

Statement on Department of Justice Abuses of Power Toward Critics of President Trump

"Americans disagree on many things, but we share a common commitment to certain values: fair play, equal protection of the laws, the right to a fair trial, and the freedom to speak our minds without fear of government persecution. The politicization and weaponization of law enforcement, by either party, poses a mortal danger to all these values.

Whenever one believes politicization of justice started, there's no question that it has entered a new and disturbing chapter. It must end now.

No president should order the investigation or prosecution of specific individuals against whom he bears personal grievances, especially not when advised by Justice Department attorneys that the facts and the law do not support such a case.

These abuses of power threaten the safety and rights of every American, as well as the stability of our economy. Democrats, Republicans, and independents all lose when the sword of the government is wielded arbitrarily against its own people. We must unite to defend the America we love, in which such a thing is unthinkable."

Signers:

Kenneth Adelman, former Director for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under President Ronald Reagan

Donald B. Ayer, Deputy Attorney General in the George H.W. Bush Administration from 1989 to 1990; Principal Deputy Solicitor General in the Reagan Administration from 1986 to 1988

Charles Boustany, Representative of the 3rd and then 7th Congressional District of Louisiana from 2005-2017 (R)

Sister Simone Campbell, Former Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Arne Carlson, Governor of Minnesota from 1991 to 1999 (R)

Barbara Comstock, Representative of the 10th Congressional District of Virginia from 2015 to 2019 (R)

Stephen Devine, Deputy Legal Advisor to the National Security Council under President George W. Bush

Bishop Dwayne D. Royster, Executive Director, Faith in Action

Mickey Edwards, Representative of the 5th Congressional District of Oklahoma from 1977 to 1993 (R)

Judge Nancy Gertner, U.S. District Judge, District of Massachusetts (Ret.)

Jim Greenwood, Representative of the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania from 1993 to 2005 (R)

Bob Inglis, Representative of the 4th Congressional District of South Carolina from 1993 to 1999 and from 2005 to 2011 (R)

Peter Keisler, Acting Attorney General in the George W. Bush Administration in 2007; Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division in the Bush Administration from 2003 to 2007; Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General and Acting Associate Attorney General in the Bush Administration from 2002 to 2003; Assistant and Associate Counsel to the President in the Reagan Administration from 1986 to 1988

Winston Lord, Ambassador to China under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush; State Department Director of Policy Planning under Henry Kissinger

Judge Michael Luttig, U.S. Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (Ret.)

John McKay, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington appointed by George W. Bush from 2001 to 2007

Barbara McQuade, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan appointed by Barack Obama from 2010 to 2017

Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Susan Molinari, Representative of the 13th and 14th Congressional Districts of New York from 1990 to 1997 (R)

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and Senior Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism

Marc Racicot, Governor of Montana from 1993 to 2001 (R), Attorney General of Montana from 1989 to 1993

Reverend Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, President, Interfaith Alliance

Paul Rosenzweig, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Policy under President George W. Bush

Mark Salter, Former Chief of Staff to Senator John McCain

Claudine Schneider, Representative of the 2nd Congressional District of Rhode Island from 1981 to 1991 (R)

Gregory Schulte, Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency under President George W. Bush

Robert Shanks, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel under President Ronald Reagan; Peace Corps General Counsel under President Donald Trump

Christopher Shays, Representative for the 4th Congressional District of Connecticut from 1987 to 2009 (R)

Amy Spitalnick, CEO, Jewish Council for Public Affairs

David Trott, Representative of the 11th Congressional District of Michigan from 2015 to 2019

Olivia Troye, Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence, 2018-2020

Stanley Twardy, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut appointed by Ronald Reagan from 1985 to 1991

Amanda Tyler, Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

Joe Walsh, Representative of the 8th Congressional District of Illinois from 2011 to 2013 (R)

William Weld, Governor of Massachusetts from 1991 to 1997 (R); U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, 1981-1986; Assistant U.S. Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, under President Ronald Reagan

Christine Todd Whitman, Governor of New Jersey from 1994 to 2001 (R); Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency in the George W. Bush Administration, 2001-2003