

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

October 30, 2025

Dr. Tanisha Hall
Warden
Federal Prison Camp Bryan
1100 Ursuline Avenue
Bryan, TX 77803

Dear Warden Hall:

Two months ago, House Judiciary Committee democrats wrote to demand answers from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Bureau of Prisons (BOP) about the Trump Administration's inexplicable transfer of convicted child sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell to Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Bryan, a plum minimum-security facility that you oversee, in apparent flagrant violation of BOP policies, including one that prohibits sex offenders from placement in such facilities.¹ Neither DOJ nor BOP has responded to that letter. Now, shocking new reports reveal that Ms. Maxwell is not only receiving VIP treatment at FPC Bryan—including private meetings with mysterious visitors, meal delivery to her dormitory, and other special perks—but that you and other prison officials have retaliated against inmates who dared to speak out about her fawning preferential treatment.² I write to determine why this is happening and why you appear to have joined this Administration's efforts to cover up the decades-long, international, multi-billion dollar Epstein-Maxwell sex trafficking conspiracy.

The Wall Street Journal's October 2025 investigation has revealed extensive special treatment afforded to Ms. Maxwell since she was transferred to FPC Bryan—lush treatment not available to any other inmates at the camp. In mid-August 2025, hundreds of inmates were locked down during their usual outdoor recreation time while Ms. Maxwell met with multiple unidentified visitors in the prison chapel.³ The identities of those visitors remain unknown, although inmates speculated they were VIPs requiring special security measures. One inmate reported that Ms. Maxwell returned “with a smile on her face,” saying the meeting “went well.” Inmates also reported that guards deliver meals directly to Ms. Maxwell's dormitory room, a

¹ See Letter from Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, and William K. Marshall III, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-08-12.raskin-nadler-lofgren-et-al-to-bondi-doj-marshall-bop-re-maxwell.pdf>.

² Christopher Weaver, Meghan Bobrowsky & Brian Whitton, *Lockdowns and a Mysterious Meeting: A Quiet Texas Prison Adapts to Life with Ghislaine Maxwell*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 11, 2025), www.wsj.com/us-news/ghislaine-maxwell-prison-transfer-epstein-b5efd6ac.

³ *Id*

privilege not extended to other inmates. Ms. Maxwell received escorts to the recreation area for late-night workouts and has been permitted to shower after all the other inmates had been confined to their dormitories.⁴ The special treatment has gotten to be so extensive and lavish that, as one prison consultant told Fox News, it appears you are “treating Maxwell more like she’s the guest in a hotel as opposed to an inmate in a federal prison.”⁵

Even as Ms. Maxwell receives this customized and pampered care from BOP, press reporting has exposed an alarming pattern of summary and discriminatory retaliation against other inmates at FPC Bryan who exercise their right to speak out about her jarringly different treatment.⁶ The most egregious example involves Julie Howell, a 44-year-old inmate serving a 12-month sentence for theft. In early August 2025, shortly after Ms. Maxwell’s arrival, Ms. Howell provided a statement to *The Daily Telegraph* expressing what many inmates felt: “Every inmate I’ve heard from is upset she is here. This facility is supposed to house non-violent offenders. Human trafficking is a violent crime.”⁷ Your response to Ms. Howell’s speech was swift and punitive. Shortly after Ms. Howell’s comment was published, you removed her from a training program she had just been selected for and promptly transferred her to Federal Detention Center (FDC) Houston, a higher-security, and significantly harsher, federal facility.⁸

It is hard to overstate the severity of that punishment. FDC Houston is a facility designed for, among other things, “the containment of extremely dangerous, violent, or escape-prone inmates.”⁹ Unlike FPC Bryan, FDC Houston has minimal outdoor and recreation facilities, offers sharply reduced educational and occupational programs, and is plagued by constant inmate turnover. As Ms. Howell’s attorney Patrick McLain noted, the message of your harsh retaliation against her was unmistakable and widely understood: “Nobody’s going to say anything about Ghislaine Maxwell now.”¹⁰

Censoring, silencing, and punishing inmates who dare to speak out about this outrageous disparity of treatment appears to be your overriding goal at this point. During a “town hall”

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Michael Ruiz, *Ghislaine Maxwell Gets 'Hotel' Guest Treatment At 'Club Fed' Prison, Consultant Says*, FOX NEWS (Oct. 15, 2025), www.foxnews.com/us/ghislaine-maxwell-gets-hotel-guest-treatment-club-fed-prison-consultant-says.

⁶ Christopher Weaver, Meghan Bobrowsky, & Brian Whitton, *Lockdowns and a Mysterious Meeting: A Quiet Texas Prison Adapts to Life With Ghislaine Maxwell*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 11, 2025), www.wsj.com/us-news/ghislaine-maxwell-prison-transfer-epstein-b5efd6ac; Isabel Keane, *Mystery Visitors Plunged Ghislaine Maxwell's Texas Prison Camp Into Lockdown As Inmates Complain Of Preferential Treatment, Report Says*, THE INDEPENDENT (Oct. 13, 2025), www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/ghislaine-maxwell-texas-prison-camp-report-b2844071.html.

⁷ Cameron Henderson, *We Don't Want 'Disgusting' Sex Traffickers In Our Prison, Say Ghislaine Maxwell's Fellow Inmates*, THE TELEGRAPH (Aug. 4, 2025), www.telegraph.co.uk/us/news/2025/08/04/ghislaine-maxwell-prison-inmates-sex-trafficker/.

⁸ Jack Silvers, *Inmate Who Criticized Ghislaine Maxwell Punished With Move to Higher-Security Prison*, DAILY BEAST (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/inmate-who-criticized-ghislaine-maxwell-punished-with-move-to-higher-security-prison/>.

⁹ Federal Bureau of Prisons, *About Our Facilities*, https://www.bop.gov/about/facilities/federal_prisons.jsp.

¹⁰ Katelyn Polantz, *Ghislaine Maxwell's Arrival at Texas Prison Camp Sparks Tension and Restrictions*, CNN (Aug. 15, 2025), www.cnn.com/2025/08/15/politics/ghislaine-maxwell-texas-federal-prison-camp-bryan.

meeting that you reportedly convened, you issued an explicit warning: any inmates who so much as *talked to the press* about Ms. Maxwell would be transferred to harsher facilities.¹¹ Even an inmate who spoke about that town hall to the press was transferred in retaliation.¹²

These directives constitute outrageously unfair treatment that appears to violate BOP's own regulations. Nothing in the law or BOP regulations authorizes the extreme retaliation you have carried out here. Federal regulations protect inmates' rights to correspond with the news media. BOP Program Statement 5265.14 provides that an inmate may correspond with "representatives of the news media."¹³ And while prison officials may limit inmates' First Amendment rights to preserve security and order, you have provided no such justification for why prison security requires a "Ghislaine Maxwell" gag order.¹⁴

BOP's inmate discipline regulations also do not authorize transfer as a sanction for rules infractions, much less for constitutionally protected speech. Nothing in BOP Program Statement 5270.90 suggests that transfer to a higher-security facility is among the available sanctions for actual disciplinary infractions.¹⁵ Yet that is precisely what you have done to Ms. Howell simply for speaking to reporters about what she observed.¹⁶ Your abuse of administrative transfer authority to punish an inmate's speech about unfair and discriminatory conditions in prison suggests that you and your superiors are more concerned with providing white-glove service and an optimal customer experience to Ms. Maxwell than you are with following basic fairness and your own regulations.

These new revelations are consistent with the Trump Administration's broader pattern of breaking the law to silence critics and reward allies like Ms. Maxwell. As we detailed in our August 12 letter, Ms. Maxwell is serving a 20-year sentence for conspiring with Jeffrey Epstein to sexually exploit and abuse minor girls as young as 14.¹⁷ Ms. Maxwell was involved both as a groomer and procurer of girls as well as a direct participant in their sexual abuse. Ms. Maxwell's mysterious and unprecedented transfer to FPC Bryan came just days after Deputy Attorney

¹¹ Christopher Weaver, Meghan Bobrowsky & Brian Whitton, *Lockdowns and a Mysterious Meeting: A Quiet Texas Prison Adapts to Life With Ghislaine Maxwell*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 11, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/ghislaine-maxwell-prison-transfer-epstein-b5efd6ac>; Isabel Keane, *Mystery Visitors Plunged Ghislaine Maxwell's Texas Prison Camp Into Lockdown As Inmates Complain Of Preferential Treatment, Report Says*, THE INDEPENDENT (Oct. 13, 2025), www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/ghislaine-maxwell-texas-prison-camp-report-b2844071.html.

¹² Christopher Weaver, Meghan Bobrowsky & Brian Whitton, *Lockdowns and a Mysterious Meeting: A Quiet Texas Prison Adapts to Life with Ghislaine Maxwell*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 11, 2025), www.wsj.com/us-news/ghislaine-maxwell-prison-transfer-epstein-b5efd6ac.

¹³ U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Program Statement 5265.14, Correspondence (May 19, 2014), available at www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5265_014.pdf.

¹⁴ See e.g., *Thornburgh v. Abbott*, 490 U.S. 401 (1989).

¹⁵ U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Program Statement 5270.90, Inmate Discipline Program, App'x A (list of prohibited acts and available sanctions), www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5270.90_cn1.pdf.

¹⁶ Christopher Weaver, Meghan Bobrowsky & Brian Whitton, *Lockdowns and a Mysterious Meeting: A Quiet Texas Prison Adapts to Life With Ghislaine Maxwell*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 11, 2025), www.wsj.com/us-news/ghislaine-maxwell-prison-transfer-epstein-b5efd6ac.

¹⁷ Sonia Moghe, *Prosecutors Agree to Dismiss Perjury Counts Ghislaine Maxwell Faces If Her Conviction Sticks*, CNN (Jan. 10, 2022), www.cnn.com/2022/01/10/us/ghislaine-maxwell-perjury-charges-dismissal-filed.

General Todd Blanche—President Trump’s former personal criminal defense lawyer—conducted private interviews with her about Jeffrey Epstein’s co-conspirators and apparently liked what he heard.¹⁸ This transfer, which shocked the country, appears radically inconsistent with BOP Program Statement 5100.08, which explicitly states that individuals convicted of sex offenses generally “are not appropriate for placement at an institution which would permit inmate access to the community (i.e., MINIMUM security).”¹⁹

President Trump’s continued dangling of a pardon to Ms. Maxwell—combined with the grand treatment she has received at her new abode and the appalling retaliation exacted against inmates who have dared to question her posh accommodations—create the inescapable inference that the Administration is using a fistful of honey-glazed carrots and sticks to influence Ms. Maxwell’s testimony and cooperation in the Epstein matter. The message of her first-class treatment behind bars is crystal clear, as is the prompt punishment of inmates who criticize such treatment: if you bolster this Administration’s self-serving narrative about Mr. Epstein and deny any wrongdoing by President Trump, you will receive bountiful free-flowing benefits; if you speak truthfully or defy the Administration’s political objectives, you will face punishment and reprisal. You now appear to have been made an instrument of President Trump’s influence campaign to cover up the full scope and harm of the Epstein crime ring.

The American people deserve answers about why a convicted child sex trafficker is receiving special treatment at your prison camp while inmates who speak about it experience severe retaliation. To assist the Committee in conducting vital oversight over the Bureau of Prisons and over FCP Bryan, please answer the following questions no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2025:

1. Did you authorize Julie Howell’s transfer? If so, under what authority did you authorize it? Please list any statutes, regulations, or BOP policies that authorized the transfer. If you did not approve the transfer, who approved it?
2. Did you authorize the transfer of the inmate who spoke out about the town hall that you convened? If so, under what authority did you authorize it? Please list any statutes, regulations, or BOP policies that authorized the transfer. If you did not approve the transfer, who approved it?
3. What authorizes you to categorically prevent inmates from speaking to the press about Ghislaine Maxwell? Please list the statutes, regulations, or BOP policies that authorize such a gag order and explain why that is not a prohibited act of speech suppression and retaliation. Please also explain whether such a prohibition against inmates speaking to press extends to speaking with Members and Congress and their staff.

¹⁸ See Letter from Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, and William K. Marshall III, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-08-12.raskin-nadler-lofgren-et-al-to-bondi-doj-marshall-bop-re-maxwell.pdf>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

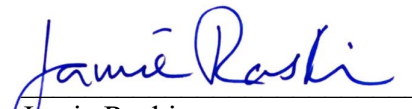
In addition, please provide all documents and communications related to the following topics:

1. The removal of Julie Howell from BOP programming and her transfer to FDC Houston, including the names and positions of all officials involved in this decision;
2. Your “town hall” meeting in August 2025 where inmates were warned about speaking to the press regarding Ms. Maxwell, including any notes, recordings, or attendance records, and the subsequent transfer of the inmate who spoke to the media about the town hall, including the name and identifying information of the inmate and the names and positions of all officials involved in this decision;
3. The mid-August 2025 meeting in the prison chapel involving Ms. Maxwell and unidentified visitors, including the identities of all visitors, the purpose of the meeting, approval documents, and security arrangements; and
4. Any special privileges or accommodations provided to Ms. Maxwell at FPC Bryan, including but not limited to meal delivery, special recreation and shower privileges, and visitor arrangements, as well as all training materials, guidance documents, or communications provided to staff at FPC Bryan regarding Ms. Maxwell’s treatment, security, or interactions with other inmates.

Finally, in order to better understand these critical issues at FPC Bryan, my staff intends to conduct an oversight visit of FPC Bryan and speak to inmates about the conditions of their confinement, any special privileges or accommodations afforded to Ghislaine Maxwell, any restrictions, limitations, or censorship inmates have experienced in speaking to the media about Ms. Maxwell, and any retaliation they have experienced in speaking to the media about or voicing concerns related to Ms. Maxwell. Please contact Democratic Committee staff no later than November 13, 2025, to coordinate such a visit.

I look forward to your prompt compliance with these critical oversight requests.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman