

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

November 3, 2025

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Why would the Trump Administration, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) kill an ongoing criminal investigation into a massive and decades-long criminal sex trafficking ring that preyed on girls and young women? Who exactly are you intending to protect by this action?

Until January 2025, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) was running an active investigation into Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's co-conspirators. In January, SDNY prosecutors were ordered to transfer the Epstein case files to DOJ headquarters in Washington, D.C. Since that time, according to information provided to our Committee by counsel for Epstein survivors who provided the key evidence enabling the successful prosecution of Ms. Maxwell, the investigation into co-conspirators has inexplicably ceased, and no further investigative steps appear to have been taken.<sup>1</sup> DOJ and FBI formally closed the case in July 2025, abruptly issuing a memo that declared, without offering any supporting details, that DOJ and FBI "did not uncover evidence that could predicate an investigation against uncharged third parties."<sup>2</sup>

DOJ and FBI's failure to investigate this conduct is a betrayal of the more than 1,000 survivors of this multi-billion-dollar international sex trafficking ring. Many survivors actively assisted federal agents and prosecutors in the hope of holding the perpetrators of these outrageous crimes accountable. As these survivors made clear to DOJ and FBI, Mr. Epstein and Ms. Maxwell did not act alone. Until this January, these survivors understood DOJ and FBI's investigation into these co-conspirators to be active, serious and ongoing. Yet, the Trump Administration has inexplicably killed this investigation, declared these survivors "not credible,"

---

<sup>1</sup> Information Provided to House Committee on the Judiciary Minority.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation, *FBI Memo* (July 2025), [www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl](http://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl).

and falsely claimed no evidence exists to support charges against additional co-conspirators.<sup>3</sup> I write to demand an explanation for why DOJ has abandoned the women and girls abused by Mr. Epstein, Ms. Maxwell, and their co-conspirators, fired or cut off career prosecutors from the case, and ceased its investigation into one of the largest sex trafficking rings in history.

In 2019 and 2020, SDNY indicted Jeffrey Epstein and his accomplice, Ghislaine Maxwell, on charges relating to their long-standing conspiracy to traffic young women and girls. Mr. Epstein committed suicide in August 2019; Ms. Maxwell was indicted in June 2020, convicted in December 2021, and sentenced in June 2022.<sup>4</sup> During this time period, and until 2024, nearly 50 survivors of this criminal conduct provided information to SDNY prosecutors and FBI agents as part of the investigation.

The information provided by this huge group of women was precise and detailed: they described how Mr. Epstein, Ms. Maxwell, and their co-conspirators orchestrated a sophisticated and clandestine sex trafficking conspiracy that trafficked them to at least 20 men. These survivors shared with DOJ and FBI the specific identities of many of these co-conspirators, how this operation was structured and financed, and which individuals facilitated these crimes. Many of these women spoke with federal prosecutors and agents more than once over an extended time period in meetings that were on the record and memorialized in FBI Form 302s. The understanding of these survivors, at the time they shared this information and until the beginning of the second Trump Administration, was that the investigation into potential co-conspirators was still active and ongoing. By all accounts, this understanding regarding the ongoing nature of the investigation was shared by the federal law enforcement agents working on the case.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, the U.S. government related that there was an “ongoing pursuit of Epstein’s co-conspirators” in filings before the Supreme Court during the Biden Administration.<sup>6</sup>

In January 2025, there was a sudden and dramatic shift in the posture of the investigation. SDNY prosecutors notified the survivors that they were sending their investigative files to Washington, D.C. and that prosecutors at DOJ headquarters would be leading the investigation moving forward. Yet it appears the case was not transferred so that it could be continued. Unbeknownst to both survivors and SDNY prosecutors, it was transferred so that it could be killed.

To justify this inexplicable refusal to investigate Mr. Epstein’s co-conspirators, FBI Director Kash Patel—who reports directly to you—repeatedly impugned the credibility of the Epstein survivors at a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee in September, claiming that DOJ and FBI had determined that the information provided by these survivors was “*not*

---

<sup>3</sup> *FBI Director Patel Testifies at House Hearing*, NBC NEWS, (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5eU2l6mgcw>.

<sup>4</sup> Bill Chappell, *Jeffrey Epstein Files: Tracing the Legal Cases That Led to Sex-Trafficking Charges*, NPR (July 2025), [www.npr.org/2025/07/25/nx-s1-5478620/jeffrey-epstein-crimes-timeline-legal-case](http://www.npr.org/2025/07/25/nx-s1-5478620/jeffrey-epstein-crimes-timeline-legal-case).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Wild v. U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida*, Brief for the United States in Opposition, On Petition for A Writ of Certiorari to The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (Jan. 2022), [www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-351/207347/20220104163308460\\_21-351%20Wild.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-351/207347/20220104163308460_21-351%20Wild.pdf).

*credible.*” When questioned by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal if “the victims of the Jeffrey Epstein horrific trafficking ring, are they credible,” Director Patel asserted:

We have routinely asked for people to come forward with more evidence and we will look at it, and the evidence that we have was the same evidence that the Biden and Obama Justice Department had and they determined, not me ... they determined that that information was not credible.<sup>7</sup>

This assertion does not hold water. Many of these survivors are the same ones who provided the evidence and testimony that a federal jury in New York found sufficiently credible to conclude, beyond any reasonable doubt, that Ms. Maxwell was guilty of multiple child sex trafficking offenses. Clearly, the federal prosecutors who put these women on the stand found them entirely credible, and Director Patel’s stunning assertion to the contrary lacks any basis in fact.

Even more troubling, despite “routinely ask[ing] for people to come forward with more evidence” and promising that the FBI “will look at it,” Director Patel has seemingly refused to meet with any of the survivors, would not or could not elaborate on what current investigative leads they had followed, and astonishingly, appeared to be unaware of any FBI review into nearly \$1.5 billion in suspicious transactions flagged by four major banks relating to Jeffrey Epstein’s crimes.<sup>8</sup>

Your Department’s failure to review these transactions and pursue associated co-conspirators defies comprehension. For instance, Director Patel refused to answer whether he had subpoenaed Mr. Epstein’s lawyers and accountants, dodging the question by saying they were part of an investigation in 2018 and 2019. But that ignores years of subsequent investigation and disclosures by survivors. Since that time, there have been additional horrifying revelations regarding how bankers, accountants, attorneys, and other facilitators enabled the financial transactions and legal paperwork—including sham marriages orchestrated between Epstein victims—necessary to carry out this sprawling sex trafficking enterprise.<sup>9</sup>

These facts are well-established and well-publicized, but they are the leads that your Department has deemed “not credible.” DOJ is letting co-conspirators go free without consulting with the women harmed by their conduct, thus registering an unmistakable echo of Alex Acosta’s shameful decision to shut survivors out of the process that led to Mr. Epstein’s first

---

<sup>7</sup> *FBI Director Patel Testifies at House Hearing*, NBC NEWS, (Sept. 17, 2025), [www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5eU2l6mgcw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5eU2l6mgcw).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Jonathan Stempel, *Executors Of Jeffrey Epstein's Estate Accused Of Complicity By U.S. Virgin Islands*, REUTERS (Feb. 10, 2021), [www.reuters.com/world/us/executors-jeffrey-epsteins-estate-accused-complicity-by-us-virgin-islands-2021-02-11/](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/executors-jeffrey-epsteins-estate-accused-complicity-by-us-virgin-islands-2021-02-11/); *Jane Doe v. Bank of America*, INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, [www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/bank-of-america-epstein-sex-trafficking-class-action.pdf](https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/bank-of-america-epstein-sex-trafficking-class-action.pdf); Matthew Golstein, *Prosecutor Says Executors of Jeffrey Epstein's Estate Enabled His Abuse*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 11, 2021), [www.nytimes.com/2021/02/11/business/jeffrey-epstein-virgin-islands-victims.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/11/business/jeffrey-epstein-virgin-islands-victims.html).

“sweetheart” plea agreement in 2008 that immunized his unnamed potential co-conspirators.<sup>10</sup> Under President Biden, DOJ “resolved to learn from those errors” by “coordinating closely with victims in its ongoing pursuit of Epstein’s co-conspirators,” and resolved “to inform crime victims about expected charging decisions as early in the process as feasible and appropriate.”<sup>11</sup> Your DOJ has abandoned those promises in pursuit of a shameful and gigantic cover-up.

The Committee on the Judiciary has oversight jurisdiction over the DOJ and FBI pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. House Judiciary Democrats are investigating the extent to which DOJ officials and Donald Trump have manipulated and misused prosecutorial and law enforcement resources to inappropriately shield the President, allow co-conspirators in one of history’s largest sex trafficking rings to go free, and mislead the public. This investigation will inform legislative efforts to insulate DOJ and career employees from political interference, increase transparency, and establish and maintain ethical standards for employees in the Executive Branch.

Given your failure to protect and inform survivors, the Committee on the Judiciary is also considering reforms to the *Crime Victims Rights Act*, 18 U.S.C. 3771, including clarifying prosecutors’ responsibility to confer with survivors of certain crimes before the attachment of criminal proceedings, including the cessation of an investigation.<sup>12</sup> This proposed reform would work to ensure that political appointees at DOJ cannot silently pause or end longstanding investigations to protect powerful individuals from accountability. The Committee must understand what steps DOJ has taken since receiving the Epstein investigative files from SDNY, and what information it has attempted to shield from survivors, to fully determine the extent of the necessary reforms.

Accordingly, please provide the following information to the Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2025:

1. An accounting of all investigative steps or reviews undertaken by DOJ since January 20, 2025, relating to the Epstein and Maxwell sex trafficking ring, including but not limited to file transfers, witness interviews, document reviews, survivor or victim notifications, subpoenas issued, search warrants sought or executed, and other steps;
2. All files, reports, or summaries of any investigation or review into the Epstein and Maxwell files conducted by DOJ between January 20, 2025, and the present, including but not limited to SharePoint files produced during your review; and

---

<sup>10</sup> Annie Karni et al., *Acosta to Resign as Labor Secretary Over Jeffrey Epstein Plea Deal*, N.Y. TIMES (July 12, 2019), [www.nytimes.com/2019/07/12/us/politics/acosta-resigns-trump.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/12/us/politics/acosta-resigns-trump.html).

<sup>11</sup> *Wild v. U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida*, Brief for the United States in Opposition, On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (Jan. 2022), [www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-351/207347/20220104163308460\\_21-351%20Wild.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-351/207347/20220104163308460_21-351%20Wild.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> See e.g., *In re Wild*, 994 F.3d 1244 (11th Cir. 2021) (*en banc* 11th Circuit case declining to reach the disputed question of whether Epstein investigation prosecutors had a duty to confer with survivors under the CVRA before a criminal proceeding against Mr. Epstein existed).

3. All files, reports, communications, or summaries relating to the staffing of any Epstein review or investigative matter since January 20, 2025.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman