

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 1, 2025

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

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Attorney General Bondi, Secretary Noem, and Secretary Hegseth:

We write concerning grave allegations that senior Department of Justice (DOJ) leadership misled the courts and evaded court orders. These credible accusations are included in the protected whistleblower disclosure of Erez Reuveni, former Acting Deputy Director for the DOJ Civil Division's Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL).¹ This disclosure, which was lawfully transmitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee under the Whistleblower Protection Act, describes multiple instances where senior DOJ officials advocated for ignoring court orders, delayed compliance with court orders, presented baseless legal arguments, misrepresented facts or made false statements in court, and directed Mr. Reuveni to misrepresent facts in court.

Among these allegations are several involving Principal Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove and other members of DOJ leadership. Mr. Bove reportedly stated during a meeting about a then-impending presidential proclamation invoking the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) that DOJ should consider telling a court “‘fuck you’ and ignore such a court order” if the government were enjoined from removing individuals under that authority.² Mr. Bove also advised the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to violate a court order enjoining removals because it was given orally and not yet in writing.³ DOJ leadership provided instructions to agency clients to facilitate removals to El Salvador in violation of the existing injunction,⁴ and “report[ed] ‘down the chain’

¹ Letter re Protected Whistleblower Disclosure of Erez Reuveni Regarding Violation of Laws, Rules & Regulations, Abuse of Authority, and Substantial and Specific Danger to Health and Safety at the Department of Justice (June 24, 2025) (on file with Committee) (hereinafter “Disclosure”).

² *Id.* at 7.

³ *Id.* at 13–15 (“Bove had advised DHS that under the court order it was permissible to deplane individuals on flights that departed U.S. airspace before the minute order had issued on the docket.”).

⁴ *Id.* at 14 (“agency counsel for DHS informed Mr. Reuveni by telephone that DOJ leadership had advised DHS to deplane the flights in El Salvador and directed Mr. Reuveni to consult DOJ leadership if he had any questions. Through the course of the events on March 16, it became clear to Mr. Reuveni that DHS and [Department of State] were receiving contrary directions from someone else to take actions in violation of court orders.” *See also id.* at 19 (“had departed Texas on a flight after the court issued its injunction . . . Young informed Mr. Reuveni that he was not aware of the injunction and appeared upset that DHS had not communicated the existence of the injunction to DOD.”).

that the government was not going to answer the court's questions about anything that happened before 7:26 p.m. on March 15, and so not to provide information about when the flights took off."⁵ Mr. Reuveni's superiors indicated that Mr. Bove was unhappy with his efforts to prevent the violation of a court order by providing consistent instructions to agency clients, including DHS and the Department of Defense (DOD).⁶ Additionally, Mr. Bove instructed Mr. Reuveni's superiors that Mr. Reuveni should stop reaching out to federal agencies via email to discuss their compliance with court orders because these emails could be subject to *Freedom of Information Act* requests.⁷

Mr. Reuveni also alleges that senior DOJ leadership pressured him to violate his duty of candor to the court by making arguments contrary to the law and without supporting facts.⁸ This included being directed to cease asking for evidence to support the government's arguments in *Abrego Garcia v. Noem*,⁹ and being pressured to sign an appeals brief with unsupported arguments.¹⁰

In addition to the legal and ethical concerns with DOJ's attempts to mislead the courts and evade court orders, the disclosure details multiple instances where senior DOJ officials attempted to prevent Mr. Reuveni from creating records that could subject this misconduct to outside scrutiny.¹¹ It also details apparent retaliation against Mr. Reuveni for following his professional ethical obligations as a member of the bar by placing him on administrative leave and ultimately terminating him.¹²

The gravity of these allegations and the preexisting public record that corroborates the disclosure necessitate an immediate investigation by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Additionally, given Mr. Bove's prominent alleged role in this disclosure and the Committee's current consideration of his nomination to a lifetime appointment as a judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, we ask that you provide the following information and materials no later than July 14, 2025:

1. All communications, memoranda, and other records, such as calendar entries and text messages, referring or related to a March 14, 2025 meeting concerning the then-impending presidential proclamation invoking the AEA and the removals that would occur pursuant to it.

⁵ *Id.* at 15.

⁶ *Id.* at 21.

⁷ *Id.* 18–19, 21.

⁸ *Id.* at 23–24 (“Mr. Reuveni was directed ... to cease making requests of DHS and DOS, to stop asking for facts supporting any possible defense of the case, that no ‘asks’ of El Salvador of any sort should be made, and to rest on the threshold jurisdictional arguments.”).

⁹ See 8:25-cv-00951, (D. Md. Apr 4, 2025) ECF No. 20.

¹⁰ Disclosure at 25 (“Flentje told Mr. Reuveni that he should sign the brief, and that he had signed up for the responsibility to do so when he accepted the Deputy position. Mr. Reuveni responded, ‘I did not sign up to lie.’”).

¹¹ *Id.* at 18–19, 21.

¹² *Id.* at 25–26.

2. All communications, memoranda, and other records, such as calendar entries and text messages, referring or related to the March 16, 2025 status of plaintiffs subject to the March 15 Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) issued by Chief Judge Boasberg, the three flights carrying them, and the advice of DOJ leadership to deplane the flights in El Salvador contrary to the requirements of the TRO.
3. All communications, memoranda, and other records, such as calendar entries and text messages, referring or related to the March 17, 2025 hearing with Chief Judge Boasberg concerning compliance with the TRO.
4. All communications, memoranda, and other records, such as calendar entries and text messages, referring or related to the March 28, 2025 nationwide TRO issued by Judge Brian Murphy, individuals subject to it, and the directive preventing Mr. Reuveni from asking federal agencies about compliance with this order.
5. All communications, memoranda, and other records, such as calendar entries and text messages, referring or related to the oral argument before Judge Paula Xinis concerning the then-impending removal of Kilmar Abrego Garcia.
6. All communications, memoranda, and other records, such as calendar entries and text messages, referring or related to the drafting of an appeal seeking to revoke the grant of withholding of removal to Mr. Abrego Garcia.
7. All communications, memoranda, and other records, such as calendar entries and text messages, referring or related to the placement of Mr. Reuveni on administrative leave on April 5, 2025, and his removal from federal service on April 11, 2025.

We also request that you make the following officials available for transcribed witness interviews concerning this matter no later than July 14, 2025:

- Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche;¹³
- Principal Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove;
- Counselor to the Deputy Attorney General James McHenry;
- Associate Deputy Attorney General Paul Perkins;
- Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Yaakov Roth;
- Deputy Assistant Attorney General of OIL Drew Ensign;

¹³ Although the disclosure does not name him, Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche has indicated he too is a fact witness to these events, including the March 14 meeting. *See* Todd Blanche (@DAGToddBlanche), X.com (Jun. 24, 2025, 9:51 AM), <https://x.com/DAGToddBlanche/status/1937508924980154417> (“I was at the meeting described...”).

- Acting OIL Director August Flentje;
- Counselor to the Attorney General Henry Whitaker;
- James Percival (then-Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Homeland Security);
- Acting General Counsel for DHS Joseph N. Mazzara; and
- Acting General Counsel for DOD Charles L. Young III.

We look forward to your full and immediate compliance with these requests. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



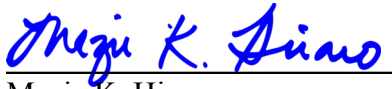
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator




Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



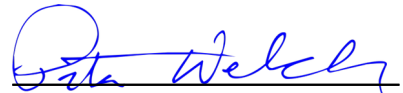
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

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

cc: Deputy Inspector General William M. Blier
Department of Justice