

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

I have received highly credible information from multiple sources that Kash Patel has been personally directing the ongoing purge of career civil servants at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Although Mr. Patel is President Trump's nominee to be FBI Director, he is still a private citizen with no role in government. I understand that Mr. Patel's directives are being carried out through the concerted efforts of White House Deputy Chief of Staff to the President Stephen Miller, Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, and several members of a newly-established FBI Director's Advisory Team (DAT).¹ This alleged misconduct is beyond the pale and must be investigated immediately.

On January 29, 2025, Acting FBI Director Brian Driscoll and Acting FBI Deputy Director Robert Kissane scheduled a meeting where it was relayed that a group of Executive Assistant Directors (EAD) and other supervisors must resign or be fired. The DAT was in possession of a written list that identified certain officials and was seen by multiple FBI leaders. Their understanding of the list was that "a lot of names were people in the crosshairs." This meeting had been prompted by a meeting earlier that day between Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI leadership. Contemporaneous notes from that morning meeting read: "KP wants movement at FBI, reciprocal actions for DOJ." Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove told meeting attendees that he received multiple calls from Stephen Miller the night before. Mr. Miller was pressuring him because Mr. Patel wanted the FBI to remove targeted employees faster, as DOJ had already done with prosecutors.

According to my sources, Mr. Patel is receiving information from within the FBI from a member of the DAT. Mr. Patel then provides direction to Mr. Miller, who relays it to Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove. Each DAT member had represented to one or more officials at the Bureau at some point before January 30 that they had been in direct contact with Mr. Patel.²

It is unacceptable for a nominee with no current role in government, much less at the FBI, to personally direct unjustified and potentially illegal adverse employment actions against senior career FBI leadership and other dedicated, nonpartisan law enforcement officers. If these

¹ The DAT has established four pillars to focus its work: leadership selection, organizational structure, accountability, and technology.

² For example, several members of the DAT relayed that Mr. Patel personally interviewed them for the position.

allegations are true, Mr. Patel may have perjured himself before the Senate Judiciary Committee. During his confirmation hearing on January 30, Senator Booker asked Mr. Patel: “Are you aware of any plans or discussions to punish in any way, including termination, FBI agents or personnel associated with Trump investigations? Yes or no.” Mr. Patel answered that he was “not aware of that.” Mr. Patel continued: “I don’t know what’s going on right now over there, but I’m committed to you, Senator, and your colleagues that I will honor the internal review process of the FBI.”

Officials taking baseless, adverse employment actions against any career civil servant solely at the behest of a private citizen is unconscionable on its own. But the ramifications of removing senior leaders and threatening the removal of thousands of other FBI agents are particularly disastrous. The leadership and experience vacuum created by these actions has greatly weakened the FBI’s ability to protect the country from national security threats and has made Americans less safe. Moreover, these removals have created a number of single points of failure that further endanger the ability of the FBI to protect Americans from harm. Some of those who have been removed are not just dealing with the loss of their livelihood, but now face threats due to the unwarranted suspicions these retributive acts have created.

The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. Please contact my office for any additional information you may need to investigate these allegations. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary