in Younger Children, Pfizer Says" [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "U.S. Stocks Slide Amid Chinese Property Fears" [[WSJ](#)]

END

RENDON Media News Alert Notice:

This RENDON product is distributed as part of a deliverable for the DOJ News Clipping Service Solicitation 15JPSS18RQZM00005 for DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov.

The original recipient is currently subscribed to doj-digests as: DOJ.News.Clips@usdoj.gov

To unsubscribe, please email DOJ.News.Clips.Shared.Mailbox@usdoj.gov with "UNSUBSCRIBE ME" in the subject line. Your request will be processed within 7 business days.