

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 4, 2020

The Honorable William Barr  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General William Barr,

We write to you concerning recent media reporting and sightings from Rep. Krishnamoorthi's Congressional staff of non-identifiable members of federal security forces in the District of Columbia. The use of federal security forces to oversee protests without specific agency identifiers or badge numbers runs counter to the need for accountability, transparency, and oversight that is sorely needed in the local and national response to the peaceful domestic protests that followed the unjust killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer on May 25, 2020. In addition, the presence of these unidentifiable officials raises concerns that peaceful protesters might not be able to identify them as legitimate law enforcement officers, that law enforcement officers might not be able to identify each other, or that it might allow for other civilians that are "self-appointed assistants to police" to falsely identify themselves as legitimate law enforcement officials.

In an email response to media questions about a specific group of these non-identifiable security forces, a Department of Justice spokesperson stated that the security forces in question were from the Bureau of Prisons. The spokesperson did not respond to the question of why these particular security forces did not have identifying information on their uniforms or why they were instructed not to disclose what agency they were from.<sup>1</sup>

To address our concerns about these personnel, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions about the Department of Justice's administrative policies and orders to deploy this unidentifiable security force through the Bureau of Prisons:

1. What administrative orders were given to these security forces that prompted them to wear uniforms that provided no specific agency identifiers or badge numbers? Were these standard uniforms?<sup>2</sup>
2. What administrative orders were given to these security forces that prompted them to identify themselves only as "working for the Department of Justice" and "the federal government"?
3. What administrative order was given by the Department of Justice to relocate security forces from the Bureau of Prisons "riot team" to the District of Columbia?<sup>3</sup> Which specific forces from the Bureau of Prisons, were deployed in the District of Columbia? How many of these personnel were deployed, and from which geographic locations were they deployed?

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<sup>1</sup> Friedman, Dan. *Mother Jones*. <https://twitter.com/dfriedman33/status/1268038302160084992> (6/2/20)

<sup>2</sup> Friedman, Dan. *Mother Jones*. <https://twitter.com/dfriedman33/status/1267936203522932738> (6/2/20)

<sup>3</sup> Lucas, Ryan. *National Public Radio*. "Attorney General Steps Up Federal Law Enforcement Response To Protests." <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/01/867059312/attorney-general-steps-up-federal-law-enforcement-response-to-protests> (6/1/20)

4. What administrative order was given to designate these forces be stationed outside the fencing surrounding Lafayette Park, and who was responsible for this order?<sup>45</sup>
5. Can the Department of Justice confirm that all security forces deployed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to the District of Columbia are federal government employees and not private contractors? If any of these individuals were contractors, please provide information on the company for which they worked.

Below is photographic evidence of non-identifiable members of security forces obtained by Rep. Krishnamoorthi's staff on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 in the District of Columbia.



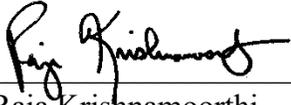
*(Top Left) Uniformed security officer with no frontal or side identification. (Top Right) Row of security officials with no identification. (Bottom Left) Unidentified security official talking with an individual wearing a DOJ Federal Bureau of Prisons frontal badge. (Bottom Right) Unidentified security officials with secret service officers behind them and the fence enclosing Lafayette Park.*

We ask that you make the necessary alterations to the uniforms of DOJ personnel deployed to crowd response to provide for their identification in the event of misconduct, and we request answers to the above questions by June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Proskow, Jackson. *Global News*. <https://twitter.com/JProskowGlobal/status/1268145559912792065> (6/3/20)

<sup>5</sup> Walker, Hunter. *Yahoo News*. <https://twitter.com/hunterw/status/1268285813315387392> (6/3/20)

Sincerely,



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Cory Booker  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress