



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1403

December 05, 2023

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Attorney General Garland,

I write to you today not only as a Congressman for Northeast Indiana, but as a husband and a father of three young girls.

Earlier this year, a man named Aaron Thompson left numerous graphic death threats on my D.C. office's voicemail which included the following statements, per the United States Capitol Police's report:

- *"Three daughters. Hey, hey, hey, three bullets hey, hey, hey one wife yay . Oh yeah, yeah, we'll give her two bullets.."*
- *"Boom Boom you pick which two daughters get shot"*
- *"God damn man I hope you fucking get your brains blown out. Oh, wait, you will..."*
- *"You will die mother fucker"*
- *"I shouldn't own a gun either, but the Constitution allows me to. Have fun fucking that constitution buddy. It's gonna be fucking end of it for you oh bitch"*

When Federal Bureau of Investigation agents visited his home in Fort Wayne, Indiana, following his initial threats, Thompson, who previously posted on social media encouraging his followers to "Vote Democrat," admitted he had threatened me and my family with violence because he disagreed with my political beliefs.

Shortly after, the Office of the U.S. Attorney of Northern Indiana, which you oversee, declined to pursue the case.

Following your refusal, charges were brought by the Office of the Allen County Prosecuting Attorney. Thompson recently pled guilty and was sentenced for harassment and felony intimidation.

When addressing U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) staff members on your first day in office, [you said](#), "[T]he only way we can succeed and retain the trust of the American people" is to ensure "cases be treated alike. That there not be one rule for Democrats and another for Republicans; One rule for friends and another for foes..."

Last year [you stated](#), “*The rise of violence and unlawful threats of violence directed at those who serve the public is unacceptable and dangerous to our democracy. I want to be clear: while people vote, argue, and debate in a democracy, we must not – we cannot – allow violence or unlawful threats of violence to permeate our national life. The Justice Department will not tolerate violence or threats of violence against judges or any other public servants at work, home, or any other location.*”

When Capitol Police referred the criminal case against Aaron Thompson to the U.S. Attorney for Northern District of Indiana, they declined to prosecute despite clear evidence that Thompson violated federal law.

In stark contrast, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York was quick to act last year when a man made similar violent threats toward my colleague from California, Eric Swalwell.

[The prosecuting attorney said](#), “*These threats of violence endanger our public officials and thwart common decency.*”

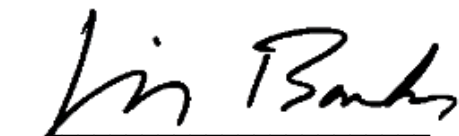
Similarly, last year, a Pennsylvania man was [indicted on federal charges](#) for “threatening the President of the United States, interstate communications with a threat, and influencing a federal official by threat” after sending a threatening letter to my Democrat colleague Bennie Thompson.

I have no doubt that you, as a husband and father yourself, would do anything to protect your family, but I want to know why you have refused to protect mine.

I am requesting answers to the following questions no later than December 12, 2023:

- Why did the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana decline to pursue charges against Aaron Thompson?
- What guidance has the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana received on prosecuting cases related to political violence or threats of political violence?

Additionally, no later than December 12, 2023, please provide my office with a completed list of individuals federally prosecuted for illegally threatening federal officials during your tenure as Attorney General.



---

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

CC:

Northern District of Indiana U.S. Attorney Clifford D. Johnson  
House Committee on Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan