

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2021

Jeffrey A. Rosen
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20535

Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Attorney General Rosen, Acting Secretary Wolf, and Director Wray:

We serve on the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, which, as you know, has jurisdiction over both the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). We write to urgently request that federal law enforcement authorities — including the DOJ, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) — immediately hold a briefing for the public, as well as schedule a briefing for Members of Congress, to discuss the attack and attempted insurrection against the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

It has been five days since the most significant attack on a branch of the United States government since British forces set fire to the U.S. Capitol in 1814, and yet the American public has not heard from federal law enforcement authorities regarding an official account of the events of that day or the steps being taken to prevent further acts of domestic terrorism in the coming weeks.

The armed insurrection against the Capitol resulted in five deaths,¹ endangered Members of Congress, their staff, reporters, and many others, and led to smashed windows, vandalized offices, and stolen government property.² In the days since, the media and public have relied on first-hand accounts from Members of Congress, reporters on the scene, Capitol Hill staff, and United States Capitol Police (USCP) officers, as well as pictures and videos on social media to attempt to piece the events of the day together.

Generally, after such wonton acts of violence against our federal government, it is common practice for the DOJ, the FBI, and DHS to hold a media briefing to provide an official account of the incident³ to the American people including information on how many individuals were hurt,

¹ Eric Levenson, Amir Vera, and Mallika Kallingal, *What We Know About the 5 Deaths in the Pro-Trump Mob that Stormed the Capitol*, CNN, Jan. 8, 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/07/us/capitol-mob-deaths/index.html>.

² Sarah Bahr, *First Inventory of Damage to U.S. Capitol Building Released*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Jan. 8, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/arts/design/us-capitol-damage.html>.

³ See Edward Walsh, *One Arraigned, Two Undergo Questioning*, THE WASHINGTON POST, Apr. 22, 1995, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/oklahoma/stories/ok042295.htm> (noting that Attorney General Janet Reno held a “mid-afternoon news conference” to provide details on the Oklahoma City bombing); see also *FBI Press Conference on Nashville Explosion*, ABC NEWS, Dec. 25, 2020, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/video/fbi-press-conference-nashville-explosion-74911578>.

hospitalized, and/or murdered and the circumstances underlying the same, how many arrests were made, information on how federal law enforcement authorities prepared and coordinated with relevant agencies, how the public could be of assistance to any ongoing investigations, and any additional information public officials deem relevant. Additionally, media briefings offer an opportunity for journalists to ask questions directly to public officials with decision-making power.

After an attack of this magnitude, it is beyond necessary for the American public — and Members of Congress — to be well informed and be provided with the facts. To that end, we ask that you immediately hold a media briefing for the public. Furthermore, for information that cannot be shared in a public setting, we ask that you schedule a detailed (and if necessary, classified) briefing for the House Judiciary Committee and/or the full Congress.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress