



Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

**MERRICK B. GARLAND
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

AT A HEARING ENTITLED

“OVERSIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE”

**PRESENTED
JUNE 4, 2024**

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Good morning, Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler, and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the priorities and work of the Justice Department.

Since I last appeared before you in September of 2023, the more than 115,000 public servants who make up the Department of Justice have continued to work to fulfill our mission to keep our country safe, to protect civil rights, and to uphold the rule of law.

The Justice Department’s prosecutors, law enforcement agents, criminal justice experts, grantmaking experts, and other staff have continued to work with our law enforcement and community partners across the country to drive down violent crime, seize deadly drugs, capture dangerous fugitives, and deter and disrupt threats to our national security. We have continued to work to protect the civil rights of everyone in our country, to combat discrimination, and to aggressively prosecute hate crimes. And we have continued to fulfill our responsibility to uphold the rule of law and to ensure the equal protection of law that is the foundation of our democracy.

I am proud of the work the Justice Department is doing. But we recognize that we have so much more to do. I appreciate this opportunity to provide further details on our continued efforts on behalf of the American people.

KEEPING OUR COUNTRY SAFE

Today, I would like to highlight four significant areas the Department is focused on in our efforts to help keep our country safe: protecting national security; combating violent crime and gun violence, supporting state and local law enforcement, and building public trust; disrupting drug trafficking networks and preventing overdose deaths; and protecting Americans from economic harm.

Protecting National Security

The Justice Department is committed to investigating, prosecuting, and disrupting threats to America's national and economic security, including the threat that terrorism poses to our country.

Since the October 7 terrorist attacks on Israel, we have been working closely with our law enforcement and community partners to monitor the impact the conflict in the Middle East is having in inspiring foreign terrorist organizations, homegrown violent extremists, and domestic violent extremists, both in the United States and abroad. This includes monitoring the threat of a potential coordinated attack in the United States similar to the ISIS-K attack on Crocus City Hall in Moscow earlier this spring. As we confront an elevated global threat environment, we are committed to doing everything in our power to counter new and emerging terrorism threats and to doing so in a manner that is consistent with the Constitution. The Justice Department will continue to use every tool at our disposal to hold accountable terrorists who target and endanger the American people. Just last month, the Justice Department secured a 27-year prison sentence for the defendant who attempted to kill three NYPD officers in a premeditated terrorist attack in Times Square in 2022.

With respect to nation-state threats, the governments of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Russia, Iran, and North Korea are becoming more aggressive and more capable in their malign activity. To address these threats, the Justice Department is bringing prosecutions against foreign agents attempting to undermine the rule of law in the United States, enforcing violations of economic sanctions and export controls, and combating transnational repression. For example, in February of this year, the Justice Department charged seven defendants with terrorism, sanctions evasion, fraud, and money laundering offenses in connection with their trafficking and selling of Iranian oil and seized over \$108 million and 500,000 barrels of fuel that would otherwise have enabled the Government of Iran to further its destabilizing activities, including its support of Hamas, Hizballah, and other Iranian-aligned terrorist groups. That same month, we extradited a defendant to the United States to face charges for his role in a conspiracy to murder a U.S. citizen of Iranian origin who has long been targeted by the Government of Iran.

In addition, the Justice Department recognizes the threat posed by nation-states that are using cyber operations to target critical infrastructure, compromise our networks and supply chains, steal our intellectual property, cause significant economic harm, and exert foreign malign influence against the United States and its allies. That is why, in March 2024, we charged seven members of a hacking group backed by the Chinese government for their roles in a years-long scheme targeting U.S. and foreign dissidents, businesses, and elected officials in the United States in furtherance of the PRC's economic espionage and foreign intelligence objectives. And, in February 2024, the Department announced a court-authorized disruption of a botnet controlled by Russian intelligence services that was, until the takedown, being used to target the United States and our allies.

The Department is also accelerating its efforts alongside its international partners to meet the threat posed by ransomware groups. In February 2024, the Department, together with our partners in the United Kingdom, disrupted the LockBit ransomware group. LockBit was one of

the most active ransomware groups in the world and had targeted over 2,000 victims and received more than \$120 million in ransom payments. Last month, the Department unsealed charges against a Russian national for his alleged role as the creator, developer, and administrator of the group.

In addition, the Department has pursued a number of measures to ensure accountability for Russia's full-scale, brutal, and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The Department launched Task Force KleptoCapture (TFKC) to further leverage our tools and authorities to combat efforts to evade or undermine U.S. sanctions and export controls. We also launched a War Crimes Accountability Team to bring to justice the individuals responsible for committing atrocities in Ukraine and deter future aggression. In December 2023, the Department filed the first-ever charges under the U.S. war crimes statute against four Russia-affiliated military personnel for heinous crimes against an American citizen.

Combating Violent Crime and Gun Violence, Supporting State and Local Law Enforcement, and Building Public Trust

When I became Attorney General three years ago, I knew that grappling with the violent crime that surged early in the pandemic would be one of the greatest challenges we would face at the Justice Department.

So, we launched an anti-violent crime strategy rooted in our partnerships: partnerships among federal law enforcement agencies that are assisting in the fight against violent crime; partnerships with the state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies tasked with protecting their local communities; and partnerships with the local communities themselves.

As part of that strategy, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) are partnering with state and local law enforcement agencies in joint task forces to arrest violent felons, seize and trace guns used in crimes, disrupt violent drug trafficking, pursue fugitives and provide other necessary support. Our U.S. Attorneys' Offices and our Criminal Division are going after the individuals and gangs responsible for the greatest violence. And our grantmaking components are working closely with local communities to provide targeted support and assistance. We are funding evidence-based, community-centered initiatives aimed at preventing and disrupting violence. We are supporting community policing efforts that build the public trust between law enforcement and the community that we know is essential to public safety. We are making critical investments in hiring law enforcement officers in communities nationwide to address the crisis in recruitment and retention. And we are providing much-needed resources for law enforcement officer health and wellness.

We know that we must remain focused and vigilant, but we are encouraged by recent FBI data indicating a decrease in violent crime in communities across the country in 2023 compared to the prior year, including an over 13% decline in homicides. Data indicates that decline is continuing this year. In the first quarter of this year, we have already seen an 18% decline in murders.

We have accelerated our efforts to fight gun violence on every front—from cracking down on criminal gun-trafficking pipelines, to updating regulations, to deepening our partnerships with state and local law enforcement. We are using Crime Gun Intelligence Centers to employ cutting-edge technology to trace crime guns, link ballistics evidence to connect shootings, and identify gun traffickers and straw purchasers who arm violent criminals. These Centers use cutting-edge technologies, including ATF’s National Integrated Ballistic Information Network and eTrace systems, to rapidly develop and pursue investigative leads in order to drive case clearance rates up. Today, ATF is working more closely than ever with our state and local partners to turn the evidence they collect at crime scenes into concrete leads. ATF generated over 200,000 leads on violent criminals based on ballistic evidence in fiscal year 2023, alone. This effort includes a partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program to support the establishment and expansion of Crime Gun Intelligence Centers within the regional HIDTA programs.

We are also putting important new tools to use thanks to the enactment of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). Since BSCA’s enactment in 2022, the Department has brought charges against more than 430 defendants under the law’s new firearms trafficking and straw purchasing criminal offenses. Since the passage of BSCA, the law’s expanded background checks have already kept more than 700 firearms out of the hands of young people who the law prohibits from having them. Pursuant to BSCA, in April, the Justice Department announced that it published a new rule to update the definition of being “engaged in the business” of dealing in firearms. Under this regulation, it will not matter if guns are sold on the internet, at a gun show, or at a brick-and-mortar store: If you sell guns predominantly to earn a profit, you must be licensed, and you must conduct background checks. This regulation is a historic step in the Justice Department’s fight against gun violence. It will save lives.

The Department’s three grantmaking components, the Offices of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), continue to play a critical role in our efforts to combat violent crime and build community trust. Together, OJP, COPS, and OVW provide vital support to the Department’s state, local, and Tribal partners through more than 200 grant programs.

We are continuing to strengthen long-standing grant programs through OJP, including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program and our Project Safe Neighborhoods program. And we are continuing to support community-led efforts that are vital to preventing violence before it occurs. In April, I traveled to Chicago for the Department’s second annual Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative Grantee Conference, which brought together more than 750 participants representing the Department’s grantees, local law enforcement officials, researchers, and community partners engaged in community violence intervention programs.

The Department’s OVW plays an important role in preventing and reducing violent crime. OVW administers more than 20 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs and over \$700 million in funding to support effective strategies for reducing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In fiscal year 2024, OVW is implementing a number of new grant programs authorized by Congress in the 2022 reauthorization of VAWA

(VAWA 2022). OVW has also been supporting implementation of VAWA 2022's Alaska Pilot Program on special Tribal criminal jurisdiction.

As we continue our efforts to combat violent crime, the Justice Department recognizes the work that law enforcement officers across the country do on a daily basis is extremely difficult and often very dangerous. On April 29 of this year, Deputy U.S. Marshal Tommy Weeks Jr., Task Force Officers Alden Elliott and Samuel Poloche, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officer Joshua Eyer made the ultimate sacrifice while apprehending a violent fugitive. We will always remember their service and their sacrifice. And in their honor, we will do everything we can to support the law enforcement officers across the country who answer the call, showing up for their communities when they are needed the most.

We are continuing to strengthen the Department's Officer Robert Wilson III Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Officer Safety and Wellness Initiative, which provides trainings, research, and guidance on preventing violence against law enforcement and supporting officer wellness. And we are committed to addressing challenges in officer recruitment and retention. Both OJP and COPS are continuing to advance programs and initiatives focused on helping state, local, and Tribal law enforcement to support, recruit, and retain officers. In November 2023, the Department announced funding—nearly \$217 million to 394 agencies—to help law enforcement agencies hire over 1,700 new law enforcement officers through our COPS Hiring Program. Later this year, we will award an additional \$156 million under the COPS Hiring Program. The Justice Department is committed to doing everything in our power to provide our local law enforcement partners with the resources they need and deserve.

The Department continues to take steps to foster trust between law enforcement and the public we serve. In January 2024, the Department announced the release of a report on its critical incident review of the law enforcement response to the tragic school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. In addition to providing the most comprehensive assessment available of the law enforcement response to the horrific incident on May 24, 2022, the report also offers recommendations to improve future responses in other communities on topics like tactics and equipment; leadership, incident command, and coordination; and public communications during and following a crisis.

In December 2023, as required by Executive Order 14074, we launched the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD), a centralized repository of official records documenting instances of misconduct as well as commendations and awards for federal law enforcement officers. With the NLEAD, law enforcement agencies can make more informed hiring decisions, which enhances both accountability and public safety.

And under the leadership of Director Colette Peters, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is continuing to work to ensure the rehabilitation, health, and safety of incarcerated individuals; a safe and secure work environment for correctional professionals; and transparency and accountability across federal detention facilities. The Department remains committed to achieving these goals, while also using all available resources to address urgent staffing and

infrastructure needs across BOP. In addition, BOP has continued to implement the First Step Act, and participation in First Step Act programming has continued to expand.

Disrupting Drug Trafficking Networks and Preventing Overdose Deaths

The Justice Department is working every day to get fentanyl and other deadly drugs out of our communities and bring to justice those who put them there. Over the past three years, the Department has zeroed in on the Sinaloa and Jalisco cartels, the two largest and most violent drug trafficking operations in the world, which have wreaked havoc on American communities. Our agents and prosecutors are working with state, local, Tribal, and territorial partners to break apart every link in the cartels' global supply chains, which includes the cartels' leaders, their drug traffickers, their money launderers, their clandestine lab operators, their security forces, their weapons suppliers, and their chemical suppliers. In 2023, DEA seized more than 80 million fentanyl-laced pills and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder.

Just last week, Néstor Isidro Pérez Salas, also known as "El Nini," was extradited from Mexico to the United States. We allege El Nini was one of the Sinaloa Cartel's lead sicarios, or assassins, and was responsible for the murder, torture, and kidnapping of rivals and witnesses who threatened the cartel's criminal drug trafficking enterprise. In February 2024, in Washington, D.C., a precursor chemical broker of fentanyl and methamphetamine, who provided chemicals to several cartels, including the Jalisco Cartel, was sentenced to 18 years and eight months in prison. In January 2024, an associate of the Sinaloa Cartel was sentenced to over 21 years in prison for trafficking deadly drugs into the United States. In October 2023, we announced charges against chemical companies and their employees based in China for trafficking fentanyl and methamphetamine precursor chemicals into the United States. And in September 2023, Ovidio Guzman Lopez, a leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, and the son of Joaquin Guzmán Loera, also known as "El Chapo," was extradited from Mexico to face drug trafficking, money laundering, firearm charges, as well as other charges, in the United States.

In addition to our enforcement efforts, the Department is working every day to support families and communities that are confronting the public health challenge of substance use disorders. In fiscal year 2023, OJP awarded more than \$351 million to address the overdose epidemic and the needs of individuals experiencing substance use challenges. Those awards will support treatment courts; residential treatment programs; prevention and harm reduction services; evidence-based treatment, including medication-assisted treatment and recovery support services; services for opioid-affected youth; and services that improve continuity of care and reduce recidivism.

The Department supports efforts in Congress to permanently schedule certain fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs under the Controlled Substances Act to ensure the effective law enforcement and prosecution of the sale and use of these substances.

Protecting Americans from Economic Harm

The Justice Department remains committed to using every available federal tool—including criminal, civil, and administrative actions—to promote economic competition, prevent the theft of intellectual property, deter and prosecute corporate crime, protect taxpayer funds from fraud, and combat corruption. That includes continuing our efforts to vigorously enforce the antitrust laws. In May 2024, the Justice Department, sued Live Nation-Ticketmaster for monopolizing markets across the live concert industry. In March 2024, the Justice Department sued Apple for monopolizing or attempting to monopolize smartphone markets in the United States. Earlier that same month, JetBlue announced that it had abandoned its \$3.8 billion acquisition of Spirit Airlines after the Department proved in court that a merger between JetBlue and Spirit would have caused tens of millions of travelers to face higher fares and fewer choices.

We are also devoting resources to recovering and protecting taxpayer dollars from fraud and abuse. Last fiscal year, settlements and judgments under the False Claims Act exceeded \$2.68 billion, and the government and whistleblowers were party to 543 settlements and judgments—the highest annual number of settlements and judgments in history.

Three years ago, I established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department, in partnership with agencies across the government, to combat, prevent, and prosecute COVID-19 related fraud. Since then, the Task Force has charged more than 3,500 defendants, seized or forfeited more than \$1.4 billion in stolen funds, and filed more than 400 civil lawsuits resulting in court judgments and settlements.

The Department supports legislation to extend the statute of limitations for criminal offenses and civil and administrative violations affecting COVID-19 pandemic relief funding. Such an extension is warranted because, among other reasons, of the size and number of the programs affected. Though the COVID-19 health emergency may have ended, the Justice Department’s work to identify and prosecute those who stole pandemic relief funds is far from over.

PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS

The Justice Department was first established in 1870, in the wake of the Civil War and in the midst of Reconstruction, with the first principal purpose of enforcing the protections guaranteed by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. Protecting civil rights remains our urgent charge today. The Department is continuing to advance our essential work to protect voting rights, combat hate crimes, foster trust and accountability in law enforcement, expand access to justice, improve the criminal justice system, protect reproductive freedom under federal law, and advance environmental justice and tackle the climate crisis. This also includes our work to enforce federal laws prohibiting discrimination in lending through the Combating Redlining Initiative, which has now secured over \$122 million in relief for communities across the country.

Protecting Voting Rights

The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, the right from which all others flow. The Justice Department is continuing to vigorously protect voting rights using all resources and enforcement tools at our disposal. Our efforts have included filing lawsuits across the country to challenge laws, practices, and procedures that unlawfully curb voter access or deny or abridge the right to vote on account of race, color, disability, or language status.

We have filed statements of interest and amicus briefs in courts across the country to weigh in on critical questions. Through this work, the Department has sought to address discriminatory voting laws, to protect language access at the ballot box, and to ensure that voters with disabilities are able to exercise the right to vote. And the Department has worked to provide guidance and outreach to state and local election officials and the public about federal voting rights laws. The Justice Department stands ready to work with Congress to develop and advance legislation to protect voting rights.

Combating Hate Crimes

In the wake of the October 7 terrorist attacks on Israel, I directed all of our U.S. Attorneys' Offices and all of our FBI Field Offices to meet with local law enforcement and community leaders to strengthen our response to threats of hate-fueled violence, including the rise in threats against Jewish, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian communities in the United States.

No person and no community in this country should have to live in fear of hate-fueled violence. That is why the Department is bringing its collective tools to bear to prevent, deter, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes, as well as improve hate crimes reporting.

The Department is working tirelessly to investigate and combat hate crimes and hate incidents. The Department's work led to the conviction of a man for a series of arsons targeting Catholic, Methodist, and Baptist churches in Nashville, Tennessee. In April 2024, a man was sentenced to 37 years in prison for a mass shooting targeting Muslims in Dallas, Texas. In March 2024, a rideshare driver in San Francisco, California was charged with assaulting a customer because he perceived the customer to be Jewish or Israeli.

The Department is also working to combat hate crimes motivated by bias on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. In February 2024, we secured the conviction of a South Carolina man for committing a federal hate crime by killing a transgender woman. This defendant is the first to be found guilty by trial verdict for a hate crime motivated by gender identity under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

In addition, the Department is working to improve hate crime reporting. In September 2022, the Justice Department officially launched the United Against Hate Community Outreach Program in U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country. The program brings together community groups, federal hate crimes prosecutors, law enforcement at every level, and others to build trust and strengthen coordination to combat hate crimes and hate incidents. The Department has held over 300 engagements involving over 10,000 participants.

This fiscal year, the Department will award approximately \$25 million in grants to support state and local agencies in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, improve hate crime reporting, and support non-profit and civil rights organizations with implementing community-based approaches to prevent hate crimes.

Fostering Trust and Accountability in Law Enforcement

The Justice Department is committed to building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve and ensuring constitutional policing. And we are committed to ensuring accountability for violations of civil rights.

In March 2024, after an investigation by the FBI and prosecution by the Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi, six former Mississippi law enforcement officers were sentenced to between 10 and 40 years in prison for multiple felony offenses, including civil rights conspiracy, deprivation of rights under color of law, discharge of a firearm during a crime of violence, conspiracy to obstruct justice, and obstruction of justice.

Congress gave the Justice Department the authority to conduct civil pattern-or-practice investigations, which look beyond individual incidents to assess systemic failures. Pursuant to the statute, the Department has initiated pattern-or-practice investigations into law enforcement agencies to assess allegations of systemic violations of the Constitution or federal law. Last year, the Department released the results of its investigations into the Louisville Metro and Minneapolis Police Departments, finding that both agencies engage in patterns or practices of unlawful conduct, such as use of excessive force and racially discriminatory policing. The Department is working with these police departments, local officials, and the communities to identify and implement remedies to address these violations—including consent decrees—and doing so in a manner that is fair, transparent, and effective.

Protecting Reproductive Rights

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Justice Department has worked with commitment and urgency to defend the reproductive freedoms that are protected by federal law. In response to the Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Department established the Reproductive Rights Task Force, which formalized the Department's ongoing work to protect reproductive freedoms under federal law.

The Reproductive Rights Task Force is continuing to monitor state laws and enforcement actions that threaten to infringe on federal protections of reproductive rights and identifying appropriate responses to those actions. The Department is also advising federal agencies on legal issues related to reproductive health and enforcing federal laws to protect those seeking and providing lawful reproductive health care. We are also continuing to offer technical assistance to Congress on federal constitutional questions and proposed legislation related to reproductive health care. The Department strongly supports efforts by Congress to codify Americans' reproductive rights, which it retains the authority to do.

Advancing Environmental Justice and Tackling the Climate Crisis

Two years ago, the Justice Department announced the launch of a Department-wide comprehensive environmental justice strategy and created the Department's first Office of Environmental Justice. The Department has made important strides in advancing that strategy and prioritizing the cases that have the greatest impact on the communities most overburdened by environmental harm.

Last year, the Department, in partnership with the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services, secured a settlement agreement that puts the State of Alabama's Department of Public Health on a path to long overdue reform. The state is now taking steps necessary to provide access to basic sanitation services, end exposure to raw sewage, and improve health outcomes for the predominantly Black communities of Lowndes County.

The Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division continues to bring affirmative cases centered on the reduction of greenhouse gases and climate pollutants. For example, in February 2024, the Department finalized a settlement on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency against the Apache Corporation that imposed a \$4 million civil penalty and requires the company to spend at least \$5.5 million to comply with the law and to mitigate environmental harm caused by its Clean Air Act violations.

The Department continues to bring cases to protect natural resources in the United States and around the globe, including combating illegal logging and protecting Tribal hunting, gathering, and water rights.

UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW

The Justice Department is continuing to fulfill the responsibility that underlies all of our work—upholding the rule of law. We are adhering to the norms that safeguard the Justice Department's independence and integrity. Chief among those norms is applying principled discretion and treating like cases alike. We follow the facts and the law wherever they may lead, without prejudice or improper influence. And we apply the law in a way that respects the Constitution and the people we serve.

Protecting Those Who Serve the Public

Early in my tenure as Attorney General, I warned that Americans who serve and interact with the public at every level—many of whom make our democracy function—were being unlawfully targeted with threats of violence and actual violence. Judges, members of Congress, police officers, federal law enforcement agents, prosecutors, and election officials, workers, and volunteers have all been threatened or attacked.

Today, my concerns about the threats facing public servants have only heightened, and the Justice Department is doubling down on our efforts to protect them. We are aggressively prosecuting those who unlawfully target public servants and their families with violence and threats of violence. In April, we charged a man in Alabama for his alleged role in detonating an

explosive device outside of the Alabama Attorney General’s Office. In February, we secured the guilty plea of a man who threatened an election worker in Michigan. The defendant made vile threats, saying that the election worker deserved a “throat to the knife.”

These cases have also included investigations and prosecutions of individuals for making threats of violence against members of Congress. In February 2024, we secured the conviction of a man in Florida for threatening to murder a member of Congress. During the first week in January of this year, we charged a man in Connecticut for making threats against a Veterans Affairs Medical Center and a member of Congress, and we charged an individual in Florida for threatening to kill a member of Congress and the Congressperson’s children.

Protecting Our Country’s Democratic Institutions

Our work to uphold the rule of law includes protecting our country’s democratic institutions. Since the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol, the Department has engaged in one of the most complex and resource-intensive investigations in our history. We have initiated prosecutions and secured convictions across a wide range of criminal conduct that occurred on January 6, as well as in the days and weeks leading up to the attack. That includes convictions of those who brutally assaulted officers at the Capitol, those who obstructed the certification of the presidential election, and leaders of both the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers for seditious conspiracy. So far, we have charged over 1,420 individuals and obtained over 940 convictions in connection with the January 6 attack. We are committed to doing everything in our power to prevent something like the January 6 assault on our democracy from ever happening again.

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The public servants who make up the Department of Justice do their work with dedication, integrity, and skill. Many of them put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe. Working alongside them is an enormous honor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on their behalf. I look forward to your questions.