

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 20, 2026

The Honorable Todd W. Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Jay Clayton
Nominee for Director of National Intelligence
U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York
U.S. Attorney's Office
26 Federal Plaza, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10278

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche, Secretary Rubio, and U.S. Attorney Clayton:

Jeffrey Epstein never registered as a foreign agent. Yet numerous recently released documents now show he acted aggressively on behalf of multiple foreign governments, including several with interests adverse to the United States, in order to influence policies of the first Trump Administration.

I write to understand the full scope of Mr. Epstein's influence operation and its ramifications for U.S. foreign policy. Based on analysis by the House Committee on the Judiciary of recently released documents from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Department of Justice (DOJ), we find substantial evidence that Mr. Epstein acted to advance the interests of the governments of **Saudi Arabia** and **Kuwait**; advised the government of **Russia** on how to shape its dealings with President Trump; worked as an ongoing consultant for Ehud Barak, the former Prime Minister of the government of **Israel**; and repeatedly capitalized on his long-term friendship with President Donald Trump to sign up business from these and other foreign governments and actors in the aftermath of President Trump's first election, without ever registering as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).

First established to combat Nazi propaganda in our country, FARA is designed to "insure that the U.S. Government and the people of the United States are informed of the source of information (propaganda) and the identity of persons attempting to influence U.S. public

opinion, policy, and laws.”¹ Individuals must register with the government when they engage in any political activity on behalf of or with a foreign principal.² By advocating and facilitating on behalf of foreign countries without filing the mandatory disclosures, Mr. Epstein almost certainly violated FARA. His actions also create serious questions about the extent to which he wielded his ties to President Trump in dealings with foreign governments.

Notoriously sparing with his (typo-ridden) words, Mr. Epstein did not set forth his plans and interactions with foreign dignitaries and state actors in detail. Moreover, the Committee knows that DOJ has not released vast numbers of the Epstein Files required by law, many of which may contain relevant information. But our examination of available evidence has already revealed damning indications of Mr. Epstein’s activities on behalf of foreign states.

For example, there is substantial evidence that Mr. Epstein tried to become an emissary for **Saudi Arabia** just before the first Trump Administration. In 2016, the week of President Trump’s election, Mr. Epstein went to Riyadh, where he sought to pitch a plan to represent Saudi Arabia.³ On November 9, 2016, one day after the election, Mr. Epstein received an email from a redacted source that stated “I simply can not believe this victory ... You must be happy ... I remember flying back with Donald on his plane the first weekend I went to visit you in Florida ... Nuts. Anyway, hope you’re enjoying Saudi.”⁴ A photo of Mr. Epstein taken during this trip shows him embracing and laughing with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS).⁵

Following the trip, on November 10, 2016, Mr. Epstein wrote to a friend that he was “headed for New York. . trump gives many new things to do.”⁶ On the same day, Mr. Epstein made the hard pitch to MBS over email to represent his financial interests before the incoming Trump Administration. Mr. Epstein had a Saudi businesswoman transmit in Arabic a message (subject line: “please transmit to HE [his excellency]”) in which he offered to “become the Financial Confidant to the Prince/court/KS.a [KSA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia] whatever entity suits you . . . I am happy to represent KSA interests. period.”⁷ Mr. Epstein also requested “the org chart for the pif [Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund]” and “a detailed summary of the financial operations. central bank, royal purse.”⁸ It appears Mr. Epstein sought to represent Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund in the U.S., serving—in his words—both as a “financial

¹ Steve Vladeck, *A Primer on the Foreign Agents Registration Act—and Related Laws Trump Officials May Have Broken*, JUST SECURITY (Apr. 3, 2017), <https://www.justsecurity.org/39493/primer-foreign-agents-registration-act/> (citing Department of Justice FAQs).

² See *The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA): A Guide for the Perplexed*, COVINGTON (Mar. 11, 2026), <https://www.cov.com/en/news-and-insights/insights/2018/01/the-foreign-agents-registration-act-fara>.

³ J.K. Trotter, *Why Did Jeffrey Epstein’s Private Jet Fly to Riyadh on the Eve of the 2016 Election?*, BUSINESS INSIDER (Sept. 19, 2019), <https://www.businessinsider.com/epstein-riyadh-saudi-arabia-private-jet-2019-9>.

⁴ EFTA01062797.

⁵ EFTA01599490.

⁶ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_032903.

⁷ EFTA01738511.

⁸ *Id.*

bodyguard” and as a “financial architect” for a development project overseen by the Crown Prince.⁹

Multiple correspondents asked Mr. Epstein whether he would take a Cabinet position or would help them secure an appointment of their own, indicating that Mr. Epstein enjoyed close proximity and broad access to the incoming Administration.¹⁰ Mr. Epstein’s own words continued to reinforce that conclusion. Days after his trip to Saudi Arabia—just five days after the 2016 election—Mr. Epstein told a confidant that he was at “trump tower,” where President Trump was conducting the business of the transition.¹¹ In January 2017, right before the Inauguration, he reported to a friend that he was “all good with trump lots of opportunity.”¹²

While the Committee does not have MBS’s response to Mr. Epstein’s proposal to represent the Saudi government in writing, the close relationship between the two became obvious. In December 2016, just before traveling to Palm Beach to be with “trump people” and “all the trump boys,” Mr. Epstein flew back to Saudi Arabia, where he said that MBS showered him with gifts, including a tent, “carpets and all.”¹³ The planning for this trip included an email from Mr. Epstein’s assistant saying, “Did you need me to book the Four Seasons for you in Riyadh? Or is the king taking care of it?”¹⁴ He replied with one word: “king.”¹⁵ In March 2017 correspondence with a *New York Times* financial reporter, the reporter told Mr. Epstein he was “trying to get” him “in” with Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Investment.¹⁶ The email continues “Some resistance though, due to all the headlines/controversy . . . I tell them about your relationship with Saudis/Gates/Trump crowd.”¹⁷ In response, Mr. Epstein instructed the reporter to “Tell him to ask [Microsoft executive] nathan mhyrvold. . . or [Crown Prince] bin salman.”¹⁸

Months later, MBS purged the Saudi government of his rivals and detained hundreds of individuals on fake corruption charges. In the aftermath of this sweeping autocratic crackdown, a reporter asked Mr. Epstein: “Did your Saudi friends survive the purge?” He responded, “All. With gods help ;).”¹⁹ Mr. Epstein’s relationship with Saudi officials even appeared to survive until his eventual arrest for child-sex trafficking.²⁰

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_030643; HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_029970.

¹¹ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_030643.

¹² HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_032417.

¹³ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_032946; EFTA02666126; HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_032944.

¹⁴ EFTA02194088.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ EFTA02353276; Sean Mathews, *Jeffrey Epstein Was Told to Keep ‘Close Eye’ on Saudi Arabia Amid Ritz Carlton Purge*, MIDDLE EAST EYE (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/jeffrey-epstein-was-told-keep-close-eye-saudi-arabia-amid-ritz-carlton-purge>.

¹⁷ EFTA02353276.

¹⁸ EFTA02656981.

¹⁹ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_022947.

²⁰ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_027267.

There are additional indications that Mr. Epstein coached the Emir of **Kuwait** on how to deal with President Trump. In May 2017, in response to Mr. Epstein saying he had “much to do around the trump trip” to Riyadh, an unnamed political figure asked “any tips on how we should communicate with him?” Mr. Epstein replied “it depends on which subject. . economic. military, tech?” to which the figure responded, “how about the war in yemen?”²¹ Mr. Epstein also asked what “concrete” things the person’s *emir* (prince) would like the U.S. to offer. His correspondent’s response was “[A] good word about the Amir’s effort to host the yemen peace talk will be great, i think..and if peace agreement was signed in kuwait that would be [thumbs-up emojis].”²² It is unclear how Mr. Epstein helped advance these requests from Kuwait’s Emir; however, later that year, President Trump “applaud[ed] Kuwait for its role” mediating regional conflicts.²³

Mr. Epstein also worked on behalf of former **Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak** to improve his reputation in the U.S., to influence U.S. and Russian policy to align with Israeli policy and interests, and to help him relaunch his political career. According to a review of Mr. Barak’s emails, in 2013 Mr. Epstein advised him to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and helped him write an op-ed for the *New York Times* in which he urged Moscow to abandon support for Syria’s former president, Bashar al-Assad.²⁴ Mr. Epstein also funneled information about U.S. officials to Mr. Barak, advised on strategy to lobby the Obama Administration to take a harder stance toward Iran and Syria, and helped Mr. Barak arrange meetings with Russian officials.²⁵

In addition to serving as Mr. Barak’s sherpa through U.S.-Russia-Middle East diplomacy, Mr. Epstein worked as a political consultant for Mr. Barak, helping him challenge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2019. Mr. Epstein’s work on behalf of Mr. Barak appears to have involved President Trump’s then-former Chief Strategist and long-time confidant, Steve Bannon. For example, Mr. Epstein texted Mr. Bannon that he had “been busy” after sending Mr. Bannon an article about Mr. Barak’s announcement that he would enter the election.²⁶ Mr. Epstein clarified he was talking about the Israeli election, saying “Im dealing with Ehud in Israel. Making me crazy,” and Mr. Bannon replied, “Ehud massive-- can we announce I’m his strategic advisor?”²⁷

²¹ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_026078.

²² HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_026090.

²³ *Remarks by President Trump and Emir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait in Joint Press Conference*, THE WHITE HOUSE (Sept. 7, 2017), <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-emir-sabah-al-ahmed-al-jaber-al-sabah-kuwait-joint-press-conference/>.

²⁴ *Leaked Emails Reveal Jeffrey Epstein Helped Israel Build Backchannel to Russia*, MIDDLE EAST MONITOR (Nov. 3, 2025), <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20251103-leaked-emails-reveal-jeffrey-epstein-helped-israel-build-backchannel-to-russia/>.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_027825.

²⁷ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_027827; HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_027828.

Perhaps most disturbingly, Jeffrey Epstein appeared to give advice on how to handle President Trump to high-level officials in **Russia**, which at the time sought to avoid sanctions for its interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and for its aggressive actions in Ukraine. At one point, Mr. Epstein indicates he gave advice on how to negotiate with President Trump to Russia's United Nations Representative, Vitaly Churkin, stating "churkin was great. he understood trump after our conversations. it is not complex. he must be seen to get something its that simple."²⁸ This effort to provide strategic intelligence and advice to Russia continued into 2018. Before a summit between President Putin and President Trump, Mr. Epstein wrote to Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland: "I think you might suggest to putin, that lavrov, can get insight on talking to me."²⁹ Secretary General Jagland had just met with President Putin and vowed to make such suggestion the next day in a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's assistant.³⁰

In other cases, it was unclear exactly who Mr. Epstein was advising, although the tenor of the emails clearly indicates he possessed influence in the Trump world, including through his ties to Mr. Bannon. In March 2018 he wrote to Mr. Bannon, "Unfortunately I just spoke to one of the country leaders that we discussed, , I will fly there tomorw night now and then to new york wednesday night" and suggested "we should lay out a strategy plan."³¹

Despite having such extensive, well-documented personal and professional contacts with officials of foreign governments, Mr. Epstein never registered as a foreign agent as required under 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* Moreover, any FARA violation by Mr. Epstein would have certainly been knowing and intentional—it appears he advised Mr. Bannon on strategies for skirting FARA's requirements. For example, Mr. Epstein advised Mr. Bannon to use non-profit entities, media companies, and other non-governmental organizations to structure "international arrangements," and to use go-betweens so he could remain "surgically pure."³²

Given the information Mr. Epstein possessed about President Trump and his easy access to high-level officials in the President's inner circle, Mr. Epstein's relationships with foreign leaders, including adversaries, posed a major national security liability. Mr. Epstein described himself as "the one able to take him [Trump] down" and frequently discussed how best to deploy the leverage he held over the President.³³ As one of his correspondents wrote, "You can hang him in a way that potentially generates a positive benefit for you."³⁴ Emails during this time also show Mr. Epstein alluding to a continued close relationship with Donald Trump and his allies,

²⁸ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_033096.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*; Secretary General Jagland to Meet Russian President Putin and Foreign Minister Lavrov in Moscow, COUNCIL OF EUROPE (June 19, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/secretary-general-jagland-to-meet-russian-president-putin-and-foreign-minister-lavrov-in-moscow>.

³¹ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_025524.

³² HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_025374; HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_025381.

³³ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_025406.

³⁴ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_032229.

potentially maintained through this leverage. While advising Bill Gates on his foundation's spending in the early days of the new Trump Administration, he apparently suggested Mr. Gates get in touch with long-time Trump donor and fellow billionaire Ronald Lauder to discuss how to keep the President happy, stating "I sent bill a note to suggest he talk to lauder. donald also thinks bill wants not to help america first , he should use his own money, and even that is wrong as it was made here. just transmitting."³⁵

The security risk does not come merely from the fact that President Trump "knew about the girls."³⁶ Mr. Epstein privately alleged the President was involved in an international money laundering scheme with a Russian oligarch that centered around real estate in Florida.³⁷ In another missive, Mr. Epstein connects the dots between this scheme and the sale of expensive artwork to MBS.³⁸ While Mr. Epstein was prone to exaggeration and self-aggrandizement, these emails suggest President Trump's foreign business interests may have had a tangible effect on foreign policy and that Mr. Epstein *knew* about and was willing to weaponize such lurking and explosive conflicts of interest.

These messages raise many questions about the full extent of Jeffrey Epstein's interactions with foreign governments and what information he may have fed to foreign powers about the President. So too, these documents raise the question as to whether President Trump's advisor Steve Bannon assisted Mr. Epstein in doing work for foreign governments after he left the White House and followed Mr. Epstein's advice by structuring his affairs to avoid disclosure.³⁹

Instead of answering these questions and protecting our nation against malign foreign influence, DOJ has scaled back FARA enforcement operations, including by disbanding the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Foreign Influence Task Force entirely.⁴⁰ But these events demonstrate why FARA is critical and why violations must be investigated to protect national security and sovereignty. An unrepentant global sex trafficker who described himself as the "best friend" of the President for many years interacted with foreign governments at the highest levels and offered them advice on how to deal with the President and influence his Administration.⁴¹ That criminal operation may have been assisted by a close presidential advisor who was fired

³⁵ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_027159.

³⁶ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_030411.

³⁷ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_029585; HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_023054.

³⁸ HOUSE_OVERSIGHT_031567.

³⁹ Peter Baker & Maggie Haberman, *Trump Breaks with Bannon, Saying He Has 'Lost His Mind'*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 3, 2018), <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/us/politics/trump-bannon.html>.

⁴⁰ Ken Dilanian, *Pam Bondi Ends FBI Effort to Combat Foreign Influence in U.S. Politics*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/bondi-ends-fbi-effort-combat-foreign-influence-us-politics-rcna191012>.

⁴¹ Nicholas Confessore & Julie Tate, *'Don's Best Friend': How Epstein and Trump Bonded over the Pursuit of Women*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 18, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/18/us/jeffrey-epstein-donald-trump.html>.

from the White House.⁴² They appear to have acted in concert with high-ranking foreign government officials without any notification to the U.S. government that their advice and advocacy on behalf of foreign nations was being used to influence U.S. government officials and institutions.

Furthermore, as United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York (SDNY), Mr. Clayton, you have been instrumental in this Administration's efforts to terminate, cover up, and block investigations into Mr. Epstein and his criminal co-conspirators.⁴³ Under your leadership, SDNY played a central role in the botched partial release of some of the Epstein Files, helping to cover up the names of perpetrators while exposing intensely personal information about victims.⁴⁴ Donald Trump and then-Attorney General Pam Bondi also ordered you and the Southern District to terminate investigations into Mr. Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's accomplices and co-conspirators, which were ongoing through the end of the Biden Administration, and focus instead on pursuing leads only if they related to prominent Democrats.⁴⁵ Perhaps President Trump and DOJ's leadership recognized your work at Apollo Global Management, the financial firm of Mr. Epstein's associate Leon Black, as useful prior experience in their efforts to cover up the extent of Mr. Epstein's network of aiders, abettors, and enablers.⁴⁶ In exchange for your unswerving loyalty and all these corrupt actions to date, you have now been rewarded with a nomination to serve in a position, Director of National Intelligence, that comes with access to relevant information about Mr. Epstein's extensive contacts with foreign adversaries—contacts which often revolve around Donald Trump.⁴⁷ This appointment raises serious concerns that President Trump is intent on placing loyalists wherever information about Mr. Epstein may be found, whether in the vaults of DOJ or in the sealed rooms of the intelligence community.⁴⁸

⁴² Peter Baker & Maggie Haberman, *Trump Breaks with Bannon, Saying He Has 'Lost His Mind'*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 3, 2018), <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/us/politics/trump-bannon.html>.

⁴³ Letter from The Hon. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to The Hon. Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General (Nov. 3, 2025), https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-11-03-raskin-to-bondi-doj-re-epstein-survivors-investigation_0.pdf.

⁴⁴ Erica Orden, *Top Federal Prosecutors 'Crushed' by Epstein Files Workload*, POLITICO (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/22/epstein-files-release-review-00739987>.

⁴⁵ Letter from The Hon. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to The Hon. Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General (Nov. 3, 2025), https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-11-03-raskin-to-bondi-doj-re-epstein-survivors-investigation_0.pdf; Attorney General Pamela Bondi (@AGPamBondi), X (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://x.com/AGPamBondi/status/1989411168067440722>.

⁴⁶ Edith Olmsted, *Trump-Picked Epstein Investigator Benefits from Limiting Probe*, NEW REPUBLIC (Mar. 13, 2026), <https://newrepublic.com/post/207752/donald-trump-appointed-epstein-investigator-ties>.

⁴⁷ Yoko Kubota, et al., *Trump Says He Will Nominate Jay Clayton as Intelligence Director*, WALL ST. J. (June 11, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/showdown-between-trump-and-congress-sinks-spying-bill-1dae3df8>.

⁴⁸ Edith Olmsted, *Trump-Picked Epstein Investigator Benefits from Limiting Probe*, NEW REPUBLIC (Mar. 13, 2026), <https://newrepublic.com/post/207752/donald-trump-appointed-epstein-investigator-ties>.

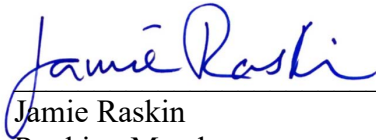
In addition to raising significant questions about the blocked criminal investigation into Mr. Epstein's vast network of aiders, enablers, and co-conspirators, the systematic efforts to cover up Jeffrey Epstein's ties to President Trump raise grave national security concerns, as underscored by recent reports that Administration officials have repeatedly gathered in the White House Situation Room to discuss the Epstein matter.⁴⁹ Accordingly, pursuant to the House Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction over DOJ and FARA, I seek all records, set forth below, from all your Departments, relating to Mr. Epstein's interactions with foreign officials, no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2026:

1. All records referencing or relating to Mr. Epstein and any of the following foreign nations, their officials, or agents: Saudi Arabia, Israel, Kuwait, Russia, Qatar, India, Maldives, Mongolia, Norway, Slovakia, Brazil, Holy See, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Senegal, and Zimbabwe; and
2. All records referencing or relating to entities created by, controlled by, or associated with Mr. Epstein that may have been set up to avoid their foreign contacts triggering personal FARA registration requirements.

I also ask that DOJ provide a written response regarding whether there have ever been FARA investigations into Mr. Epstein or any companies associated with him, and if not, on what basis the DOJ declined to initiate such investigations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

⁴⁹ Maggie Haberman & Jonathan Swan, *Inside the White House Freakout over the Epstein Files*, N.Y. TIMES MAGAZINE (June 10, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/10/magazine/trump-epstein-files-white-house-vance-doj.html>.