

From: Osen, Matthew (NSD)
Subject: CNN
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Sent: August 8, 2022 7:02 PM (UTC-04:00)

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/08/politics/mar-a-lago-search-warrant-fbi-donald-trump/index.html>

Matt Olsen (he/him)
Assistant Attorney General for National Security

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Subject: FW: WH Press Briefing 8/9/22: Mar-a-Lago
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Cc: Benedict, Margot (ODAG)
Sent: August 9, 2022 3:49 PM (UTC-04:00)

From: Jain, Katherine (PAO) <Katherine.Jain@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 3:49 PM
To: Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) <Wyn.Hornbuckle@usdoj.gov>; Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov>; Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO) <Kendall.M.Mitchell@usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: WH Press Briefing 8/9/22: Mar-a-Lago

Reporter: And on this raid I understand you're ensuring the independence of the Justice Department but just politically and in terms of the optics about this, are you concerned at all about how it looks for the Justice Department to be investigating and raiding the home of a former president who may very well be the current president's rival in 2024?

KJP: Again, we're just not going to comment on any ongoing investigations from here.

Reporter: And to Republicans who say it reeks of politics?

KJP: Look, I'll say this. The President and the White House learned about this FBI search from public reports. We learned just like the American public did yesterday, and we did not have advanced notice of this activity. President Biden has been very clear from before he was elected President and throughout his time in office, that that the Justice Department conducts his investigations independently. He believes in the rule of law and our nation of law, and again we defer any incoming on this particular incident yesterday to the Department of Justice.

From: Jain, Katherine (PAO)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 3:43 PM
To: Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) <Wyn.Hornbuckle@usdoj.gov>; Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO) <Kendall.M.Mitchell@usdoj.gov>
Subject: WH Press Briefing 8/9/22: Mar-a-Lago

Reporter: On the FBI's search warrant on the former president's residence in Florida: was the President or anyone at the White House aware of that search warrant or has anyone at the White House or the President been briefed in the aftermath of that search warrant being executed?

KJP: No, the President was not briefed, was not aware of it. No, no one at the White House was given a heads up. No, that didn't happen.

Reporter: Is the White House at all concerned, given the domestic political climate, about the signal that it sends to the rest of the world that the Department of Justice carried out this sort of operation on a former president that could even create the appearance of politically motivated prosecutors?

KJP: First off and you've heard me say this many times at this podium, you've heard the President say this the Justice Department conducts investigations independently, and we leave any law enforcement matters to them. It would not be appropriate for us to comment on any ongoing investigations. I can say that President Biden has been unequivocal since the campaign he believes in the rule of law and the independence of the Justice Department investigations, that those investigations should be free from political influence, and he has held that commitment as President. I want to also remind you all of what he said on January 7, 2021, when he then nominated Merrick Garland

to be the Attorney General, and I quote: “we need to restore the honor, the integrity of the independence of the Department of Justice in this nation that has been so badly damaged” and so many former leaders of that department in both parties have so testified and stated that, “I want to be clear to those who lead this department who you will serve. You won’t work for me. You are not the President or the Vice President’s lawyer. Your loyalty is not to me; it’s to the law, the constitution, the people of this nation, to guarantee justice.” So I would refer you to the Department of Justice.

Reporter: Is the White House or the President think it would be helpful, both domestically and in a similar sense abroad, for the Department of Justice to be more open about the reasons for that search warrant, the underlying evidence.

KJP: Again, this is not something I’m going to comment on today or from here at all. This goes to the Department of Justice and that’s where I refer you to.

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Subject: Re: Unsealing request
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Cc: Toscas, George (NSD)
Sent: August 9, 2022 5:49 PM (UTC 04:00)

We wouldn't confirm or deny a sealed warrant. (b) (5)
[REDACTED]. The MJ was doxed. The Marshals are responding.

On Aug 9, 2022, at 6:45 PM, Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Fysa.

It is strange that this would have been sent by the magistrate judge in Florida to the US attorneys office in DC (b) (5)
[REDACTED]. But
welcome thoughts.

David

From: Lyons, Brendan <b_lyons@timesunion.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 3:56 PM
To: USADC-Media <USADC-Media@usa.doj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Unsealing request

Good afternoon,

I am filing a pro se motion to unseal the search warrant application(s) in connection with the search conducted by the FBI at Mar-A-Lago — Donald J. Trump's residence — on Monday, Aug. 8. The office of the Chief Magistrate in Miami suggested that we reach out to your office initially to see whether you would move to unseal those records, or, to provide us with the docket number. (If I have the docket number, it will help in making sure the unsealing request is filed with the appropriate U.S. magistrate in Florida's Southern District.)

Thank you in advance for any assistance on this matter and please don't hesitate to contact me if you need clarification on any portion of this request.

Sincerely,



Brendan J. Lyons
Managing Editor Enterprise Investigations/Capitol Bureau
BLyons@timesunion.com
645 Albany Shaker Rd Albany NY 12211
Ph 518 454 5547 [@Brendan_LyonsTU](https://www.instagram.com/Brendan_LyonsTU)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 10, 2022

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Ms. Wall:

On August 8, 2022, several dozen Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents descended upon Mar-a-Lago—the private residence of former President Donald J. Trump. According to media reports, the FBI executed a search warrant to retrieve “documents sought by the National Archives [and Records Administration]” (NARA).¹ Law enforcement raiding a former president’s residence is unprecedented. Committee Republicans are concerned that NARA would utilize the FBI to gather documents that the president, by the very nature of his constitutional role, could declassify himself, if this was indeed the case as media has reported. The Biden Administration is continuing to weaponize the FBI against political rivals. To better understand the circumstances and NARA’s role, if any, in the FBI raid, Oversight Republicans request an immediate briefing on this matter. Additionally, we request that you ensure preservation of all documents and communications referring or relating to the warrant executed by the FBI on August 8, 2022 at Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI and NARA’s actions—apparently to enforce the Presidential Records Act (PRA)—are so contrary to the customary treatment of former administrations that it begs scrutiny into whether a political motivation underlay the raid. According to President Trump, the unannounced raid on his home occurred the morning of August 8, when President Trump was not home, and included breaking into his safe.² Additionally, President Trump stated he has been “working and cooperating” with the relevant agencies, which is corroborated by previous reporting of NARA’s January 2022 retrieval of 15 boxes of documents from Mar-a-Lago, which were mostly “mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence.”³ As noted

¹ Eric Beech, *Eric Trump: FBI raid conducted over documents sought by National Archives*, REUTERS (Aug. 8, 2022); see also Alex Leary, Sadie Gurman and Aruna Viswanatha, *FBI Searches Trump’s Florida Home Mar-a-Lago in Document Investigation*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 9, 2022).

² Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States, Aug. 8, 2022, available at https://saveamerica.nucleusemail.com/amplify/v/XeHZxcJVhW?hids=BP4D11jL6k&utm_medium=email_hf&utm_source=ncl__&utm_campaign=20220808__sa&utm_content=__4736&_nlid=P3ZmaFXGvZ&_nhids=BP4D11jL6k.

³ Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Tom Hamburger and Ashley Parker, *National Archives had to retrieve Trump White House records from Mar-a-Lago*, WASH. POST (Feb. 7, 2022).

in February, “[a]ll recent administrations have had some Presidential Records Act violations...[and] White House documents from multiple administrations have been retrieved by the Archives after a president has left office.”⁴ For example, Hillary and President Bill Clinton “had to return thousands of dollars worth of gifts...[and] the Clintons left the White House with \$28,000 in furnishings” from the White House.⁵

NARA’s singling out of President Trump’s handling of official records stands starkly in contrast to the way NARA has treated far clearer violations committed by politicians and officials who are not Republicans. As has been widely reported for years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department[,]”⁶ aides “took no actions to have her personal emails preserved...as required by the Federal Records Act[,]”⁷ and emails included classified information,⁸ but faced no repercussions—let alone an FBI raid—which demands an explanation for the disparate treatment received by President Trump, her once-rival. Since Hillary Clinton has never been President of the United States, she had a much more limited ability to declassify documents than President Trump, who was chief executive. Secretary Clinton also deleted over 31,000 emails after receiving a subpoena for them by the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which was met with the FBI’s apathy.⁹ Committee Republicans are content to leave Secretary Clinton to her retirement, yet the FBI and NARA’s behavior towards President Trump deserves an explanation as to why the latter deserved a raid by the FBI.

Committee Republicans demand answers about the FBI and NARA’s investigation of President Trump and any coordination between the two agencies. The seeming weaponization of the federal government against President Biden’s political rivals cannot go unchecked, and if NARA is working to further these efforts, it will be only the latest agency to lose its credibility in the eyes of the American people under the Biden Administration. To assist Committee Republicans in conducting oversight over NARA’s participation in this shameful episode in American history, please make arrangements to provide a Member-level briefing as soon as possible, but no later than August 17, 2022.

Additionally, please provide the following documents, covering the time period from January 20, 2021 to the present, no later than August 24, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between any employee or agent of NARA and the FBI or Department of Justice, including the Offices of the United States Attorneys, regarding former President Trump;

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Michael S. Schmidt, *Hillary Clinton Used Personal Email Account at State Dept., Possibly Breaking Rules*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 2, 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *FBI recommends no charges against Hillary Clinton over emails*, BBC NEWS (Jul. 6, 2016).

⁹ *Id.*

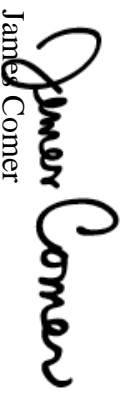
2. All documents and communications between or among employees or agents of NARA regarding any documents in the possession of former President Trump;
3. All documents produced or contributed to by any employee or agent of NARA and submitted to a U.S. federal district court, magistrate, or judge; and
4. All documents and communications sufficient to show the process by which NARA collects documents after a presidential transition.

In addition, we request that you preserve all responsive documents, communications, and other data (“records”) that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties. Accordingly, we request that you:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) **from January 20, 2021** related to former President Trump’s papers. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and
3. If it is the routine practice of any agency employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



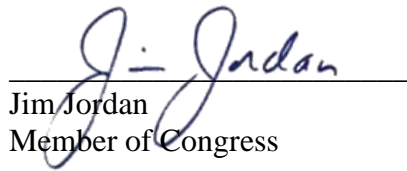
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



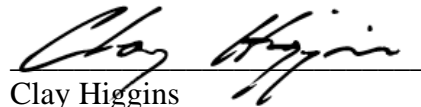
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



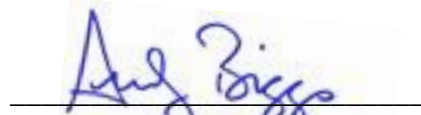
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



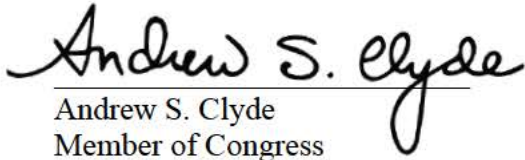
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

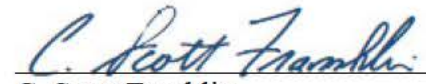



Fred Keller
Member of Congress

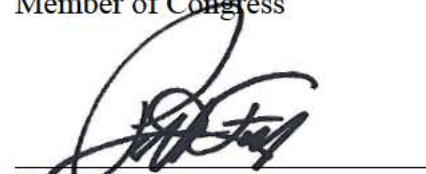



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress


C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress


Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Subject: Judicia Watch Motion
To: Toscas, George (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
Sent: August 10, 2022 2:12 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Judicia-Watch-Motion-to-Unsea-Search-Warrant-08332.pdf

FYI.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: Can you send me the litigation filed this morning?
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
Sent: August 10, 2022 2:12 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Judicia-Watch-Motion-to-Unseal-Search-Warrant-08332.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Evers, Austin (ODAG)" <(b) (6)>
Date: August 10, 2022 at 2:10:41 PM EDT
To: "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Can you send me the litigation filed this morning?

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Can you send me the litigation filed this morning?

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NBC: "DOJ bets its future on how it handles the search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort"
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: August 10, 2022 6:14 PM (UTC-04:00)

From: DoJ Real Time News Clips <alert-doj@rendon.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 6:07 PM
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NBC: "DOJ bets its future on how it handles the search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort"

NBC: "DOJ bets its future on how it handles the search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort," Ryan J. Reilly, August 10, 2022
<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/doj-bets-future-handles-search-trumps-mar-lago-resort-rcna42298>

In approving the unprecedented search of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, Justice Department leaders have bet the house on their handling of an investigation that will have sweeping implications for the future of both federal law enforcement and American democracy.

Monday's hours-long search of Trump's Florida resort in connection with an investigation into classified documents that Trump allegedly kept on the property will reverberate in American politics for the foreseeable future.

On top of the threats from Trump supporters calling for "civil war," the Justice Department and FBI are facing an avalanche of calls from lawmakers and even from some in the media to violate longstanding protocols and release information about the ongoing investigation, which could be derogatory to Trump, a presumed 2024 presidential candidate who has not been accused of a crime.

By all indications, Justice Department leaders have handled the search by the book, a carefulness that could be helpful in an extraordinary case like this one. Even so, they've given the former president a lot more leeway than any subject of a search warrant in a more run-of-the-mill investigation. The search was done quietly without any media circus, and, according to a Secret Service official, FBI special agents involved in the search didn't even wear their standard identifying gear that would be used in typical searches.

Given the stakes of the case, the Justice Department and FBI have been even more quiet than usual, declining even to confirm law enforcement activity at Mar-a-Lago. That's meant that the majority of information about the search has been coming from Trump's team and even directly from Trump, a notoriously unreliable narrator who has incentive to portray himself as the innocent victim of overreach by a "deep state" out to get him.

One Trump-appointed former U.S. Attorney told NBC News that they were "torn" about whether or not the Justice Department should break protocol in this "historic, almost breathtaking situation." But, that person noted, there is no law or congressional mandate that the department stick with protocol.

"You don't want to impugn someone if the media isn't going to get it right, or exactly right," the former U.S. Attorney said. "But what I would also say is when you're dealing with the former President of the United States, and a search warrant being executed on his home, it definitely is a situation where the policies don't apply."

"If DOJ is unwilling to release more information about the predication behind the search warrant, then it would just be helpful to know that both the director of the FBI and the attorney general of the United States approved the action, the execution of the search warrant."

But Joyce White Vance, a former U.S. Attorney and NBC News legal analyst, said breaking standard practice in this case would backfire because the Justice Department shouldn't be releasing derogatory information about individuals they haven't formally charged.

"Play that out a little bit, what do these people want?" said Vance, an Obama appointee. "Do they want Merrick Garland to come out and say here's all our evidence against Donald Trump? Do they really think that DOJ should try its cases in the press? That's not what we want in a functioning, rule of law country from our Justice Department."

Vance said that the Justice Department's handling of the matter shows Garland's emphasis on doing things by-the-book.

"Merrick Garland's goal is to restore the Department to a place where that's the way normal business is conducted: In a court, with the rules," Vance said.

"I think Merrick Garland understands that DOJ bets its future on every case, and his role was to restore DOJ's integrity so that in the tough cases like this one, where he can't talk about the substance of a search warrant, the public knows that they can have confidence that the leadership at DOJ is following the rules and doing things the right way," Vance said.

Garland, a former judge, has spoken repeatedly about the importance of following Justice Department protocols. The supposed justification for Trump's firing of former FBI Director James Comey, according to a 2017 letter written by former Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, was Comey's decision to hold a press conference during the 2016 campaign about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's handling of classified emails.

"Derogatory information sometimes is disclosed in the course of criminal investigations and prosecutions, but we never release it gratuitously," Rosenstein wrote, calling Comey's actions a "textbook example" of what federal prosecutors and special agents are cautioned against.

"When federal agents and prosecutors quietly open a criminal investigation, we are not concealing anything; we are simply following the longstanding policy that we refrain from publicizing non-public information," Rosenstein wrote. "In that context, silence is not concealment."

Garland is a devotee of that longstanding Justice Department policy.

"The Justice Department's policies make clear that derogatory comments about subjects, targets, even people who have been indicted except what's in the indictment are not appropriate," Garland said during his confirmation hearing.

FBI Director Chris Wray, the life-long Republican appointed to a 10-year term by Trump himself after Trump fired Comey, has said that he's drilled into bureau leadership the need to make sure they don't give any ammunition to critics who wish to paint their motives as political. Inside the FBI, officials have seen the consequences for former bureau officials whose personal comments, even internally, have subject them to intense scrutiny.

"I feel very strongly, and I have communicated consistently since I started as director, that our folks need to make sure that they're not just doing the right thing, that they're doing it in the right way and that they avoid... even the appearance of bias or lack of objectivity," Wray said during recent congressional testimony.

Wray said the FBI he sees is full of "patriots working their tails off with tremendous integrity and objectivity."

The Justice Department and FBI are already pretty swamped by the investigation into the Capitol attack. Both the Department and the bureau are still emerging from a years-long attack on the FBI from a Republican Party that, historically, aligned themselves with law enforcement.

Those who have worked for and with the FBI still have trouble adjusting to the notion that millions of Trump supporters believe that the bureau, a generally conservative-leaning law enforcement organization, is some sort of left-wing bastion. One right-leaning former FBI official described the bureau as a "pretty conservative, right-leaning organization that tries to divorce itself of politics."

The Trump-appointed former U.S. Attorney said he trusted the FBI "implicitly," and that calls from some far-right members of Congress to "DEFUND" the FBI were exactly what Republicans needed to avoid if they wanted to run "law-and-order" campaigns against Democrats.

Vance said the portrayal of the FBI by Republicans and in conservative media is out-of-touch with reality.

"I'm sure the people who are the most appalled to learn today that they're radical liberals are the leadership of the FBI," Vance said. "The notion that the FBI isn't, in essence, a conservative-leaning organization is really silly, and it shows you just how far the Trump people are willing to go to justify the unjustifiable."

END

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The original recipient is currently subscribed to alert-doj as: kelsey.pietranton@usdoj.gov

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Twitter: Katie Benner
To: Miller, Marsha (ODAG); Newman, David A. (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Sent: August 11, 2022 6:20 PM (UTC-04:00)

From: DoJ Real Time News Clips <alert-doj@rendon.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:11 PM
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Twitter: Katie Benner

Twitter: Katie Benner

Media: Twitter
Byline: @ktbenner
Date: August 11, 2022
URL: <https://twitter.com/ktbenner/status/1557848942800687106>

Trump allies are discussing the possibility of challenging DOJ's motion to unseal the Mar-a-Lago search warrant. They've contacted outside lawyers about helping them.
confirmed by me & @maggieNYT

[EMBEDDED LINK]
<https://t.co/7mngDhlAxz>

END

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From: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Mar a Lago Announcement Clips
To: P etranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Sent: August 11, 2022 6:30 PM (UTC 04:00)

Can do, thanks.

Maya Suero
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Phone: (b) (6)

From: P etranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.P etranton@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:27 PM
To: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: FW: Mar a Lago Announcement Clips

Can we please include Anton Ght's book? Thanks!!

From: Jan, Katherine (PAO) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:10 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) <Wyn.Hornbuckle@usdoj.gov>; Iversen, Dena (PAO) <Dena.DeBons@usdoj.gov>; P etranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.P etranton@usdoj.gov>; Rosse, Lu (PAO) <Lu.Rosse@usdoj.gov>; Miller, Marsha (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Bruck, Andrew (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Chandler, Adam (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Loeb, Emily M. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Kapper, Matthew B. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> (b) (6) (OAG) <(b) (6)> Figures, Shomar (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Berger, Christine (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Shev, Shannon (OPA) <Shannon.Shev@usdoj.gov>; Tran, Emily (PAO) <Em.y.Tran@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Marx, E (PAO) <E.a.Marx@usdoj.gov>; DeGado, Pamela (PAO) <Pamela.DeGado@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Mar a Lago Announcement Clips

Hi Everyone!

Here are today's clips about the AG's presser this afternoon. We will also send out another clip tomorrow morning with anything we've missed or any developments that occur overnight.

Apologies about late!

Best,
Pamela, E (a), and Kate

Mar-a-Lago Announcement Clips 8/11/22

Print	p.1
TV	p.3
Radio	p.57
Tweets	p.67
Full Articles	p.77

Print

AP: [Justice Dept. seeks to unseal search warrant of Trump home](#), by Eric Tucker and Michael Baumo

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Reuters: [U.S. confirms search of Trump's home, asks court to unseal warrant](#), by Sarah Lynch

Bloomberg: [Gar and Seeks to Unseal Trump Warrant, Says He Approved Search](#), by Zoe Toman

New York Times: [Subpoena Preceded Search Warrant in Push to Retrieve Material From Trump](#), by Maggie Haberman, Ben Protess, and Glenn Thrush

Washington Post: [Merrick Garland seeks to seal Trump's bluff](#), Aaron Blake

Washington Post: [Justice Dept. seeks to unseal motion for search warrant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago](#), by Devin Barrett and Perry Stein

Wall Street Journal: [Attorney General Merrick Garland Asks Court to Reveal Trump Search Warrant](#), by Sadie Gurman

LA Times: [Att. Gen. Gar and personally approved Mar-a-Lago search, moves to unseal Trump records warrant](#), by Sarah Wre

CNN: [Merrick Garland just sealed Donald Trump's bluff](#), by Chris Cizza

CNN: [Merrick Garland says FBI filed motion to unseal Trump Mar-a-Lago warrant and property receipt](#), by Terney Sneed, Evan Perez, Hannah

Rab now tz

NBC: [Gar and said he moved to unseal Trump search warrant, defends DOJ from attacks](#), by Jonathan A. Green and Vaughn H. Gray

MSNBC: [AG Gar and moves to unseal Mar-a-Lago warrant, defends DOJ](#), by Steve Benen

Fox: [Merrick Gar and torched for admitting he approved the Mar-a-Lago raid: 'Shutter the FBI immediately'](#), by Gabrielle Hayes

Fox: [Gar and: DOJ moves to unseal search warrant, property receipt from Trump raid](#), by Tyler O'Sullivan

ABC: [AG Merrick Gar and says he signed off on Trump search, denounces attacks on law enforcement](#), by Adam Carlson

CBS: [Justice Department moves to unseal search warrant used to seize documents from Trump's home](#), by Melissa Quinn

NPR: [Justice Department asks a federal court to unseal warrant used to search Mar-a-Lago](#), by Deepa Shrivastava

Insider: [Merrick Gar and defends Justice Department after Trump and GOP lawmakers attacked the FBI raid on Mar-a-Lago: They are protecting servants](#), by Brent Griffiths

Guardian: [DOJ has asked court to unseal Trump search warrant, Merrick Gar and says](#), by Staff

Politico: [Gar and defends the FBI's search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago, releases portions of warrant](#), by Kyle Cheney

Axios: [Gar and says he "personally approved" search warrant at Trump's residence](#), by Erin Doherty

The Hill: [Gar and, going public, pushes back at cable news firestorm](#), by Dominick Mastrangelo

The Hill: [Gar and says integrity of DOJ, FBI 'unfairly attacked' after Trump search](#), by Jared Gans

Independent: [How the lawyer Merrick Gar and justified Donald Trump's bluff](#), by Andrew Buncombe

USA Today: [AG Merrick Gar and: Justice Department files motion to unseal Mar-a-Lago search warrant](#), by Rick Rouan, Joey Garrison, Erin Mansfield, and Kevin Johnson

US News: [DOJ Files Motion to Make Search Warrant Public, Gar and Says He Personally Approved Decisions on to Seek Trump Search Warrant](#), by Kaia Hubbard

Daily Beast: [Fox News Anchors Invite Trump to Call in After Gar and Presser: 'We'll Open the Phone Line'](#), by Justin Baragona

Yahoo News: [Merrick Gar and: DOJ asks judge to unseal Mar-a-Lago search warrant](#), by Caitlin Dickson

Deadline: [Justice Department Files Motion To Unseal Search Warrant Of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Property, Merrick Gar and Says](#), by Ted Johnson

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Real Clear Politics: [AG Merrick Gar and: Personally Approved The Search Warrant To Raid Trump](#), by Ian Schwartz

Buzzfeed News: [Attorney General Merrick Gar and Defended The FBI's Raid Of Trump's Mar-a-Lago Estate](#), by David Mack

The Root: [Atty Gen. Merrick Gar and Talking About Trump's House Raid](#), by Keith Reed

Above the Law: [Right About Now Donald Trump Really Wishes Merrick Gar and Was On The Supreme Court](#), by Joe Patrice

Black Wall Street Times: [AG Merrick Gar and Discusses FBI Raid On Mar-a-Lago](#), by Mike Creef

Salon: ["Personally approved the decisions": Merrick Gar and breaks silence after FBI raid of Mar-a-Lago](#), by Sophia Tesfaye


St. Louis Post-Dispatch: [Gerson: Gar and's no gambler. My bet is he's acting on more than a hunch.](#), by Michael Gerson

AZ Central: [How cable news covered Merrick Gar and's press appearance: 'It's not what you want to see'](#), by Bob Goodykoontz

Breitbart: [Attorney General Merrick Gar and Breaks Silence: Approved Search Warrant on Donald Trump's Home](#), by Charles Perler

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<p>MSNBC - U.S. Cable Hallie Jackson Reports</p>  <p>SOON: STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL MERRICK GARLAND</p>	<p>MSNBC 08/11/2022 03:10:35 PM: ...every single day. so chuck rosenberg, you are my man on all things expatriatory. expatriation to you are obvious what would be contained within the search warrant and what information we would get from the property receipt. >> sure, kathy. so three parts to a search warrant generally speaking. the affidavit, which lays out the government's case for probable cause, which the judge reviews. the search warrant itself, which is typically a one page order. and the inventory that you are used to, or the list of items that were seized. as the attorney general said, that list of items that are seized, the inventory, has to be left at the home, and so mr. trump presumably has that. the one page warrant, the order, would be presented at the home at the time of the search. so mr. trump presumably has that. the thing we are waiting for is the affidavit, the underlying probable cause statement. and that can run many, many pages. so the document you just held up in front of the camera, the motion to unseal is a motion by the government, by the united states attorney to ask the court to make that document public, meaning there is no ongoing legitimate law enforcement purpose for keeping it sealed. whatever is in that document we will soon see. whatever is in the inventory we will soon see. we can stop guessing and we know exactly what they are looking for, what crime they believe was committed, why they thought they would find evidence of that crime in the place they were searching, and the things they took as a result of the search warrant. so the other part of this, kathy, am not at all surprised, and i'm sure nancy is not surprised and andrew is not surprised and any of us who were up in the department of justice are not surprised that the attorney general himself had personally approved this search warrant, this law enforcement action. it would have been utterly shocking had he not. it would have been a</p>
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massive dereliction of duty. I've been saying on television for a few days now, thank you can characterize it as my brother, that it had to be the case. so that's not a surprising thing, I'm very glad that the attorney general spoke up on behalf of the men and women of the FBI. Like Andrew, worked there. Had two stints there. considered the privilege of a former professional and personally to have been part of that great organization and watching unfounded attacks on those men and women's utterly revolting. the notion that the FBI would have presented evidence at mar a ago's assassination. and so I'm glad the attorney general spoke up on behalf of these men and women. it was overdue in my view. >> he said, "I will not stand by silently when the rightistry's unfairly attacked. men and women of the FBI and the justice department are dedicated, patriotic public." so there are a couple things in this motion to unseal, the search warrant and the property list. the warrant was signed and approved on August 5th, 2022. I'm not sure if we knew that before this. second question to you. chuck. was going to be when are we going to know, when are we going to get this stuff unsealed, when will we get this information? and know you're saying soon, but there's this last paragraph, and I read this motion. it says, "this matter primarily concerns public officials or public concerns. as it involves a law enforcement act taken at the property of the 45th president of the United States, the public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances we give heavy in favor of unsealing. that said, the former president should have an opportunity to respond to this motion and judge objections accordingly with regards to any legitimate privacy interests or the potential for injury if these materials are made public. to that end the government will furnish counsel for the former president with a copy of this motion. so what's your sense of time, chuck? >> so that shifts to sgt y, katy. and by the way, thank that's a very sensible thing for the government to do. in the ordinary case, and I've done a whole bunch of ordinary cases, the government files a motion with the court to unseal the search warrant or the arrest warrant, the affidavits, whatever the documents may be, and the judge signs it. so in the ordinary case it would probably happen by course of business today. this is not the ordinary case. and so think it's also utterly appropriate for the government to invite counsel for mr. trump to weigh in. now, there's still a very, very strong predisposition in the law for documents to be made public because of the public interest in knowing what the contents are. so the judge may invite a brief from mr. trump's lawyers. he may hold a hearing. none of that would be inappropriate. to your primary question, it's worth noting down a bit. but this is the first step in getting the affidavit. and again, we ought to be careful in the matter of conjecture, of guessing, speculating of what's in it. we know certain things about search warrants. so we can tell you how they work. we can tell you how you obtain one. we can tell you the legal standard for it because it's contained within the fourth amendment of the constitution. that's a stuff we know because that's search warrant law 101. but what's actually in the affidavit, what the procedural history was, which we've added to earlier, whether they asked nicey severa times, whether they issued grand jury subpoenas, whether they resorted to a search warrant, because none of those other things worked, that would probably be in the affidavit too. and we will see it. we just have to be a little more patient now. >> just to help reset everything, chuck, you're a sojourned, we're a sojourned by msnbc's legal analyst nea katya, the former acting solicitor general. former FBI general counsel and former senior member of the Mueller probe Andrew Weissman now an msnbc's legal analyst. former U.S. attorney Joyce Vance. NBC news white house correspondent Mike memo, who's traveling with the president, president Biden in South Carolina. Josh Dawsey, political investment reporter for the "Washington Post," along with Jake Sherman, co-founder of Punchbowl News and msnbc's political contributor. in talking about how long this is going to take, Joyce, the modus operandi for former president Donald Trump in most of his legal dealings is not a lot of them to delay. he often finds a way to delay. imagine that his team would use the same strategy for this. mean, they have been exploiting the lack of information right now, Donald Trump has, to his own advantage, coming a number of basic things like the FBI was potentially important evidence at his house. >> DOJ has really put Mr. Trump on the horns of a dilemma here because he's the one who's accusing them of misbehavior. he's the one who's been on the offensive so far. he'd do that, one would suspect, thinking that DOJ would not respond. and now Merrick Garland has jumped a little bit in front of where the Trump camps, offering the search warrant unsealed to the public, which Chuck has done a great job of explaining the search warrant's where we would expect to receive a lot of information about the basis DOJ had for asking a federal judge to issue this search warrant. so delay may not be as friendly for Trump as it typically is. usually, it just works to his advantage to string things out. but when he's come to the public for these last 48 hours, a little bit more than that, trying to put the justice department and the FBI in a bad light, we, now here's the opportunity for the truth to be revealed. and it strains believably that even Trump's followers will permit him to say, well, didn't really mean it, we shouldn't expose the truth, when exposing the search warrant for the public's view is the best way for a lot of us to understand precisely what's been going on. >> what about who's stood on this motion to unseal? and don't know if you have a copy of it, Andrew, right now. but tell me. Juan Antonio Gonzalez, the United States attorney. a sojourned. Bratt, chief counterintelligence and export control section, national security division. do you know those two gentlemen? does it indicate anything to you that they are signees? Andrew's not with us right now. don't see him. oh, no, he's. oh, you're kidding. don't know why my executive producer got in my ear there. tell me. >> so j. bratt is the person who by accounts was down in mar a ago in June. he's a career employee of the national security division. and the other gentleman is at... by accounts was down in mar a ago in June. he's a career employee of the national security division. and the other gentleman is at the local U.S. attorney's office. so this makes total sense that they would be signing it. wouldn't read too much more into it. thank to follow up on what Joyce said this is really Merrick Garland and calling Donald Trump's bluff, because this basicly says, you know what, if you think that this violates your civil liberties, if you've got a concern about privacy, you can oppose this motion, but we are willing to make a lot of this public with court approval and they can see for themselves that everything was done right here. and now the basicly in your court to say wait, want to hide this from the American public. the other thing thank that's worth noting that Merrick Garland said she made an assumption to the fact that they'd try other means before they went to resorting to a search warrant. he said typically that's what you would do. and thank that's his way of signing that thank when we actually do get the unsealing of this material that we're going to see that the justice

department as s merr ck gar and s want has probab y gone very carefu y n try ng to do th s through means that were ess dracon an than a search warrant. >> nea , the attorney genera came out and he was very jud c ous. he was carefu about what he was say ng. you cou d te he was read ng from a te eprompter. now, he d dn t revea a that much. he s eav ng t to the courts to revea what s n the search warrant and what s n the nventory st. and as we ve been ta k ng about, he s now putt ng the ba n dona d trump s court to say hey, no, we don t want anyone to know about what s there, ca ng dona d trump s b uff essent a y, as we ve been say ng. what d y you make of what we saw there from the attorney genera ? >> that was a true attorney genera of the un ted states, katy, act ng ke the way attorneys genera typ ca y have throughout our h story sxept for, you know, a four year b p recent y. you know, t s such a contrast w th dona d trump. just take, for examp e, merr ck gar and s three po nts today. one, the mportance of the ru e of aw as the fabr c of our soc ety. two, the mportance of the evenhanded app cat on of the aw. and th rd, the presumpt on of nnocence even for the former pres dent n the context of th s search. a thre e of those are k nd of ha marks of the department at ts best. t s not surpr s ng to me to see gar and do ng t. nor s t surpr s ng for me for h m to f e th s mot on to unsea but to say ook, dona d trump, th s mp cates some of your nterests, even though str ct y speak ng we don t have to te the court to go and seek out your v ews, we re go ng to do so here and be part cu ar y so c tous of gett ng that nformat on to the court and so t w be b e fed up. and that s go ng to de ay th ngs, no doubt. but there s a way n wh ch th s s a key chess move as we . t s the r ght th ng to do, but t s a key chess move because for the ast 48 hours dona d trump has been b ather ng on, a ong w th the repub can party, say ng th s search s abus ve and so on, and we ve a been say ng ook, you ve got the warrant, you know, re ease t to us. and now gar and s f gured out a way to get that re eased, wh ch s to go to the court and do so and force trump to take a pos t on, to say oh no, now th s shou d actua y be ma nta ned conf dent a y and qu et y away from the eyes of the amer can pub c. so th nk th s was a br ant press conference and the r ght th ng to do n th s extraord nary c rcumstance. the ast th ng do want to say s do th nk andrew s r ght n say ng the one p ece of deta we rea y got here bes des the attorney genera persona y approved the search was that they had tr ed ess ntrus ve means. that ooks ke a subpoena request ng the documents. they cou dn t get the documents that way. so they had to take the extraord nary step th nk for the fr st t me n amer can h story of go ng nto a former pres dent s home w th a search warrant to get the mater a . >> and the "new york t mes" reported today that there was a subpoena. nbc news conf rmed that as we . aga n, th s conf rmed tr p y now, t seems, from attorney genera merr ck gar and. josh dawsey, know you are n touch w th fo ks n dona d trump s wor d. any react on from them so far? >> do know there s been a change n the op n on of some of the trump adv sers ve spoken to th s week. the n t a observat ons seemed to be they thought th s was an overreach by the department of just ce, and they thought that t wou d actua y p ay to h s favor to some degree. but there seems to be over the ast coup e of days a rea zat on that they may not have known other th ngs he took and he may have taken some th ngs that cou d be prob emat c. mean, you have magg e haberman reported th s ear er, and th s s true, you have some fo ks that are around the former pres dent te ng gop eaders, you know, k nd of d a back w th stuff on the fb and the doj, you know, we th s sko get rock er n the com ng days. there certa n y seems to have been a sea change n the past coup e of days n trump wor d. one of the th ngs, katy, s a ot of the fo ks around the former pres dent don t rea y know what was n those boxes. there are some a des who do. some have been quest oned by the fb . but a ot of h s current fo ks aren t rea y sure what he took. and guess e ther they don t want to ask h m, haven t asked h m. don t know what he s to d them. but there rea y s some consternat on because there seems to be n trump wor d not a fu sense, at east among the fo ks ve ta ked to, and th nk some of my compet tors, that they rea y know a the facts here. >> a r ght. jake sherman, a ot of the peop e that have been ra y ng to the pres dent s defense are repub can awmakers, be ng pretty forcefu about what they to put t n ce y sa d s an overreach but they ve used much stronger terms. n some cases ken ng the department of just ce and the fb to th rd wor d th rd wor d countr es. marco rub o d d that. what m ght the r react on be now? >> katy, th s morn ng steve sca se went on fox news and sa d and fox news pushed back to the r cred t. but sa d that th s s a rogue fb operat on, that the fb s out of contro essent a y, and sharp y cr t c zed the fb . mean, n the overarch ng story of the house repub can eadersh p, wh ch has stood wh ch by the way stands on the prec p ce of w nn ng the house major ty but a so stands frm y under any c rcumstance w th dona d trump, mean, th s s go ng to be, f you be eve and aga n, hav ng no dea what was n the search warrantor the property rece pt, f he mproper y as josh and magg e and others have reported, f he mproper y took sens t ve documents from the wh te house and yet you have the repub can eadersh p suggest ng that t s that one of the ch ef aw enforcement agenc es n the un ted states has gone rogue, t s go ng to be a horr b y embarrass ng nc dent to the house repub can eadersh p. and remember, th s s a ong t me ago, but the ast t me the repub cans took the major ty they sa d they were go ng to be the sober eaders n th s country. we re very far from that. and maybe th s w teach them a esson, katy, and f they haven t earned th s by now maybe t w not. but maybe t w teach them the esson that trump sn t honest. because know peop e who have had d nner, the repub can study comm ttee had d nner w th dona d trump at bed m n ster and ta ked to a coup e of peop e who had d nner w th h m sa d he doesn t seem worr ed, he th nks t s comp ete y boe ngus and t s f ne. he sa d t s no b g dea . mean, we re go ng to see whether that s true or not qu te soon. and based on that press conference, t certa n y doesn t seem and aga n, m not a awyer. th s s conjecture. but t does not seem as f merr ck gar and wou d have mot oned for th s to become pub c f they just went n, got noth ng and moved on. so aga n, cou d be a qu te embarrass ng nc dent for the house repub can eadersh p, wh ch by the way the house comes n tomorrow, there s go ng to be p enty of opportun tes to ask these awmakers th s quest on. >> a ot of no comments, mag ne, ke we used to see when dona d trump was n off ce or a ot of scurry ng off down the ha ways and pretend ng ke they d dn t hear. what about repub can eadersh p n the senate? m tch mcconne took 24 hours to comment on th s n t a y. what s your expectat on on the r react on? >> we , mcconne , f you not ced, katy, merr ck gar and shou d address th s, and merr ck gar and has addressed th s. he has not sa d th s s a rogue operat on. m tch mcconne wants tera y noth ng to do h s statement about th s ra d, or about th s search d d not even nc ude dona d trump s name, katy. so he w have no prob em, f the

ev dence presents tse f, throw ng dona d trump under the bus. abso ute y no prob em. desp ses the man at th s po nt. and the senate eadersh p has been john thune d dn t endorse dona d trump ast t me. don t ant c pate he w ever endorse dona d trump. the senate repub can eadersh p s a tt e b t d fferent, save r ck scott, who takes every opportunity to t e h mse f to trump. and who has a so s m ar y cr t c zed be eve th s ra d th s search warrant s tuat on. so you see a b g sp t there between mcconne and mccarthy, the two repub can eaders who have taken very d fferent tacks when t comes to dona d trump. >> joyce, aga n, we don t know what we don t know. and so don t want to go out there and guess what they m ght have found or m ght not have found. but m cur ous f you have a react on to what jake just sa d there, wh ch s that merr ck gar and d dn t seem ke somebody who came out and d dn t get anyth ng at mar a ago. he sounded more conf dent than that. >> th nk jake s on to someth ng here, and th s s cons tent w th what we ve seen from merr ck gar and and h s goa s for the just ce department . under h s eadersh p. he s tr ed to be a steady hand. he s restored the ru e of aw. he s done the r ght th ng but has a so done the r ght th ng n the r ght way so that amer cans can have conf dence n the just ce system. he s taken th s fa r y unusua step of speak ng to the country today, but he d d so n a very measured way, aga n, not ta k ng about the substance of the nvest gat on very much, ta k ng more about the procedure and the way doj conducts tse f, but comm tt ng to unsea t sounds to me, katy, ke the port ons of the search warrant that wou d have been eft at mar a ago for trump. so t s not ent re y c ear to me, hav ng had a chance to rev ew some of the paperwork that we see the ent rety of doj s ev dence, but we w understand what they went there for. we w understand what they came away w th. for someth ng that s h gh y c ass f ed, even compartmenta zed nat ona secur ty nformat on, t s ke y that the descr pt on w be somewhat obscured because revea ng too much deta what was se zed wou d defeat the purpose of protect ng that nat ona secur ty nformat on. but the rea ty s we c ass f nformat on n th s country when ts re ease wou d damage the nat ona secur ty. and f unsea ng these documents conveys to amer cans that mr. trump was w ng to ho d on to th s nformat on even when t was requested from h m, even suspect when doj po nted out that he wasn t ent t ed to t and that h s cont nued possess on v o ated the aw, revea ng that ent re tra n of events and ta k ng about the type of damage that cou d have been done even n vague terms cou d perhaps f na y break through w th some fo ks who have he d on to trump for th s ong. >> chuck, to go back to what we were ta k ng about ear er and what joyce was just ta k ng about as we , for probab e cause for the search warrant, know we don t know what the probab e cause was, we haven t seen the search warrant, but s there just a genera , you know,

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Alisyn Camerota
and Victor Blackwell



CNN 08/11/2022 05:09:31 PM - where the m ght app w th someth ng ke th s? can we make an educated assumab on? ed a mot on n the southern d str ct of f or da to unsea the search warrant and the property rece pt n the search of former pres dent trump s home on monday. et s br ng everybody back w th us here. and want to start w th e e. frst, the ega e ment of th s. th s app cat on, t sounds ke a b g dea com ng from the attorney genera . s th s unprecedented? how rare s t to request that th s be made pub c? >> th s s a remarkab e and unusua move, v ctor. we essent a y saw merr ck gar and ca dona d trump s b uff. here s what mean by that n the wake of th s search warrant, dona d trump has two documents, he and h s awyers. one s the search warrant tse f w th whatever attachments, the other s th s nventory or th s rece pt. now those documents are go ng to have mportant nformat on about the search. these are the documents peop e have sa d f drum dona d trump wants to make an ssue he shou d re ease them. merr ck gar and sa d the doj are go ng to re ease them. we re go ng to ask the judge to unsea documents, mean ng mak ng them ava ab e to the pub c. doj po cy s they w on y speak about th ngs that are on the record w th the court. so essent a y merr ck gar and sa d, okay, dona d trump, you re not go ng to re ease them, we re go ng to do t, we re go ng to put those documents n front of the amer can pub c. but th nk t s mportant to understand what w and w not be n those documents. the warrant typ ca y w st og st ca nformat on, p ace to be searched, usua y a genera descr pt on of tems to be searched for, the name of the judge, a dead ne by wh ch doj has to execute the search. but t a so somet mes has what we ca an attachment. that attachment typ ca y w st the statutes, the aws that doj be eves t has probab e cause to be eve were v o ated. so that s go ng to be the frst th ng ook for. m go ng to ook r ght at that attachment and say do they st the statutes, that s go ng to te us what aws cou d be at p ay here. when we ta k about the second document, the nventory or the rece pt, that s what t sounds ke. t s a st ng, the fb says here are the tems that we removed from mar a ago. aga n, degrees of spec f c ty and genera ty tend to vary. do not expect that to have a p ece of paper by p ece of paper breakdown. t they took thousands of pages. th nk what we re go ng to see s st ngs ke x number of boxes, f they took e lectron c documents, f they took any aptops, ce phones, that k nd of th ng. one ast th ng. the document that we st w not see s the b g one the most deta ed document here s the aff dav t. that s the document wh ch typ ca y can be 20, 40, 100 pages where prosecutors ay out chapter and verse here s a of our proof that g ves us probab e cause. dona d trump does not have. that merr ck gar and s not mov ng to unsea that. the other two documents that dona d trump has, merr ck gar and sa d m go ng to show them now. >> that aff dav t s cruc a and centra to the nvest gat on. you wou d expect that that wou d be re eased at th s po nt. >> no. typ ca y that on y gets re eased f and when there s a charge. f somebody gets searched and nd cted, then they w be beg n a copy of that aff dav t. aga n, th s s the very ong, deta ed document. so that that person can then cha nge t n court. typ ca y the defendant or the person who s been searched w ask the judge to throw out whatever was found because they argue that the aff dav t was nsuff c ent, d d not estab sh probab e cause. so that s the ongest, most spec f c, most deta ed document. we are st not go ng to see that, but we are go ng to see f gar and s mot on s granted, wh ch suspect t w be, by the judge. then we w see the warrant tse f, wh ch w g ve us some cruc a nformat on. and we w see the return the nventory of the tems what were se zed from mar a ago. >> ca t yn po anz, we were expect ng remarks from the attorney genera . here he s taken some act on. just wa k us through the s gn f cance of what we just saw here. >> that s r ght. so we d d just get n the court f ng n the u.s. d str ct court of the southern d str ct of f or da, that s where the search warrant was approved by a mag strate judge. we d d just get the mot on. so the request from the just ce department to unsea the documents that e e was just descr b ng that merr ck gar and just spoke about want ng to re ease. now some of the ega reason ng here s pretty s mp e. they are argu ng to the

judge that one of the reasons that they can release this or why they believe it could be released is because the occurrence of this search and the indications of what it was about, those are a ready public. there has been public reporting on it. donald trump's own lawyers have spoken about this. son spoke about it on television. and then they also write that the public's fear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in the favor of unsealing those documents, making them public. that just underlines what gar and was saying. it's underlining to the judge that's going to have to review this. and the other thing that happens is that the justice department does do what they normally would do in a situation like this. they say we would like to give the former president and his attorneys the opportunity to respond to this request. so donald trump's attorneys would be able to take a position in court on whether they want this to be public. and what's fascinating about that is that these three days have gone by, we have heard trump speak publicly. they have had an opportunity to file, to suppress whatever was collected in the search if they wanted to. we even saw something like that in a very separate recent search in a different investigation related to john eastman, the president's election lawyer. in that case there was a search warrant and both of these types of documents, the returns, they were a made public in court. this is what eastman filed. he put it into his court record to make it public, to try and challenge. so that's how we learned about that eastman search. trump could have done that, as we said, and the receipt, as we said, the other thing that the justice department is asking to unseal. that we have learned through this new filing today that that wasn't something that was originally put in the court. it wouldn't have been at the beginning. it's a paper filed out by the FBI agents on site, the people who are on site from the justice department, handed to the lawyers. that also was added to the court record after the fact of this search so that it could be potentially provided to the public if the judge agrees. victor? >> argh. the documents that we just heard the attorney general file a motion for to be unsealed. let me go to evan perez. and one element that we learned from the agency's involvement in the application for that warrant that was executed on monday. he says he personally approved it. >> yeah. look, thank this was him trying to make sure people understood that the buck stops with him. and really it was in response to there's some very inaccurate reporting out there that seemed to suggest that maybe he was surprised by this, that he was maybe not involved. and we at those of white house cover the department knew that that was not true. this was one of the most important investigations that's now ongoing in this building. and there's absolutely no way that eusebio monaco, deputy sa monaco, deputy attorney general, wouldn't have been deeply involved in the weeks and months of lawyering that went into this decision to carry out the search. one of the things that thank he mentions in there, in his comments was the idea that they looked at essentrusve means before taking this step. again, that's something that's routine in these cases, but thank it's important to respond to the accusation that's you're hearing from the former president and his team which is that they they were shocked, that this was completely you know, unrequested by the department, unnecessary by the department, that they could have simply just gone through the lawyers and gotten these documents handed over. what the attorney general is saying, they took this step because they had to. it was the ultimate step that they had to take because other essentrusve means were not going to work. and you know, obviously thank, you know, the end here, this was a bit of a put up or shut up for the donald trump team which, you know, they've had the feed for a couple of days. making accusations. and now it's up to them if they want to go to a judge and try to get the judge to say, no, your honor, you cannot release these documents that the justice department says this in the public interest for us to see. victor? >> argh. let's go now to the white house. kate and coons, you have a development. >> reporter: we, thank what evan was getting at there's really the underlying point here which is that for about 72 hours now, trump and his attorneys and his allies have driven the narrative around this search warrant. they are the ones who have been framing this in the way and in the manner and casting unfavorable and potentially motivated. now the justice department is basically daring them to explain why they don't want these documents released. the justice department views this motion that they have just filed, they say given the intense public interest presented by the search of a residence of a former president, the government believes these factors favor unsealing the search warrant. so they are making public a year that they believe everyone see what's in the search warrant, and make it clear why this search warrant was granted by personally by the attorney general. and so now they are basically saying it's game on, trump. go ahead and see what the reaction is going to be for why they don't want these documents out there if that's the position they take. otherwise, these documents could potentially be released. thank that's really notable. and one thing when you look at this motion to unseal the warrant that stands out to me, victor, is one of the people who signed this jay bratt. he's the head of counterintelligence and expert control section at the justice department. he's also one of the very few handful of officials who went down to mar-a-lago on june 3rd, sat down with two of trump's attorneys which the former president stopped by and greeted these officials before they were shown a room in the basement of mar-a-lago where the remaining documents that he still had in his possession were being kept. and jay bratt's name is on this motion to unseal the search warrant. thank that's someone who had been communicating with severa of the attorneys representing trump and knows exactly what the communication was between those two parties and what led to that june 3rd meeting and then, of course, the search warrant that happened on monday. and so basically what you're seeing the justice department do here is dare trump to try to make a case for why they don't believe these documents should be made public. >> argh. let's go back to andy mccabe and your reaction to not only what we heard from the attorney general but the motion that he filed. > yeah. so victor, thought it was really interesting that the agency made the case for the motion in the in his opening comments. we started by making it clear that the a copy of the warrant and the inventory sheet were given to trump's lawyers on the day of the search. then he very deftly pointed out that no one in the department said anything about this search, and donald trump was the one that brought this with his statement on monday evening. so he's clearly building to this argument that there's essentially no reason to keep this these documents sealed because obviously it's a public matter now at the discretion and because of the decisions of the subject of the search. thought that was really interesting. and of course he finished on a really strong note, thought, taking special care about the basements a egations that have been made against fbi and doj folks. thought it was

appropriate that he concluded by saying that he is honored to continue serving with them. know that those words will be readily embraced by people in the department and the FBI who are listening no doubt closely to his comments. and imagine that. >> this is a pretty remarkable development from the attorney general, his request to unseal these documents. let's go to page a brown on this request to unseal both the search warrant and the property receipt. page a? well, this is a remarkable turn of events here in this a ready unprecedented investigation with DOJ now going to the court and saying that should unseal the search warrant and the property receipt from the search. now of course what's interesting here and as the other guests have noted, this is essentially putting the ball back in Donald Trump's court and saying, look, you guys can decide, now it's up to you whether you want to do this or not. so that's notable. what's interesting in reading through this motion is that it lays out many statements that came from Donald Trump himself right after the search and Donald Trump's representatives about what was taken in the search as just fact on for why this should be unsealed saying essentially there is a ready a lot out there that came from the former president and his representatives. so talking about the public interest here and saying, look, if you hook at competing look at competing interests, the public interest in finding out more is taking precedent here over the interest to keep this private. so this is remarkable, and what stuck out to me, too, is Merrick Garland and Comey wanted to come out at a time when his people and his ranks are very anxious, fee, you know, keep them under so much pressure right now. he wanted to come out and essentially say the buck stops with me, personally made a decision, and this is a decision I did not take lightly. and he essentially says, look, if this gets unsealed and you see it, you can choose for yourself what you think. >> well, how long until a decision is made on this significant public interest obvious for a judge to decide whether indeed these documents will be unsealed? >> think the next thing we will see on the docket sheet is the judge will give a schedule. he will say, okay, Donald Trump, your opposition or briefs due by think he give him a week or so. and he will say, government, want to hear a reply back from you. the next thing we will see is a scheduling order. that will tell us how long the judge believes he needs to decide this. this is a tactical move by the DOJ because it leaves Trump with three options. one, he can moot this who's thing if he goes ahead, he is free to post the two documents on the internet, whenever he wants, right now. he can do that. now Garland may still follow through with the motion to make sure we get the official documents that were stamped and filed with the court. if Donald Trump does not post them right away, he only has really two options in court. one is to say, okay, agree with DOJ, and the court can unseal these documents. and two is for Donald Trump to oppose it. he would have to go into court, if he took that tack, and say no, your honor, please do not unseal these documents, please do not make them available to the public. that's going to undermine the rhetoric we've been hearing from Donald Trump's representatives and appeals. and want to stress, victor, how extraordinarily rare this move is by.com. by DOJ. we've never seen a motion to unseal a warrant and the indexed material after a search warrant has been executed. we've never seen this, we've never heard of it. don't think there's anything in the rules that prohibits this. and the argument that DOJ is making here as Cate and Pamela do is there's enormous public interest. Donald Trump by himself, by his own words, by his lawyer's words, made this a matter of public interest. there is a need now to inform the public given his own words. >> we got a copy of the motion that was filed in the southern district of Florida in which the property receipt is a redacted property receipt, so to your point that we won't get an itemized list of everything that was taken, keep a description of just numbers of boxes and counts of technology, a redacted property receipt stating these items seized found with the court on the 11th. also another detail here, the search warrant signed and approved by the court on August 5th. so the Friday before this search was executed, a judge approved the warrant to search March ago. Kaitlan Collins, to you, we heard from the attorney general an effort to be as minimalist as possible here in this search. we know that these agents who went there, they did not wear the typical windbreakers with the branding. they wore suits instead. that there was a sensitivity to this unprecedented step and the scrutiny that would surround it. >> reporter: yeah. this wasn't a raid that you typically would see on television, for example, or where they show up in the early dawn hours in the FBI jackets, pounding on the door. what we are told by sources is that they showed up in plain clothes basically, they showed up at about 9:00 in the morning. they, of course, carried out this warrant and executed this warrant and this search after the subpoena had already happened, after officials had a ready vested March ago a few months earlier. March ago this time. year is closed. this is not an open club in the summer. that's typically when the former president spends his time in his other club in New Jersey or at Trump Tower in New York, and he was at Trump Tower on that day. the way that was conducted was notes in the frame you've been seeing the republicans describe as when they talk about the raid. it was conducted in a different manner. it was still a search at the former president's residence. so that's the factor that I think is important to keep in mind. one thing that attorney general and also said there at the end when he did not take questions from reporters that stood out to me was he said the appropriate information will come out at the appropriate time. but noting that they are taking this step because they understand the intense public interest given this unprecedented for there to be an FBI search of a former president's home, especially one who is just in office not that long ago. and so I think they were speaking to the issue of sensitivity that they've used here, and obviously how this raid was conducted when very few people were at March ago beyond a skeleton staff. though he did note that one of the former president's attorneys, Christina Bobb, he did not name her there in his press conference but did say one of the former president's attorneys was on the premises when this search happened. and I think the more that we've learned in the days since the search happened about the subpoena, about the fact that they did take that step, about how investigators did go and visit March ago back on June 3rd and then later asked Trump's attorneys to further secure the documents that they still had in their possession speaks to what was going on behind the scenes and why they felt the need to carry out this search warrant because they didn't feel like they were getting a lot of information and the material is certainly that they still had at March ago. >> right. let me read from this filing. at the time the warrant was not actually executed, this is the filing that the attorney general mentioned just a few minutes ago. he says, "the department provided not corrected to former president Trump's counsel. there were no public statements about the search. the search attracted little or no public attention as it was taking place. after that same

day, the former president trump issued a public statement acknowledging the execution of the warrant. In the days since, the search warrant and related materials have been the subject of significant interest and attention from the news media and other entities." et me go on here, that's the first page. on page three they say, "although the government initially asked and the court agreed to file the warrant and attachments a and b under seal, releasing those documents at this time would not impair court functions including the government's ability to execute the warrant given that the warrant has already been executed." they say on the same page, "given the intense public interest presented by a search of a address of a former president, the government believes these factors favor

Fox Business Network - U.S. Cable The Claman Countdown



FBFB/11/2022/05:49 PM: ...members, semiconductor in the green and home builders too. first, how much credence do you give the two day rally that's kind of roses hold on one second. we are hearing that merrick garland hold on. merrick garland, attorney general about to take the stage here. just stand by for one second. he's going to make a statement at the department of justice. et sten. merrick: unsealed search warrant and property receipt relating to an approved search that the FBI conducted earlier this week. that was a premise located in for da be on going to the former president. the department did not make any public statements on the day of the search. the former president publicly confirmed the search that evening as a sh s r ght. copies of both the warrant and the FBI property receipt were provided on the day of the search to the former president's counsel, who's on site during the search. the search warrant was authorized by federal court upon the requirement of probable cause. the property receipt is a document that federal law enforcement agents to leave with the property owner. the department filed the motion to make public the warrant and receipt in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances, and the substantial public interest in this matter. faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the justice department and of our democracy. upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly without fear or favor. under my watch, that's precisely what the justice department is doing. Americans are entitled to the evenhanded application of the law, to due process of the law, and to the presumption of innocence. much of our work is by necessity conducted out of the public eye. we do that to protect the constitutional rights of Americans and to protect the integrity of our investigations. federal law, longstanding department rules, and our ethical obligations prevent me from providing further details as to the basis of the search at this time. there are, however, certain points you want to know. ...

CNBC - U.S. Cable Closing Bell



CNBC 08/11/2022 03:09:32 PM: ...>> we, now we know, shepard smith in the CNBC newsroom we now know that merrick garland has requested the unsealing of the document, and here it is, it's just been sent to us. this is the request to unseal both the warrant and the rest of the items that were taken from donald trump's mar-a-lago estate there are three parts to this. the third would be the underlying affidavit which would give us chapter and verse of what was happening in this case. that's not being unsealed what we're getting now is presumably shortly there was a lot of speculation about why this news conference, as it were, statement more accurately was scheduled for 2:30 eastern time and didn't begin until shortly after 3:00 it's possible that they were waiting for this judge to make a ruling on the unsealing of the sealed warrant materials, as it says, at the top of this five page statement. so presumably shortly we will know what donald trump and his lawyers already knew, and that's the content of the sealed warrant. tse feamon javers in washington with us. eamon, the affidavit tse fe would be more revealing but this will give us an idea at least of what the former president and his counsel know. >> we're about to know a lot more about this, shep. you heard merrick garland explain that he's very limited in what he can say and what we just heard from the attorney general here is that these are not normal circumstances. he cited the surrounding circumstances in the publicity of this event, the fact that the former president, donald trump, notified the public about this search of his home earlier this week, as a sh s r ght. he said there's substantial public interest in what the department of justice is doing here and going to great lengths here to publicly defend the department of justice's conduct so far this week on this issue and saying that he personally signed off on the search warrant that was applied for earlier in the week he says the department of justice did not take this decision lightly that's to go into the home of a former president of the united states against his will, presumably the department of justice knew just exactly what to expect here in terms of the outcry of publicity and outpouring of criticism from trump defenders. within the next couple of minutes we expect to see these new documents detailing exactly what the department of justice can say publicly so far about all of this. >> frankly not entirely sure that that's a given. that goes to the very end of this document which we now been able to read through. at the end of it, it says it goes through the reasons that merrick garland and others believe it should be unsealed and then says argument in these circumstances, the court should unseal the search warrant, including attachments a and b and the property receipt, meaning the rest of the items taken from the property by the department of justice and federal investigation. it said those attachments and the property receipt absent objection from the former president. we know that had the former president wanted to release these documents, the former president could have done exactly that he has every right to release that just as any other citizen who had been served such a warrant has a right to do that but the former president and his counsel chose not to do that instead, by a observations it's clear he used the absence of information, that void of specificity to create this hubbub, which we've all been watching on the political right and on certain cable channels, this signing of an enormous conspiracy theory which has led the republic can date from the state of arizona, karla, to say the FBI should be disbanded and defunded what we're going through at the moment is an appropriate absence of detailed information and an appropriate gathering up of a large portion of society, which has caused the department of justice to take this step. we can only presume that in fact there's no objection from the former president, we don't yet know, we have an understanding. but what we already know is on June the 3rd, June the 3rd, the beginning of this summer, a subpoena was issued for these 15 boxes of information which are the property of the united states government which were taken from the property of the united states government by then former employee in the form of the president of the united states they requested that those boxes be returned. on June 8th, the information says that more classified documents in demarago. the reporting of NBC news that they requested that another lock be put in the area of mar-a-lago where those documents

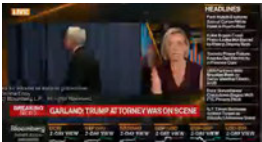
were contained. and then during a period between June and August, there was an informant who said that there may be more classified documents in December ago. a lot of that leads up to the September the 8th or the August the 8th, two days ago, execution of this search warrant at March ago a lot of this could have been avoided had the former president and his counsel decided to release the documents which Merrick Garland is now asking a judge to release to a lot of us. >> that's right, shep. the document that the department of justice has just made public through the past few seconds is the motion to unseal the sealed warrant material. so we will see whether those get unsealed here in the coming hours or days or exactly when we're going to get that material but this is a battle that you just saw, Merrick Garland is a man who is trying not to become James Comey here you remember James Comey back in the 2016 president campaign went out publicly and explained why it was that they had reopened the investigation into Hillary Clinton's email server at a time when the national attention on the president campaign was at a fevered pitch. a lot of Democrats criticized Comey for coming forward at that time, talking about the investigation at a time and ending credence to allegations against Hillary Clinton. in this case what Merrick Garland is saying is that he did not want to come out and talk about this publicly at a time for that very reason you don't want to cast aspersions on somebody who may be perfectly innocent just because you're conducting an investigation. you may not find anything. but in this case because the former president went out publicly with this information, therefore, that changes the game there is enormous public interest he's feeling a need to explain himself at least a little bit here and we should get some more detail on exactly what this is that they're searching for what we won't probably get at all the contents of those classified documents that are at the heart of this whole matter what exactly is it that the department of justice is trying to protect that was in December ago that's the central mystery here. we don't know the answer to that now. it's not clear whether we'll ever know the answer to that. >> indeed. and further that a federal magistrate came to the conclusion was evidence of a potential crime in December ago you can't get the warrant without evidence of possible crime. >> you know, shep, a week we've been talking to former department of justice and former FBI officials and the consensus on this is outsiders who know how this works, you couldn't just apply for a warrant like that unless you had an extraordinary circumstance there's something in these documents that's very, very important that the department of justice is very, very concerned about. you would not see this in sort of a typical document custody dispute kind of a situation. there would have to be something here that was really a pressing matter and because of the nature of the secrecy of the documents themselves, the department of justice is entirely hamstrung in how to discuss this in public. they can't really explain what they're doing without getting the cat out of the bag so to speak in terms of what the documents are.

Fox News - U.S. Cable
The Story With Martha MacCallum



FNC 8/11/2022 3:09:46 PM: ...thanks for your questions. that's all I can say at this time >> Martha: with that, the attorney general leaves the room. no questions. a little shy of five minute statement from attorney general Merrick Garland. we're going to continue our coverage of this throughout the course of this hour. you've been listening to Fox News coverage of attorney general Merrick Garland. would point out a couple of new items here. one, he says the department of justice filed a motion to make the warrant and the receipt of what was taken from the property public. but it's up to the former president to do that. he says he has received, the former president received both of those. the warrant and the receipt of what was taken. he said the department has filed a motion to make both public. he also said approved this search warrant, and he said whenever we can, we try to take a less intrusive means, suggesting that in this instance he did not think that that was feasible or appropriate. he didn't use those words. I'm gathering from what he said he felt there was no other measure other than to approve the search warrant in the manner that it was delivered. he also addressed the attacks on the FBI, the integrity. he says these are dedicated patriots to the service of the country. so there you can see the aer a shot of March ago. this is the scene of the raid that unfolded 72 hours ago in the predawn hours ago. with that, we ask you to stay tuned to Fox News channel and this Fox station. we will have continuing coverage of this breaking news throughout the hour. I'm Martha MacCallum in New York. >> Martha: with that, we bring in brand new anchor of "Fox News Sunday", Shannon Bream. congratulations to you. speak for a lot of us when say you're one of the best anchors we have and we're thrilled you're taking over this Sunday spot and we look forward to seeing that starting September 11th. so this is the way it works around here. we jump right in. without further adieu on that, we continue our coverage. so those are the things that jumped out at me, Shannon. the first of which is that he said that the former president received the warrant, that he received the receipt of the warrant, which details what was taken during that search. the department filed a motion to make that public given the ...

BLOOM - U.S. Cable
Bloomberg Markets: The Close



BLOOM 08/11/2022 03:09:26 PM: Caroline: U.S. attorney general Merrick Garland and not taking any questions. really want to reiterate that he personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant. on this matter it's not taking on this matter. it's not taken lightly. he wanted to address the unfounded attacks on the FBI and department of justice. he will not stand by silent, he said, when integrity is unfairly attacked. he called them dedicated public servants. he said this in the public interest. Bloomberg stands by. I'm pleased to welcome back David West. what did you make of what was a very methodical, thoughtful, very elegant perspective coming from the attorney general? did not have any sentence that was unnecessary, thoughtful. David: absolutely right. it was masterful in terms of communication. he started out by saying when we served the search warrant, president Trump has the search warrant. we speak to our court filings. he announced this, we did not. he said at the same time, our highest goal is to enforce the rule of law. it's the bedrock principle of our constitution and we have to apply that without fear or favor, protecting the innocent. but nonetheless, we are not going to back off. he communicated a lot and saying if he wants to let you know what's going on, he can tell you. in the meantime, do not attack my people. he defended vigorously the FBI agents and department of justice. they are on the front lines protecting a lot of us. he was absolutely just a justifiable, defense, brought down the middle. Taylor: so the speech set out to do what he accomplished. he tried to make people understand what was really going on. David: that's right. critically important is to explain why he's not saying more. don't attack me for not saying more. I'm doing my job. this is what we do. this is the way the constitution works. it's entirely appropriate what's going on. I'm reading into the body language here. he was saying

don't mess with my people. you can disagree with us, but after the integrity of my people we are doing our job. we may be right, we measured wrong, but don't question our integrity. tay or: who do you think it was a medal? dav d: would think f were doing this, which am not, would think do not want people who are close to the former president to think they can have free shots. sort of like throwing a high, hard, fast one at about her at the batter. caro ne: this is unprecedented territory. now we wait? dav d: the department of justice knows what's next, but bet they don't really know either. being method ca attorneys, they will take one step at a time. you take each step as you need to take and no more. the worst mistake you could make, and merrick gar and knows this, is to get ahead of yourself. don't jump ahead. don't skip steps. they will be very methodical. his last job was the chief judge of the court of appeals of the d.c. circuit. judges work on their own timetable. they don't care what the media says or congress says. he would not on his timetable. tay or: one of the biggest headlines was asking the judge to unseal the search warrant. what would you expect to find? dav d: we would see because presume the judge would do that. it goes to his first point. he has the search warrant. he can reveal if he wants. would expect there's quite a bit of specificity about what they were looking for. would be very surprised if they don't have specific information about specific documents, maybe even the dates, and who it was written to and from, subject matter. would anticipate we would see specifics which will give us some indication of what they are looking for. kat e: what would you expect in terms of response from both parties? dav d: this is speculation. would not expect a res of the former president to do a take back. they are way out there. what have seen from republicans is more attacking the justice department rather than defending donald trump. it has always been the process is corrupt, it's political. have not seen many people saying we think he's innocent and did not do anything wrong. they are just questioning the process. it will be interesting to see whether the democrats come out and try to defend the justice department. caro ne: time and time again, we call on you for your political and legal expertise. thank you, dav d west n. we want to go to our washington bureau chief. what's occurring is extraordinary. what did you make of the short but very illustrative comments from merrick gar and, attorney general? >> this was merrick gar and trying to get control of the situation that dav d aptly described. republicans are screaming from the rooftops that this is a banana republic where you go after your political opponents and trump's own lawyers said earlier this week if there's any evidence, it was planted. merrick gar and had to come out and say there's enough public interest in this that have filed a motion to a judge to unseal the warrant and the warrant will tell us what they were looking for specifically. that's what now they want trump's lawyers to respond to the motion and then a judge will decide and then we will be able to see the warrant and know what was happening. merrick gar and took no questions. he walked off. it's typical. it's almost as unheard of as ratting a former president's home. tay or: that's where want to go with you next. the fact we are doing this, having to do this with your history of covering politics, economics, government, what's this telling you about the sign of the times? >> it's certainly disturbing we have to be in this position. cannot imagine the fbi would have undertaken such an act on an issue they really knew exactly what they were looking for and that it was there. if they come out empty handed, this is not going to be good. even democrats will be hard pressed to find a good defense of the fbi if they come out empty handed. searching the home of a former president, whoever he is. kat e: let's go back to the fact they asked the judge to unseal the search warrant. it's hard to draw parallels. to put this into any sort of context, for high profile searches such as this, how rare is it to get the actual search warrant unsealed? >> search warrants are normally public for random crimes. for sensitive crimes, they are often sealed. many news organizations have moved to unseal this warrant. think this one is so unprecedented that it needs to be vetted by the public. that's what does happen in the democracy. we are to see what's going on. even richard Nixon was subpoenaed. the fbi never raided any of his homes. caro ne: merrick gar and was saying we would have taken other ways and means of doing this if we felt it was appropriate. but they did decide to search which did cause so much shock and consternation among many. how hard of a battle is it to prove this sufficiency in the public interest? do you think the unsealing of the document will go far enough? >> what think the public is going to get is transparency from its government, from the justice department. at least we will know what it was they were looking for. and then, a lot of us in news will figure out what the documents are and what they mean the best we can. the lawyers probably will not be able to talk about it. if it were in the interest of the interest of the people, if it were in trump's interest to be transparent, he would be. if they were looking for something, he would be like they are looking for nothing, that sort of thing. and he has been quiet about it. tay or: we were speaking to the former deputy a.g. under bush. he made an interesting point that this fee is like more of a political crisis rather than a constitutional one. how do you think about that? sure, yes. this is sacred by political. there are fewer than 100 days until the midterm election where republicans are poised to take congress. it was looking good for the democrats with inflation on easing and gasoline prices dropping that maybe the democrats could keep control. the republicans, if they decide to make the midterms about trump, think that will not end up well for them. but it does so defy the base. think that's why they are so off the rails regarding about this raid. as dav d said, they are not necessarily defending trump. they are just going on about the raid. think it's a political crisis. whether it's a constitutional crisis depends on what the fbi comes out with. tay or: thank you, wendy benjaminson. we are going to be continuing to cover this story throughout the course. we are ways do this on boomberg. we manage to do a great job of dancing between politics and markets. while we have been focusing on politics, we have been looking at the s&p and nasdaq that does rollover from greenback into red. that's where want to start with our next guest. great to have you. what do you make of the further volatility with the equity markets, the gains, the losses, and a signal that's going about the latest rates. >> think the volatility continues because as long as we see inflation above the

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NEWSM 08/11/2022 03:09:28 PM: ...questions, but attorney general merrick gar and, making his very first comments on the unprecedented raid of former president donald trump's mar, a ago estate, et's bring back in his former chief of staff, mck mu vaney, who just watched this happen and unfolded with us here. um okay. very brief comments. no questions. not a surprise there, but do want to get your reaction to his three points. he's saying he'd approve the decision. obvious that carries that check, he did not take thought that they tried to keep it narrow in scope. what do you make of merrick gar and's first two points there? but the first two points it makes sense. mean,



we we've talked about this. there's no way he'd not approve this. there's a suggestion that he was. I'm glad he put that to rest. The things that had been made by a former employee, that would have been a huge breakdown, you would expect nothing less of an attorney general to not take the issue involving a former president's home. I mean, but what didn't hear is when we're going to see the information and what's in the affidavit? Why was it that this is the key to me, because why was it so important to do a search warrant? Why was the subpoena not sufficient? Didn't hear an answer to that. Heard they said they tried to narrow. We narrow it a little. Get that, but still a search warrant. You still come into someone's home and go through their stuff and take things away and again, the evidence we have, at least publicly available that Trump was cooperating, and this was doing what the FBI had asked him to do. After they took 15 boxes. Back in June, he put a lock, for example, on the safe. As he first came out. He did say that the search warrant was regarding probable cause. So they had probable cause which made them again. This is not has not been unsealed. The judge refused to ask them to share that information even redacted, so he did stand by that they had probable cause to bring this to the judge, but want to ask you a little bit, he said. There even without fear, you know, making sure that Americans get evenhanded due process. A lot of people are saying that's not what Trump is getting at. I mean and in your personal experience. Know you did sit with the January 6th committee as well. I mean do we think that there's something here as well? Because they asked you about the whereabouts who had access to Trump had had certain people get in the oval office as has been reported, and you have shared with reporters, I mean, so they wanted to know who was near the president. And again in this case, someone near the president, I think like in March. A couple of days ago may have been talking or talking to the FBI that indicated this. A couple of different things on the January 6th committee, but everybody needs to recognize that's a political process. This is nowhere near being similar to what's happening at the Department of Justice. The January 6th committee is a political thing run entirely by politicians who hate Donald Trump. This is not an evenhanded sort of investigation. This also cannot put anybody in jail. This can damage you politically. But that's the only sanctioned that they have. So you need to put everything from January 6th and one column and everything in the Department of Justice. Another yes, there may be some information shared between them, but the two processes are entirely different, as regarding probable cause that's not news. That's the standard that you have to have. In order to get a search warrant, you must show probable cause that a crime had committed had been committed. Probable cause is evidence in a particular location and probable cause that if you don't get it right away, the evidence would disappear. I mean Merrick Garland did not shed any light on that today, especially that criminal procedure. He could have the first to get him a subpoena. This is that procedure that got him to permission to go to Donald Trump's house, and he did not shed any light on that to the best, and probably the arguer, more important thing when you look at this, some sort of a 20,000 feet view, which is Merrick Garland guaranteed the equal application of justice, regardless of go off at all. I mean that did not happen for Donald Trump in 2016 when the DOJ gave false information to the federal court, that did not happen. 100 billion spent in 2020 when the FBI was involved in putting out the narrative that the information was Russian disinformation, so the Department of Justice has not the best history when it comes to dealing with Republicans in general and Donald Trump in specific, so get what he says he has to say. But he has to act with 100 and 10% above reproach in this circumstance, and when today gave us a little bit of information, don't think it answers any of the questions that people are asking. Think there's a lot that people still want to know? And don't think that there were enough answers there. Obviously the reporters were frothing and he walked away. Not too surprising. Merrick Garland do stand by with us. Thank you so much for a kind of dissecting some of that. We just heard remarks. American and, we're going to continue this conversation. On the other side of the break. Congressman Troy Nehls, who's with Trump, the night of the raid in our stay with us. Real heroes, real conflict real threats. Real heart. Now there's a pace of American gets its news. Newsmax were real news for real people. Millions are turning off the old channels switching to Newsmax, the fastest growing cable news channel in America. No agenda, no spin just the facts. Millions watches. So can you, Newsmax. We are real news for real people. My name is Anita... just moments ago remarks from attorney general Merrick Garland and talking about the unprecedented raid on Mar-a-Lago, we want to get you out to our chief white house correspondent James Rosen, who was also watching the comments from the DOJ James. Because good afternoon, a truly remarkable statement from the attorney general. He began by noting that ordinarily the Department of Justice, its prosecutors and senior officials are very likely to do the talking in court when they're presenting charges when they're making cases when they're entering evidence and that sort of thing, but he cited the quote substantiated a public interest surrounding the Mar-a-Lago raid as one of the factors that led him to depart from that type of practice and so his remarks this afternoon which were brief, just about under 10 minutes, attorney general Garland disclosed that the Department of Justice has now filed papers filed a motion in the Southern District of Florida, which is the district where the raid was sanctioned by a judge in the first place that they're seeking to unseal two documents associated with this case. One is the warrant signed by a federal magistrate judge that provided the authority for the FBI to conduct the raid and the other document they want to unseal is the FBI's property receipt. This is a document that lists what property was taken during the raid and is provided upon departure by the agents at the site of the raid. And in one respect, the attorney general here cleared up some confusion from various corners of former president Trump's orbit, spokesmen lawyers and so forth. It had been suggested at one point that yes, the president, the former president's attorney on site, Christopher Bobb, had received a listing of what was taken from the former president's safe and home and offices elsewhere. It had been suggested that the FBI had not left such a document. So now from attorney general Garland and we have an effort underway to make public both the warrant that gave them the authority to conduct the raid and also the FBI property list that Mr. Garland said, was indeed left with Mr. Trump's attorney who was on site. That's Christopher Bobb. The other interesting facts here is that the attorney general's citing again as just fact for departing from the normal practice. The fact that the former president himself disclosed the raid as it was ongoing publicly, thereby giving the attorney general and his a heads up of the cover. So to speak. To make this move of unsealing two documents in the case that is the warrant and the FBI property list listing of what they took. So presumably this motion from the Justice Department will be approved. Like the original warrant was, and soon we

know a t t e b t more. about what what ed to th s, the attorney genera conc uded by say ng he wanted to peop e to know that he persona y approved the dec s on to seek a warrant n th s case, and that the dec s on was not taken ght y that they ooked for whether or not they had exhausted a other means of gett ng the mater a s they needed and that they se zed n the ra d and he had conc uded that they had that conf cts w th what we ve heard from trump age and the former pres dent h mse f, who sa d that they were actua y actua y work ng qu te co laborat ve y over a number of months w th the nat ona arch ves and the department of just ce n terms of prov d ng documents and answer ng quest ons and that the ra d came as a comp ete surpr se to them. but here we heard, the attorney genera sa d they had exhausted a other opt ons for seek ng the nformat on that they took. b anca. yeah obv ous y there was a ot of pressure to get some comment from merr ck gar and, and he d d come out and at east we c eaned a t t e b t as you just thoughtfu y a d out there, james, but aga n, the wh te house today you know b den as we saw h m board a p ane yesterday w th h s son hunter on vacat on. um and they re say ng that they d d not know anyth ng about th s. so obv ous y, gar and d dn t take a ot of quest ons. n fact, d dn t take any quest ons, but peop e st want to know more. james there s st a ot we don t know ke th s warrant. what we what wou d they redact? what wou d we see sworn aff dav ts from the fb . mean, these are th ngs that you know, maybe n the com ng days, amer ca w earn. gar and d d s gna that he understands that amer cans have a ot of quest ons about what took p ace at mara ago, and he understands that there s as he put t substant a pub c nterest n the case. but outs de of ook ng to unsea these two documents, he made c ear that the department and he and h s sen or prosecutors are go ng to adhere to the r typ ca pract ce. of on y do ng they re ta k ng n court n the mot ons they f e n the br efs they f ed n the cases they make n the charges they present t s worth not ng that former pres dent trump and h s assoc ates of a contended that they comm tted no wrongdo ng, ether n th s present case that spawned the mar a ago ra d or n any other of the other. var ous nvest gat ons surround ng the former pres dent and h s assoc ates. james rosen ve at the wh te house, james a. great to see you on th s huge break ng news day. we check back n w th you for sure. and et s cont nue the conversat on now congressman troy neh s, who was w th former pres dent trump just hours after the ra d, and that even ng n bedm nster, stand ng by w th us, congressman thank you. you just heard merr ck gar and s, um very short. br ef news conference. what s your react on to what he d d sc ose n regards to th s? and sa ng the search warrant and the fb property rece pt. we thank goodness he had a te eprompter because h s eyes d dn t move off of t. but of course, he s go ng to support the dea and approve the search warrant because he s out there, he s go ng to have to support h s pres dent, uh and protect h m because what we do know s that dona d trump s go ng to come back and he doesn t want t. gar and doesn t want to see dona d trump on the ba ot n 2024, because he be out of a job and he wants to protect pres dent b den. buy ng says he s go ng to run aga n. good uck w th that. go ahead jump n that race. dona d trump s go ng to be n the race and he s go ng to beat you and the po s are show ng that so th s s just a way. th s s just another attempt to keep dona d trump off the ba ot n 2024. hope gar and when you s gned the warrant, you probab y to d the fr ends, your fr ends n the fb . et s get th s one done r ght. because we bet after dona d trump for years, we ve been screw ng t up. noth ng ever. we f nd noth ng. no ev dence. we c a m to have ev dence, but we never f nd anyth ng n the end, and t s just t s just more just smear camp gn and tact cs aga nst dona d trump. and t has to stop . but the amer can peop e are pay ng attent on to th s one. thank goodness, congressman. there s been a you know, sort of backf re. mean the peop e who have come out and sa d th s s wrong. um has been across the a s e a so from democrats. et s p ay a br ef c p from the news conference w th merr ck gar and . et s just recap the aud ence and ts cha r some of h s statements from just m nutes ago here on newsmx. persona y approved the dec s on to seek a search warrant n th s matter. second the department does not take such a dec s on ght y. where poss b e, t s standard pract ce to seek ess ntrus ve means as an a ternat ve to a search and too narrow y scoped any search that s undertaken. a narrow scope fb agents for a most 10 hours ns de mara ago , do h s words match the act ons . you be eve congressman of what the fb agents d d on monday. no don t be eve anyth ng. the guy says he they have tota y turned the doj and the fb aga nst they turned t nto po t ca w tch hunt. they took those agents. they re go ng after peop e that have d ssent ng po nt of v ews ke dona d trump. sten they were spy ng on dona d trump s camp gn years ago. the who e russ a co us on, wh ch turned out to be noth ng but a hoax, so t s shamefu . uh that th s adm n strat on s us ng the dea j and the f b . th nk about t. dona d trump has been out of off ce for 18 months and they re st go ng after th s guy. t s been years. g ve t a break. dona d trump s com ng back. and you th nk that th s search warrant and your v ewers got to understand as an o d sher ff. as n aw enforcement 30 years, a t takes s probab e cause to get a search warrant that that s not a who e ot. t s week they found the judge that has been very support ve, g ven money to obama. you got th s crazy judge that that s nus th ng t s horr b e what they re do ng to th s pres dent, but t s energ zed h m as we . know. and you were w th h m the n ght of the ra d and obv ous y, um, you know, he s he s obv ous y had qu te a week there even when unfo ded yesterday w th et c a james and h s c v su t he keeps go ng. he keeps go ng strong n that ad was pretty te ng that he re eased congressman troy neh s. we ve got to eave t r ght there. but we apprec ate your t me. thanks so much for jo n ng us today. here on amer can agenda. thank you. god b ess thank you. god b ess you. we have much more ...

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NEWSM 08/11/2022 04:01:28 PM: ...however, certa n po nts want you to know. f rst persona y approved the dec s on to seek a search warrant n th s matter. attorney genera merr ck gar and . f na y work ng assa ants on the outrageous and many suspect fa se y pred cated ra d on pres dent trump s pr vate res dence at merr ago, the attorney genera revea ng, he asked the department of njust ce to sea or unsea ed the search warrant and that he gar and persona y approved the dec s on to ra d the former pres dent s home. here w th more on th s break ng news s a an dershow tz, professor emer tus at harvard aw schoo newsmax, ana yst and author of the pr ce of pr nc p e why ntegr ty s worth the consequences? t s a ways great to see you, s r. so gar and says he has ordered the doj to unsea the warrant. but s t the rea dea ? the aff dav t to exp a n exp a n a of that to the fo ks? ook, whenever you have a search, you eave beh nd usua y the warrant . t s just a p ece of paper, a forum and then the rece pt for whatever s taken. that s g ven rout ne y to the person be ng searched. t s the aff dav t n wh ch the fb agents swears that he has probab e cause and sts a the th ngs he s ook ng for, w th spec f c ty under the fourth

amendment. that must be revealed now former president trump has the right to seek that to be unsealed and he can waive any privilege or any privacy if he wants to do it. so two important developments today weren't that garland said the personally signed off on a lot of people are saying no, it was ray. it was not growing. knew at the time was garland and said so over again. the second thing is stop picking on the judge, the magistrate judge, they always approved search warrants. I'm sure the words were correct. don't blame him. there's been in the media a lot of anti-semantic attacks on him. a lot of McCarthyite attacks on and blaming him for being one of the lawyers for Jeffrey Epstein. secretary want to blame people blame me. was Jeffrey Epstein's lawyer. if you trust me to do just what I do not attack. the judge criticized the justice department that seems appropriate. we yeah, we, some people have questions why he recused himself from a trump and harrity case and then go ahead and went ahead and decided to improve things. dang this stayng warrant. let me let me ask what we go ahead address that matter. judges grant search warrants like parents give out candy on Halloween that there's not a protection. any judge would have done the same thing. so stop picking on the judge. okay okay. we, you have been criticized of this radical. if trump or a democrat, I'm pretty confident he would have been issued a subpoena. and indeed we found out today that he had been issued a subpoena, but the raid went ahead anyway. does that raise any red flags with you? oh completely. first of all, we know that there were no search warrants on harrity Clinton or on sandy berger, um and harrity Clinton's going around wearing a hat saying, you know, mocking the argument, uh, saying, uh, hurry but her email's now that's a good argument. uh garland talked about equal justice. the justice department has to explain why they conducted a search warrant. in this case and not in the other two, uh, cases. that's a fair question to ask. garland didn't answer that question. we already know the FBI has lied about president trump before to a federal court no less. believe we have systemic failures in the department of justice that have to be corrected. do you agree? and then what should we do to correct that? we first of all, you know, they're now coming. of course, it was a trump supporter, John Solomon, who revealed that yes, there wasn't there was a subpoena, but nobody knows whether or not the subpoena was a compelled with be whether or not the lawyers were negotiaton about it. and if there was a subpoena, there was no danger. anything would be destroyed. they defended the 12 boxes. it would be a serious crime to destroy something under subpoena, and so that doesn't provide a justification. the fact that there was a subpoena earlier that makes it more difficult to explain why, instead of going through the subpoena process, they decided to engage in the search. thank know the reason and the reasons they wanted to search more extensively in the closets of the white. do they wanted to avoid any claim of privilege. executive privileged lawyer contempt privilege. fifth amendment privilege. we know that trump asserted to test amendment privilege in New York. and thank they were fearful that he would have served here as to the active producing the documents. so to circumvent the fifth amendment to circumvent the fourth amendment and to circumvent the sixth amendment right to counsel, they went ahead with a search, which should not have been done unless there was a danger items are going to be destroyed, which there was no danger. we, professor, thank you're making my case that you have the government active circumventing the constitution of the United States. you have the FBI already confirmed to have been going to a federal court so they could target president trump. my question to you again is do we have deep systemic problems with the department of justice and the FBI. and what do we do to correct those? look, we've had systemic problems and law enforcement for years. the way to prevent this is to make sure that there are people who are watching transparently to make to see that nothing improper has done. courts are supposed to do that. the media's supposed to do it, uh, when garland was easy appointment because there was a former judge. who should be overseeing the justice department and nonpolitical campaign must be prepared to give him kind of presumption of innocence, as he said about about trump, but thank he has to come forward and justify a lot more clearly why they went for a search warrant. in this case so unusual a case like this. the other thing he has to justify why they arrested Navarro. why they arrested Manafort why they arrested Stone. normally if my client's indicted, get a call at four o'clock in the afternoon. check your clients indicted. bring him in tomorrow. no. tomorrow's a terrible inconvenience. a right bring it on Tuesday or Wednesday. that's the way it's done. they don't go around shackling and handcuffing people and that should not be done in today. no, I'm sorry, professor. that's the way it's done for democrats. republicans get brought in shackles and chains and with CNN cameras until that's how that's a quote. justice department handles republicans professor Dershowitz thank you very much appreciate. the time is ways served. a right folks, let's get on to my next guest president trump he met with him day after the raid. he's a so-called co-chair of the border security caucus. Texas conservative congressman Brian Babson. congressman wanted to get you to react to the breaking news. appointment of justice here. going to unseal the warrant, but not the affidavit. your reaction? reacted the same as your previous guest. uh and that's also quite a surprise that Mary Garland had signed off on this. it was going to come out, so he had to fess up. but and then that to hear the quote of Merrick Garland, who could have been on the supreme court? thank god he's not um Mary Garland says he wants to see the law applied evenly. Americans are entitled to evenhanded application of the law, due process and presumption of innocence. where the heck was he where were so where was a lot of this? when harrity had 30,000 emails and James Comey, the head of the FBI, said there was classified information on that nothing ever happened. Peter Stricker's the lowest earner, you can go back. the anti-fairness compare them to what president trump has gotten. what are January 6th the rotters that, uh at on January 6th, and what kind of treatment they're getting, and this is a watch hunt from the very get go. no other president in history. Chris has ever been treated like this. and can't you this is just the same as during Stalin's the soviet union when the secret police barrer uh, he said, show me the man and show you the crime. they are out to get this president because they know that he's an enormous threat to the elite and the powers that be in this country and they don't want him to run again. and can't you they will stop it. nothing to do so this is a disgraced congressman. yeah as you know, congressman your leadership in the republican party. McConnell and Paul Ryan and others just like them. they've been the ones saying oh, no. we got to roll over and take a lot of this. they're the ones saying I'm a duck, pucker me in congress, but want to talk to you about that this government's too big and spends too much and congress is incapable of providing proper oversight to this bunch

of une cted bureaucrats who are tak ng over r ght n front of our eyes. pres dent trump. was re uctant to cut government spend ng. uh what d d what d d he te you? when you met w th h m? do you th nk he m ght be recons der ng that pos t on? cons der ng how out of contro th s une cted bureaucrat c system of government that fourth branch of government s. there s no quest on mean, he fought t from day one. n fact, they one m nus one. they started ta k ng about mpeach ng h m. they went. they started go ng after trump before he was naugurated. 5.5 years the man has been attacked just re ent ess y and everyth ng they have accused h m of has turned out to be a

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The Five

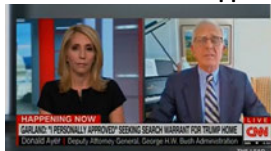


...and the just ce department are ded cated, patr ot c, pub c servants. >> gar and s appearance today comes am d a food of other new deta s. sources te cnn that federa nvest gators prev our y served a grand jury subpoena n june. at mar a ago and took away sens tve nat ona secur ty documents on s te dur ng that meet ng. that grand jury subpoena came months after trump handed over 15 boxes to the nat ona arch ves n january. that s accord ng to a source. et s br ng n cnn s evan perez, ka t an co ns, and kr sten ho mes. and evan, want to start w th you at the just ce department. what can we expect to see from th s search warrant? anyth ng that your sources are g v ng you any h nt on? >> we , dana, we re expect ng that we are go ng to see the warrant and the rece pt for property. th s s a document that s go ng to descr be genera y, we are not go ng to get a ot of we are not go ng to see, you know, a ot of deta s of what th s nvest gat on s about. but t s go ng to g ve us a sense of the type of th ngs that they retr eved from the trump property. and rea y, the reason why they took th s extraord nary step. th nk one of the h gh ghts or th ngs th nk we shou d h gh ght from what the attorney genera sa d n th s rea y extraord nary statement that he made of the just ce department here today, s that they d d not do th s as a frst recourse. he sa d that th s was done, that they ooked at do ng ess ntrus ve means before they took th s step. th nk that s one of the most mportant parts of th s because there s been a ot of c a ms made by the former pres dent, by h s a es, by h s awyers, suggest ng that they were comp ete y shocked, that th s was a comp ete y unnecessary step by the fb . w th the attorney genera was h nt ng at, w thout say ng n many more deta s, was ook, we got here because we took a of these add tona steps. some of the steps that you out ned just at the top of your open the r, nc ud ng the fact that they had served n ear er subpoena. aga n, ess ntrus ve steps before they took th s extraord nary step, dana. >> and ca t n, what s the wh te house say ng, f anyth ng? >> we , they made c ear they d d not know the attorney genera was go ng to be speak ng today n that remarkab e appearance, where he commented on th s re at ve y unprecedented move by the fb to have th s search warrant executed on a former pres dents property, as they d d on monday. they say they d d not have a heads up about that, just ke they d dn t have a heads up about the actua search warrant tse f, wh ch the wh te house conf rmed. ne ther pres dent b den nor anyone who works n the west w ng knew about that n advance of when that search happened on monday. of course, wh ch we knew extended for severa hours. two th ngs that rea y stood out from what attorney genera gar and a so sa d, n add t on to evans report ng, s that he persona y approved th s measure. that was the hunch g ven, of course, th s s sens tve and de cate top c. he sa d, yes, he does not take that step ght y, but he d d persona y approveng and pursu ng th s search warrant. he a so noted that trump, h mse f, was the one who conf rmed that the search had happened at mar a ago on monday. t was not the just ce department or any of the off c a s. t was trump n h s own words who put out that engthy statement on monday n ght. and of course, now w th th s move by the attorney genera today, t s up to trump to respond. of course, whether or not he wants to object to th s. that s what s c ear n the mot on to unsea the search warrant, s that trump can out respond, and we ve asked h s spokespeope and h s attorneys how they p an to nav gate th s. they have not responded yet, they know. >> and kr sten, we earned today that nvest gators serve a grand jury subpoena at mar a ago n june. that means trump turned over documents n january and n june. but the doj st came to suspect more was stashed away. at mar a ago. >> that s r ght, dana. th s was because of ev dence they deve op nc ud ng an nterv ew w th at east one w tness. they be eve that there were c ass fed documents st at mar a ago, desp te a of those boxes be ng turned over. and as was prev ous y reported, author tes saw that these documents had nat ona secur ty mp cat ons. aga n, th s a be ng based on the ev dence that they had deve oped, nc ud ng an nterv ew w th at east one w tness. now, what th s does, th s subpoena, th s nformat on, t g ves us a c earer tme ne of what exact y unfo ded eav ng up to monday s ra d. we know that back n january, the trump team handed

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The Lead With Jake Tapper



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over about 15 boxes of documents to the national archive. then we know after that that investigations started ramping up. they started to question mar a ago a des. in june, the fb issues the subpoena, then they visit mar a ago. they are still aware the documents are and they leave with sensitive information, with sensitive documents. they are so careful back after that and to do them to put a padlock on the door where these documents are kept. then, in august, the fb executes a warrant at mar a ago, a search warrant. the other thing want to note here is that one of the things that have been discussed is, how did we end up going from cooperation, which is what we were hearing from the trump team, to this search on monday? and this subpoena gives us a little bit of insight there. it shows that this has a ready escape route before monday search. dana? >> okay, thanks to you, one and a joining me now to discuss a of this is donald r, former deputy attorney general under president george h. w. bush. thank you so much for joining me. you have been calling for this search warrant to be released. you said, the standard and the concerns just to get this right, and that's sky high. you watched the attorney general today. did he handle it properly properly? >> yes, thank he had a look perfect. want to just correct, didn't call for anything to happen. but some others have, certainly no, thank the attorney general did a perfect job of dealing with the dilemma that he's in. the normal practice in any investigation the department does not make statements about it. and today, he appeared for just a very few minutes, and he laid out the steps that were taken. mean, he gave a good level of comfort to people who had wondered how it works. he's the person who ultimately made the decision. it was sort of a last resort kind of a thing that was a step that was taken. he defended the integrity of the fbi against the comments that people have made. and ultimately, you know, at the beginning, and the ultimate decisions they made was to file a motion to disclose it, because they did not have a further reason to keep any of it secret. in other words, there was nothing in the affidavit that would've disclosed information critical that needed to be kept confidential. so thank he did job without going out and doing what barr did, in connection with the investigation, which was telling the public, totally inappropriate about what they had found. he simply says yes, we have no reason to keep this quiet. we've made a motion to disclose it. now it's up to donald trump and his lawyers to see whether they want to respond and say, okay, or whether they want to say no, don't do it for some reason. >> so, assuming that this is unsealed, this search warrant is unsealed, for those who are not familiar with what is in a search warrant, how detailed would be, can you shed some light on that, generally speaking? >> we, there are three parts of what would think would be disclosed. normally what is involved, there is the warrant itself, which is the order that is issued to conduct the search. but it's based upon an affidavit. the affidavit can be quite long or relatively short. but it lays out the facts that provide the probable cause. it's going to tell, presumably, a story of how they got to the place and why a judge should, and this one did, find probable cause to conduct the search. so that's maybe going to be the most interesting part. but on the other interesting part is going to be the inventory or the return, they call it, on the warrant. that's essentially the list of what they found and took away. and these matters, at least the first and the last, we're left with donald trump. I'm not sure whether the affidavit was. so that's what the document should be and thank people will find it very interesting, in fact, they ultimately are disclosed. fact, they are ultimately disclosed. sources tell cnn that the fbi of mar a ago was engineered toward a spectacle. the former president was in new york. agents showed up at 10 am and wearing plain clothes. you are there at the crack and on. they did not go through the fbi jackets that we usually seem search. was that appropriate? as you answer that, know things are quite different when it comes to the rhetoric these days in the gop than it was back when your deputy attorney general, but in a perfect world, we what we see in the reality of what happened kind of calm the criticism in the gop of how they handled this? how the fbi handled this? >> there's a limit in the charged world that we've now. there's a lot of things that people do and say. it's not true at all and they try to influence others to be events things that are not true at all. it's very hard to say what's going to calm people who have those motivations. the one thing would say, though, with the attorney general did today in a very short space of time and in a pretty limited number of words, he laid out for any reasonable person a description of what drove them to this. how they reached a decision. the fact that the buck stops with him. and that they are perfectly happy to have a lot of these documents surrounding this. the documents on which this rests. they're perfectly happy to have it made public, because they don't have a reason for them not to be made public. it ought to satisfy pretty much anybody who's reasonable that the department is doing exactly what we should want it to do. it's trying very hard to do it in a way that's respected by everyone's rights, including donald trump's rights. they're not about giving speeches about what donald trump did. if donald trump wants to be the story to be out there than it will be out there through this affidavit, but thank it's up to him now to file a response. >> he wants it out there, but he obviously wants it out there with his the way he describes it. on the former president, when you consider all the legal trouble facing him right now. the fact that he wants to be president, where do you think this could be headed? put your head in the space that could have been when you are deputy attorney general, drag, as they call it? >> the ultimate judgment call about whether you do or file charges and one charges you file has got to be made by the department and prosecutors who have to essentially say we think we have a case that we could prove. we have to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt and thank that we can prevail. it provided an unbelievable quantity of evidence of donald trump's personal involvement in multiple layers of a complicated effort to overturn the election. the overturning of the election, you might say it's the most serious crime anybody could commit against this nation. and you've got a situation where people are plotting to do that again. we know stories of things happening all over the country in order to put the people in a position so they could cheat and not count the votes correctly. the need for deterrence is...

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Your World With Neil Cavuto



FNC 8/11/2022 4:01:16 PM: ...warrant. what happens next? we come, everybody. m char es payne n for ne cavuto for "your wor d." we beg n w th dav d spunt at the just ce department. dav d? >> was n the room when merr ck gar and made those comments, h story mak ng comment to see an attorney genera ta k about a search warrant that he author zed, the f na person to s gn off on the search warrant of a former pres dent of the un ted states. want to p ay some of what the attorney genera sa d. sten. >> frst, persona y approved the dec s on to seek a search warrant n th s matter. second, the department does not take such a dec s on ght y. where poss be, t s standard pract ce to seek ess ntrus ve means as an a ternat ve to a search and to narrow y scope any search that s undertaken. >> char es, for days attorney genera gar and and fb d str cter chr stopher wray have been under scrut ny for not com ng out and speak ng about th s. attorney genera merr ck gar and d d today. he spoke a tt e under f ve m nutes here at ma n just ce headquarters. what he d d, char es, he put the ba bck n the hands of the former pres dent s ega team. now the department of just ce s say ng we want to unsea the search warrant so everybody can see what s ns de and see the tems taken. now t s up to the trump ega team to object and say et s be transparent and do so. char es, th s s a rap d y mov ng story as you know. someth ng e se that many want to see nc ud ng myse f, nc ud ng you, peop e want to see th s aff dav t. the aff dav t w be the reason that the judge author zed and s gned off on that search warrant. we cou d fd that as soon as monday. r ght now the judge s cons der ng a mot on from some organ zat ons that have sued to make some documents pub c. so we cou d see that as soon as monday. as far as when the search warrant w be re eased r ght now, t s n the hands of the trump ega team. char es? >> char es: before you go a ot of specu at on who n the adm n strat on and the just ce department knew th s was happen ng. the wh te house st has been t ght pped. what do you make of the fact that gar and came out and sa d number 1, persona y approved th s. what was the mportance of that? >> t s mportant to know that number 1 he s runn ng the ...

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Deadline: White House



MSNBC 08/11/2022 04:03:05 PM: ...c rcumstances and the substant a pub c nterest n th s matter. >> that move by the department of just ce and by ts eader merr ck gar and comes am d w despread ca s certa n y by the r ght and even by some on the eft for greater transparency and when the department of just ce s move on monday was met w th ntense controvers a y and many quest ons by many peop e around the country. gar and went on after mak ng that news and sa d that he had a three part addendum, three th ngs that he norma y wou d not want to be out n pub c say ng, but that he fe t was mportant to say. the frst was that he persona y approved the warrant to a ow the dona d trump res dence n f or da, second that the doj takes these th ngs very ser ous y and that the nature of the warrant was m ted n scope and ssued a fu throated defense of h s department, the fb and federa aw enforcement mp c t y react ng to the t rades and the extreme rhetor c com ng from the far r ght. notab y, gar and d d not ment on the standoff n c nc nnat . many peop e thought he m ght. he was, we shou d note, one of the th ngs that many peop e thought wou d be potent a y the tr gger for the pos t on to come forward today to make th s unexpected statement to the department of just ce and we st do not know what the mot vat on of that armed man n c nc nnat s. we keep you posted on that, but for now a ot of news to address here. so jo n ng us, fantast c pane . new york t mes just ce department reporter kat e benner and new york bender, new york t mes po t ca correspondent, andrew we smann, former doj prosecutor and barbara mcquade, former u.s. attorney and now aw professor at the un vers ty of m ch gan. the co ect ve .q. on th s pane s vast and the exper ence even vaster and thank god you guys are a here to he p us understand what s happened today. want to the start w th you, barb mcquade just because you and andrew have the aw ng d ds. degrees and don t know f bender has one, but know you know what you re ta k ng about. just frst address your react on to what happened today n the s mp est terms and we knew that merr ck gar and was go ng to make a statement. a ot of peop e wondered what he was go ng to say. te us what you heard and what t means. >> we , t s rea y extraord nary that merr ck gar and wou d say anyth ng at a be the just ce department ne ther conf rms or den es the ex stence of an nvest gat on, but th nk he fe t he was k nd of pushed nto th s by the pub c ty that dona d trump ra sed about the search and he even ment oned that, that t wasn t the just ce department that ra sed th s ssue pub c y. t was dona d trump, and so n response to that f restorm he has done what the just ce department a ways does wh ch s to speak through ts f ngs. so th s s k nd of a c ever way of not v o at ng the just ce department po cy, but by unsea ng that search warrants and the return. now the pub c can see what t was, and th nk the goa there s to push back aga nst these c a ms that ev dence was p anted or that th s was a w tch hunt or anyth ng e se. th nk what we re go ng to fd a search warrant that s by the book. everyth ng s n order and an nventory that shows that they ndeed took some documents out of there

that donald trump was not entitled to have. >> andrew weismann, yesterday when there were a lot of debates going on concerning this program about the calls for transparency some of us said you know what? there shouldn't be any additional transparency. the doj has a policy. the policy's you do not speak about ongoing investigations and didn't do anybody any good. you yesterday came out and said yes, it's true. there's a policy, but the fact that donald trump revealed the existence of this search maybe could get merrick garland off the hook and open up a space for him to speak at a time when transparency would be good about the county. he'd basically what you advised and you didn't go on that much detail and that's what you were advocating yesterday. >> we, won't give myself that much credit because think that merrick garland did certainly as barbara, take advantage of the fact that it was the target of the search that actually made this public. >> did give him that leeway and he did something very smart and he said we speak through court filings and we, the justice department are perfectly happy to and are moving to unseal it and that actually was quite a brilliant move because basically says to donald trump, put up or shut up. you say there's wrongdoing here. we, you know what? do you want the american public to see what we found or not? and they gave him an opportunity. they gave him the motion that was filed so he now has an opportunity, the basic his court to object and to keep from the public what it is that happened. so think that was a really smart move, and that's so consistent with general department of justice policy which is to be that finding that actually does the bulk of the speaking. do think there are a couple of things that merrick garland said that if you listen to carefully were subtle ways at pushing back on things. he'd make reference to the fact that before he issued the search warrant was typically to try lesser means which is confirmed of the moment that they had tried to do this by subpoena and that this was sort of a last effort that they were forced into by donald trump's actions. so suspect with that affidavit that's unsealed we learn more about it. >> yeah. >> and the other thing that thought was interesting is that he talked about the fact that donald trump's attorney was on the premises. >> right. >> and that's a way of sort of cutting back on the idea that there was somehow painting of evidence. that, always viewed as donald trump knows just how bad the situation is because he knows what he had there and one of the defenses could be, didn't have it. the fb put it there. we, merrick garland's saying your lawyer was present. knock it off. he said it's a much better way than I'm saying it's now. >> a much less cable tv way and much more merrick garland way. you sent a tweet as soon as you came out and you made the point that you made a second ago was call trump's bluff. for people who don't understand the process that the department asked the court to unseal. step by step here, now it's up to donald trump in a court filing either to object or consent, correct? that's what you mean calling his bluff. he can either say fine, I'm happy to have this out there in the public so everyone can see how terrible it is and if he objects it's then him, the former president who's keeping transparency from happening. that's really the argument here and that's what the bluff calling is that you're pointing out. >> absolute. that's right. so for the non-lawyers that's exactly right. it's the court that issued the warrant and the court has in front of it the warrant, the underlying affidavit and that's really the key which is a of the evidence and the whole story about what happened that was submitted that should be an fb's agent saying what's under oath and the return which is what was found in the search and the court can unseal a of that, and so what merrick garland said is they filed a motion with the court to unseal a of those things, but obviously, the former president has standing to be heard as to whether he thinks that's appropriate or not. do think it puts the former president in a really tough position if he wants to object to it after, you know, raising drawn about a of the wrongdoing when it's now the department that wants to be transparent about what happened here, but now the next step that we will hear is probably the court setting a deadline for the foreign president to submit something and then the court will decide the motion. >> ask barbara because you're both equally qualified to answer it and want to get her gotten here. how long will it be, barbara, before we get an answer on this, whether it will be unsealed or not? what kind of time do you imagine imagine unfolding over the coming hours, minutes, days? >> in most scenarios when

the government files a motion to unseal it's unopposed and it's a most instant to just turn it over because it's the government who requested the sealing. there's a presumption that court documents are public and they're only sealed if there's a necessary law enforcement purpose for sealing it. you don't want to have it on the public record before you go execute the search warrant, for example, because that might tip off the property owner that you're on your way and they might destroy evidence, but once you've executed the search, if there's not an ongoing reason for it to be sealed, typically it gets sealed right away. donald trump could have some interest in keeping it sealed at least in the short term. if there's some personal information or other kinds of things that he would like to keep it. fully expect the sdwrouj keep the motion to unseal and maybe it's a few days to give lawyers time to address it. >> not going to be a few days. we got breaking news on this which the court has said how long they have, it's until 3:00 tomorrow. >> beautiful. even faster. >> we're moving on the fast track. andrew weismann looks happy with that. he has a big smile on his face. just celebrated just celebrated. let's get to it here and find out you can bluff in poker you find out pretty quick what the outcome is and we find out quickly, one way or the other. katie, want to ask you before we get to the reporting, andrew talked about the fact that "the new york times," a couple of journalistic institutions are just kicking it on this story and advancing the ball very quickly before we had merrick garland come out today and knew that he was going to come out we thought we would spend a lot of time on the show going over how much more we know now than we knew 24 hours ago and now there's this news that's taken up some of that space, but before get to you breaking the news about the times break the news, you breaking the news about the subpoena for the search warrant, and want to ask you at this hour, at this minute what you know about the deliberations, if anything, the deliberations inside the doj that played out on the course of this day that led merrick garland to make the statement that he made and making the move that he took. >> think the deliberations that would have led to this move is to contrast what happened today under what happened under the previous administration when donald trump would attack the justice department. you saw that attorney general jeff sessions was largely silent and never defended the men and women of the justice department. he was afraid of losing his job and he was under threat of donald trump and you saw how much power trump had over the department and you did not see a robust defense on the men and women of the department and facebook. here, you're seeing something very different and you can't help, but think that was part of the calculation on which was the facebook and the men and women of the department and even the magistrate judge has come under attack that these people should not be questioned and it's up to the attorney general when's response for the department who has to say, and the buck stops with him and make a statement, and this, attorney general merrick garland, and now the world will see the document and you can see for themselves whether or not acted responsibly. >> as to sealed search warrant one, the first serve a couple of the motion on course former president trump. on august 12, 22 not great with cables. they are fine whether they oppose to cob seal and signed by bruce e. rehnardt entered into effect, this date. andrew, what do you magne. want to ask you the question just asked katie. it was notable. merrick garland is normally a guy who's on type. he's a punctious man. he came out half an hour later. what do you magne it was kinds of the has of doj. know what it was kind around the discussions with comey. chaos in the building people running from the facebook to doj and the deputy attorney general and attorney general conferring back and forth and a kinds of stuff happen and a lot of chaos there. is that how you magne it played out in the normaly strained and restrained world of merrick garland and as said earlier, that's certain he did not want to do? >> we, sort of break it down into two components. think that the big picture decision was whether they were going to move to unseal the warrant and the underlying affidavit, and think that probably was discussed for a couple of days and think that's the big picture. don't see that being caused a significant minute delay coming out and then exactly what he would say about who spoke first in the fact that the department didn't speak. donald trump spoke. the issue about you typically do a search warrant after trying other things. think a lot of the ways in which merrick garland and was thinking what can say that's with my ethical

norms and fee appropriate. can see a lot of that back and forth. this is what they say about what is a crime? this is a horse designed by committee, and can see what exactly he was going to say. and there are a lot in that kitchen tinker with it and it came out just fine, and think the key here is not the tea leaf reading on it was getting the actual affidavit in support of the warrant. think that's going to tell us everything that we need to know and have been asking for in the last few days. >> think anybody who has ever worked in a government bureaucracy of any kind, know that things tend to get bogged down. make bender, want to go to you here and get back to this question about one of the biggest pieces of news that came out over the course of the last 18 hours, this is "the new york times" in your paper the headline, subpoena preceded search warrant in push to retrieve material from trump addressing one of the main questions from the last couple of days, why did they feel they had to go this far rather than get it through a negotiator or subpoena. turns out there was a subpoena. former president donald trump received a subpoena and he had failed to turn over earlier in the year when he returned a box of material he had improperly taken with him upon moving out of the white house. two people briefed on the classified documents that investigators believe remained at mar-a-lago indicated they were so sensitive in nature and related to national security that the justice department had to act. make, you're a political reporter and someone who knows and has written a book about donald trump and his reelection campaign and you know what this is like about a trump word and talk about this reporting itself, but also what you know or what you can reasonably speculate about how this whole thing has unfolded in the context of the president's role and what trump words that this is a much smaller piece than it was before and how they were meeting this and the decision to defy a subpoena, and how much the president would have been involved in that. who he's getting advice from and a lot of these questions are on the table. >> yeah. that's right. a useful way to bring what's thinking is de-trump word, the decision making process is what you saw in the afternoon, and he was the frustrating kind of in class who you want to tell the answer, but makes you show a lot of work. merrick garland and w go by the book and that's what he said today. he trusts the process to get so as not to jeopardize his end result. that's not how trump word operates here, and this is a former president who has treated every legal problem he's had look a public relations problem. both impeachments as well as the january 6th committee and now this. he's trying to win the moment, and think the and going to think thought to what comes next. think this helps to understand how we get to the point where the fbi fees they need to search his home and you know, set a new precedent on doj behavior. >> kate, in going to read you a little bit from the washington street journal had a big piece ... given everything going on today and what merrick garland said about the attacks on barmitz law enforcement and how he forcefully rebutted them, we have been focusing a lot on the state of play in the republican party today, particularly the reflexive, incendiary reaction to the fbi's search at mar-a-lago. from our esteemed colleague, pete wehner, referenced this earlier, wrote in "the Atlantic" today, a very fine piece. "now they're calling for violence," is the headline. "carey at this early stage, the responsible reaction to what the fbi did is to withhold judgment, to wait and see, to base one's assessment on the facts and the evidence as they become known. but such an approach is alien to the modern day gop. the entrenched structure is to use language that is intemperate, belligerent, conspiratorial, even crazed. this week has once again proved that there is no rhetoric alone trump republicans won't cross, no out and shout charge they won't make. it's now all about one-upmanship with each person trying to make a more freakish claim than the next." we are back with our panel and pete, got to start with you. we were talking about this in the first hour. make bender wrote a book about donald trump and his campaign in 2020. trump people think they're winning. it's not just that they think that there is no limit and the entrenched structure and all the things you say, a lot of which are true. it's that they think this has been great for them and they're going to wake up tomorrow thinking it's great for them too. ask you, how do we come back from this? how do we get the party to step back from the brink and all the things you described vividly and others described vividly? what would change the entrenched structure at this point? what's the way out? >> the most obvious way out is for them to lose elections because what we've tested the proposition, is there anything other

than os ng power that w appea to the consc ence of the modern day repub can party? and the answer s, no. we tested th s aga n and aga n and aga n. january 6th, we saw t. we re see ng t now. and so what t requ res s for peop e n th s country to r se up and to vote the r ght way and to speak out and stand for truth and honor and what s r ght and good. the other th ng wou d say, john, th s s just rea y mportant, th nk, wh ch s, that s a any of us can do. a we can do s what we be eve to be r ght and true. and we don t know f t s go ng to succeed or not. we ve got to hope t w . we have to do everyth ng we can to make t that way. but we don t know that t w succeed. but that s not what we re respons b e for. we re respons b e as

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MSNBC 08/11/2022 05:01:55 PM: ...here n gotham c ty, m john he emann n aga n for n co e wa ace. those are the three b g po nts made th s afternoon by attorney genera merr ck gar and after he made huge news break ng announcement that he had f ed a mot on the doj had f ed a mot on n federa court n south f or da to take the mar a ago search warrant and make t pub c. we now know from that court that dona d trump has unt 3:00 p.m. tomorrow to e ther object or consent to hav ng the deta s of that warrant made pub c. but of spec a focus th s afternoon, the fact that gar and dec ded to offer the addenda that he d d offer, and part cu ar y that th rd po nt where, w th ev ent emot on, f ery, angry, he stood four square w th the men and women of h s department and federa aw enforcement n genera who have faced such a bruta attack over the past few days from many peop e on the r ght and espec a y those peop e n trumpwor d. before gar and s speech th s afternoon, fb d rector chr stopher wray sa d, essent a y, the same th ng. >> as to the ssue of threats, w say that m a ways concerned about v o ence and threats of v o ence aga nst aw enforcement. any threats made aga nst aw enforcement, nc ud ng the men and women of the fb , as w th any aw enforcement agency, are dep orab e and dangerous. >> how concerned are you that after the ra d, that cou d have embo dened or ncent v zed some of the same bad actors from january 6th do ng someth ng s m ar? >> aga n, v o ence aga nst aw enforcement s not the answer, no matter what anybody s upset about or who they re upset w th. >> dep orab e and dangerous, the threats he s ta k ng about, d rector wray, they are not theory. they re rea . they re ncreas ng. they re on the r se n the wake of what happened at mar a ago, and then there s what happened n c nc nnat today. two aw enforcement sources br efed on the matter te nbc news that a man entered an fb f e d off ce there, f red a na gun at aw enforcement personne . he then he d up an ar 15 sty e r f e before dr v ng away. after a h ghway pursu t, there was a standoff that ended just moments ago. we don t know why that guy d d that. there s no off c a mot ve yet. we have no dea whether the th ngs that have happened over the past few days and the heated up rhetor c about aw enforcement had anyth ng to do w th what that person d d n c nc nnat , but you have to cons der the broader context. you just heard fb d rector wray ta k ng about the surge n threats to federa agents and just ce department personne n the aftermath of the mar a ago search. those stuff aren t the stuff of dark web message boards, a though they certa n y are there. a 30 second goog e search w turn up p enty, phrases ke " ock and oad" and c v war, even ca s for assass nat ons, attorney genera gar and be ng one prom nent y named target. from the assoc ated press, "on gab, a soc a med a webs te popu ar w th wh te supremac sts and ant sem tes, one poster sa d he was awa t ng the ca to mount an armed revo ut on." a t takes s one ca , and m ons w arm up and take back th s country. t w be over n ess than two weeks, that post sa d. another gab poster mp ored others, " et s get th s started." th s une cted, eg t mate reg me crossed the ne w th the r gestapo ra d. t s ong past t me the b soc a st f th were ceased from amer can soc ety. jo n ng us now, pete wehner, sen or fe ow at the tr n ty forum, a so msnbc ega ana yst ta y we nste n. she worked as a aw c rker for judge merr ck gar and a so former fb counter nte gence agent peter strzok jo n ng me and w th me onset, john harr s, found ng ed tor of that great pub cat on known as po t co. want to start just w th you, peter strzok, and just g ve me a sense of g ven what happened today, sa d th s week has been f w th unprecedented and unusua act v tes, and th ngs that we have not rea y ever seen before, push ng the country nto uncharted terr tory. watch ng merr ck gar and up there do ng the th ng don t th nk he rea y wanted to do, but fee ng the need to, what d d you how d d you assess the mportance of what he sa d and why he sa d t and where we go from here? >> we , th nk t was extraord nar y mportant. mean, t s c ear that attorney genera gar and

s a man who hews to the constitution and the traditions of the department of justice, and I did not expect that he would ever get up and give a speech or pronouncement where he went through all the facts surrounding the search of mar a ago earl's week, but I thought what he did very well was sort of, in a broad sense, and he didn't speak for long, but he said a lot during that speech, essentially that the department of justice was going to adhere to its norms, that they would let court documents speak for the case, but that they were removing to unseal both the search warrant attachments a and b, which list both of the places to be searched, as well as items to be seized, and then finally the inventory, the return that listed all the items that have been seized, and put the ball on donald trump's court. so, as far as he didn't show as much as he could, as so placed on president trump to essentially put up or shut up. you have these documents. you can release them if you want. now the judge has said to both the former president as well as DOJ to confer and to decide by tomorrow afternoon whether or not they agree, and that he said about those three things that you pointed out, that this was a measured, escalated step, that he absolutely was the person who approved it, and that finally took up a defense of both the FBI and the DOJ that think's really crtical that he did that in light of the absolute, you know, astounding and irresponsible statements that are coming out of congressmen and even senators, and certainly all the enablers that swirl around in the trump world. >> you worked as a law clerk for merrick garland and when he was judge garland. I'm curious, given your insight into his psyche and the widely noted moderate on his soberity and all the things that would have kept him from ever wanting to make a statement like he made today. talk about what you think it was in the course of these few days that would have weighed most heavily on his mind and drove him to the point where he decided to go out, make this statement, do what the department did, and say what he said on behalf of federal law enforcement. >> well, you know, think that merrick garland demonstrated here some attributes, some aspects of his personality and his mind that were not always visible because he was a judge for so long, but his integrity, his responsiveness, and think that, you know, he did a coup of things that were really important and go to the heart of who he is. first of all, he's a leader, and he stood up for the men and women who work for him at the FBI and the department of justice. he took responsibility for what they do, and he said that he would protect them and that he honors their work. but beyond that, think that he understands that we are in a new era where the rule of law is being attacked, when you talk about the execution of a search warrant as a raid, even before you get to ugly words like gestapo. that's an attack on the rule of law, not just on the men and women who work in the institutions that uphold the rule of law, but on what makes this country what it is, and think that he found an incredibly agile and creative way, in a very short amount of time, to say that, this is what we do. this is how we do it. and he took an opportunity that really mr. trump gave him, because often, the reason that you don't make disclosures as a prosecutor in the course of investigation is to respect the privacy of the target, the subject, the would be defendant, the person on whom a search warrant was executed at his premises in this case, but what he said is, let's take what mr. trump did to us and let's do it with the rules, think that our motion to seal these documents is no longer necessary. >> so, pete, you have been worried about what used to be thought of as a pretty rock-ribbed conservative. you've obviously been upset about what's happened to your former party or maybe your clinging to it in some ways under donald trump. you've written about the radicalization of the right many times. want to pay attention to what we've heard over the past couple days from the right-wing media sphere. mean, there's been a lot of stuff that's been very troubling that's been said by elected officials, by aspiring elected officials, by candidates, but this is none of this as bad as what we're hearing in the right-wing ecosystem, the echo chamber. let's take a listen to a few of the voices that have come out and some of the incredibly radical things they've said since the mar a ago search. >> and I'm going to tell you something. I'm not into conspiracies. I'm not into anti-government rhetoric. this is the first time in my lifetime that I would say, am death afraid for donald trump. would not put assassination behind these people. >> we're beyond a banana let me that I would say, am death afraid for donald trump. would not put assassination behind these people. >> we're beyond a banana republic. we're into tinpot dictators that do bad stuff.

>> america's under attack. >> we have got to change our federal government. the way our federal government has gone, it's like what we thought about the gestapo. >> the secret police that we have seen in totalitarian regimes. >> if you're associated with Donald Trump, you better cross all your sins and dot all your t's because they're coming for you with the full force of the federal government. >> so, Pete, I read something you wrote in a second, but I just want to hear what you have to say about what you just heard and just how not just pernicious but how dangerous it is. >> yeah. it's reckless, unbelievable reckless, but it's ominous, and it's dangerous, because words have the capacity to inspire, and they have the capacity to put down, and they also have the capacity to promote violence. we know that from history, and we know that from January 6th of 2021. so, to use that kind of rhetoric, which is sort of borderless in its corrupting effects, it's unbelievable and it's happening on several evenings. it's happening on the eve of Trump supporters, on these message boards, but then as you said, on the right-wing ecosystem, and then among lawmakers, members of Congress and senators. so, that kind of synergy, that kind of interaction and interplay, is really explosive and dangerous stuff. >> you know, John Harris, you and I have been covering all this stuff >> good ongoing while now. >> for a good ongoing while. just to take one example, the idea that the House minority leader, many people assume that he's very likely the next speaker of the House, that he's reacting to a search of the former president's house, an extraordinary thing, no doubt, but that, you know, he knows Kevin McCarthy knows what it takes to get a search warrant in general, what kind of legal review, the likelihood that the attorney general would have been involved, that a federal judge had to rule, all of that. that with his instantaneous reaction was effectively to declare war on the United States attorney general. I don't know that we've ever seen anything quite like that in our time covering politics, and we have both seen some pretty extreme stuff. >> what we see is the sort of head-of-politics gets pushed back. these kind of rhetoric, these kind of sentiments, Pete mentioned history. actually, there's ongoing history to this kind of rhetoric. you know, go back to the John Birch Society, the 1990s, the conspiracy theories that flowed from the Waco compound raid or Ruby Ridge, but it was a ways beneath the surface and then there was a respectable body of opinion that really distanced itself from those sort of paranoid strains in our politics and of course distanced themselves from the instigator of violence. what's so striking now is that there's there's no gap between that kind of lurid fantasy, paranoid fantasy world and people who are in positions of authority and respect and influence. it's unprecedented, as you say. >> and Peter Strzok, just want to ask you, as someone with a lot of experience at the federal bureau of investigation, mean, it sounds crazy to say this. mean, never thought I'd be in a position to ask somebody, like, FBI agents are trained professionals, and many of them are pretty tough. I'm just curious what the tenor of it is to be in the FBI right now and what how these agents, these law enforcement officials, how they are seeing the landscape in the world being totally different from anything they've ever had before, under attack, under assault by a party and a movement that has history, we, we back the blue, over federal law enforcement, that it's been the biggest ostensible, at least, rhetorical, the biggest supporters of law enforcement, to find themselves being the subject of this kind of rhetoric that sometimes directly encourages and often implicitly encourages violence against them. just what's what's the atmosphere like among your former colleagues? >> we, thank, John, it's got to be tremendous changing right now. mean, most agents and analysts go into work, they put their head down, they do their job and they work to secure the American people. but at the end of the day, you go home to news. you go home to family. you go home to neighbors, the people that you're talking to on a day in, day out basis are listening to the news and hearing these things and there's no way, however hard you try and just focus on the work in front of you, that you're not hearing about Marjorie Taylor Greene sending rights to defund the FBI. you're not hearing people in senators. senators suggesting that the FBI goes into a search site and maybe planted evidence. just because that's what the FBI does. there's no way that this isn't creeping around the edges of the conversation, of the awareness of all the good men and women of the FBI. and it's absolutely something that there's a sense of a most, you know, what can you do? what are you going to do? there's nothing other than going and doing your job well that you can do. and to have that happening at the same time you've got this just relentless attempt to undermine everything they're doing, whenever it comes on to the top of

dona d trump, on y to the top c of th ngs that threaten h m or those peop e around h m. everyth ng e se s f ne. but on that th rd ra , there s un versa , you know, crazy statements and condemnat on com ng from the far r ght. and th nk t s ncreas ng y cha eng ng to sort of tune that out, and t s a so mpact ng a the pub c that fb nvest gators come nto contact w th on a day n, day out bas s. >> harr s, come back to you, just because ask th s quest on w th as f ne a po nt as poss b e on t. occas ona y, you hear peop e say, on these r ght w ng boards, there are peop e ca ng for c v war, and occas ona y, n the more sober areas of our po t ca d scourse, you hear peop e say, you know, th s cou d ead to c v war. and then you have some peop e that say, you know, we re actua y n a c v war a ready. t s here. t s here. s that hyperbo c? >> we , t s a d fferent k nd of c v war. usua y, t doesn t p ay out n v o ence, a though th nk as a our pane sts have sa d, the poss b ty that, espec a y w th d sturbed, ag tated m nds that can respond to th s rhetor c w th v o ence, but th nk we are n one where we ve just fundamenta y see the wor d n d fferent ways. that we ook at each other w th tota contempt. we ook at nst tut ons that used to be revered nst tut ons, and peop e speak w th speak contemptuous y of them, so n that sense, yes, we are n a c v war. >> yeah. mean, understand the shots have been >> a so, et s remember, we re n a spasm n th s ong term moment that we re n h stor ca y. a spasm. what th nk merr ck gar and was do ng was say ng, exha e, everybody. you haven t seen the facts. f have anyth ng to do about t, you w see the facts, and hopefu y br ng th s k nd of ag tat on down unt t f ares aga n w th someth ng e se. >> ta , ask you whether you th nk that, you know, merr ck gar and has sa d many t mes that he s rea y just here to fo ow the aw and to ook and see f cr mes are comm tted, that they re go ng to be prosecuted and that the department wou d speak w th ts act ons and that was a there was to t. he made th s dec s on today n a very d rect way to address the r ght w ng attacks on federa aw enforcement. n an mp c t way, by say ng, yes, was the one who approved the search warrant of mar a ago, he s respond ng to some med a reports that suggested that maybe he was cut out of that dec s on. m cur ous about whether you th nk that th s s a s gn that gar and has dec ded that he must, on some eve , engage w th the moment n a way that a pure, m go ng by the book, b ack etter aw, m just go ng to st ck to po cy and precedent, that that s just no onger operat ve anymore. thaer z that he rea zed the moment s too b g, the danger s too rea and he s try ng to meet that moment n a s ght y d fferent way. >> hope that that s exact y what t s, because, you know, th nk that th s dea that b ack etter aw or department po cy or var ous statutory restr ct ons make t mposs b e for fo ks n aw enforcement to say anyth ng about what they are do ng s not on y wrong, but t s dangerous. noth ng he d d today s actua y a break w th any wr ten department of just ce po cy. on the contrary, there s po cy that says that when someth ng s of great pub c nterest and th s s the anguage he uses n that mot on there s good reason to ta k about t. he certa n y d dn t run afou of anyth ng ke the ru es that proh b t the d sc osure of grand jury nformat on or of c ass f ed nformat on, and th nk that, you know, over t me, these var ous sources, reasons why you can t ta k when you re a prosecutor or a federa gent, have ed to a very sort of vague dea that you can t ever say anyth ng, and cr t cs of the ru e of aw have taken advantage. you know, they do a of the ta k ng, and there s just s ence at the other end. and when say th s s a new era, th nk we a know that we are v ng n a t me where even the pub c, you know, not just dona d trump and h s a es, just expect to understand more and to know more, and you know, the peop e who have the pod um can step up and educate w thout undo ng the r work, w thout cross ng any eth ca boundar es, w thout ru n ng nvest gat ons, that s what he showed today, and hope that that s go ng to cont nue >> a r ght. that s an ncred b y d ff cu t job r ght now. t s hard to be attorney genera , but, man, t s much harder than t ever has been, at east n my fet me. everyone on th s pane , august as t s, br ant as t s, s st ck ng around. >>> after the break, we w a have more on the untenab e atmosphere that ed attorney genera merr ck gar and to take the extraord nary step that he took today. "dead ne wh te house" cont nues after th s break, so p ease don t go anywhere. break, so p ease don t go anywhere. ...

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FNC 8/11/2022 4:09:32 PM: ...that prompted them to make such an unprecedented move. >> char es: bret, what martha s ta k ng about, when a.j. merr ck gar and sa d when poss b e to seek ess ntrues ve means. why the urgency? why cou dn t they go by standard pract ces? >> bret: good afternoon. hate nterrupt ng andy mccarthy. wanted to et you know before start. sten, th s s the huge quest on. that t me ne from june 3 when we know they rece ve a grand jury subpoena, the trump peop e sa d they re cooperat ng, they re hav ng negot at ons, they hand hover 15 boxes. the just ce department says you have to put an extra ock on th s door where the other mater a s. ara trump t says t goes to that po nt from what we saw at mar a argo. the attorney genera d dn t f n those b anks. what does? the search warrant and to andy s po nt, the aff dav t more mportant y about what was the probab e cause to get there. now, n s what the doj says. they go from that to th s. we don t know the n between. we a so don t know whether the trump awyers are go ng to object to the f ng that s now n a south f or da court to make pub c the search warrant and the st of documents taken. >> char es: probab y that f ng goes on to say nvo v ng thor ssh of a res dent of the former pres dent, the court not ces to unsea the f ng and ts attachments. a search warrant approved august 5, nc ud ng ae ng attachments and property se zed. that m ght g ve us some nformat on but doesn t get what everybody s rea y ook ng for, the n t a s gn off on th s, the aff dav t that ed to the approva of the search n the frst p ace. >> martha: exact y r ght. we see those documents. t w be very d ff cu t to turn down the request to re ease those documents of the search warrant and the rece pt, wh ch s what they pu ed out of the house. once aga n, char es, you have a s tuat on where the under y ng document and th nk back to the f sa app cat ons, you th nk back to even the doss er dur ng the course of the russ a nvest gat on, wh ch we re sort of a to d, the ev dence s there to take these very unprecedented act ons. ...

The Lead With Jake Tapper



CNN 08/11/2022 04:18:51 PM: ...>>> we're back with major developments concerning the FBI's search of President Trump's mar-a-lago home. Attorney General Merrick Garland and this afternoon said he personally approved the search warrant and is now requesting that it be unsealed. Let's discuss. I want to go first to Peter Strickland, former FBI agent. You saw Merrick Garland's statement. It came from a lot of frustration that this sentence was hurting law enforcement. Are things better now? Did he do a good enough job to defend the department and quell the criticism? >> Think he did what he thought was appropriate within the constraints how DOJ has to operate. He said clearly that he was doing things as the department rules and regulations require, that he couldn't comment, but out of the public interest in this case, that he was going to move to unseal the warrant and the attachments A and B, which are a list of the places to be searched, as well as the list of items to be seized. And finally, the last item to unseal the property receipt, the list of eye-witnesses that were seized. He was straightforward, thought he did it within the traditions of the department and put the ball back in Trump's court. So now President Trump will have an opportunity to respond, which is noted in the motion, and we'll see what he decides to do. >> We have new information about that. A federal court in Florida instructed the DOJ to confer with Trump about unsealing the warrant. And they have to let the court know the decision by tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. What do you make of that? >> Think the judge wants to clear this up in short order, does not want this to drag on or have a lot of speculation or attention. Think that's smart. This way a court's essential in ordering the parties to determine the proper position, and as Peter said a moment ago, this puts the ball in Trump's court given that he already had these items. >> Former congresswoman Love, you have seen and heard a lot of your former colleagues you served with on the Hill, Republicans, really, really strong in the criticism of the DOJ, of the FBI, without knowing the facts about what was in the search warrant and what precipitated this. Do you believe that what we heard from Merrick Garland is going to change? >> We, first of all, just don't. Couldn't understand, Dana, why some of the former colleagues were making definitive statements and taking a political stance without having concrete evidence. Always said to myself, when I was a member, discerning the enemy of truth. Anytime a member of Congress makes a comment, they're not looking for information, they're looking for whatever they can to defend whatever statements that they have already made. And do believe that Merrick Garland did the right thing by getting out there? Do believe he needed to make a statement. Do think it's enough? Think it would have been better to have Director Wray out there. There's so much distrust in our institutions, this is our country wide, not just the GOP. We need to have some level of trust in our institutions or it will go on. It's not good for Americans. >> How common is it to take a step back, say that the parties agree and they unseal this search warrant. How common is it to do that? >> It's very uncommon. While you, frequently now that we've been in private practice, represents clients who have cases with search warrants, and don't receive those receive them myself but nothing's unsealed until after the charm goes. It shows that the department is considering the intense public interest, and frankly, the smears and the attacks that have been leveled against this sentence. >> And Peter, we should note that you are currently fighting a lawsuit, challenging your firing from the FBI in 2018. You argue that you were terminated because of political pressure from President Trump. I'm sure you heard there are people arguing that some of the content of the text messages that you sent talking about Donald Trump, that that feeds and fuels the idea that the bureau is politicized. This is a very, very different situation that we're in, but given that reality, what are you thinking when you hear many of your former colleagues talk about law enforcement and DOJ and the FBI being politicized? >> We, certainly was a target of a lot of that. Trump's attacks on the government, in particular the FBI, those began prior to the election in the summer of 2016. He was calling the FBI corrupt for the handling of former Secretary Clinton's emails. That continued in his criticism of Jim Comey, Director Comey, who he fired and transferred to criticism with Andy McCabe, transferred to me, who was fired. So you saw this constant attack that wasn't limited to the FBI, but then extended to all these folks across the administration. There just was a constant stream of attack by the president, and it can't help but create among certain groups within the United States a question about whether or not the government is, in fact, neutral. Can't you, and anyone of those folks can't you that, in fact, this is that's why it was so good to see Attorney General Garland up there at the podium saying the buck stops with me. Approved this. This is, at the end of the day, the way the department does it. We didn't act in a measured way. And think he's trying to be as transparent as regulations allow him to push back on this nonsense that we have heard from Trump and his enablers for five years now, trying to undermine that the U.S. government is, in fact, a decent, honorable group of civil servants trying to do the job and do it well. >> Thank you. Appreciate your discussion, your insight, and information. Thank you. >> Thank you. >> Thank you. >>> Finally, gas prices are dropping below \$4 a gallon, just ...

MSNBC - U.S. Cable
Deadline: White House



MSNBC 08/11/2022 04:38:35 PM: ...saying a though a lot has happened today the key questions in this statement remain, and turn, as have been doing embarrassing to the late Andrew Weissmann who astutely had a couple of tweets and has been reinforcing this point over and over again. Key questions for Trump and Republicans to answer, why did Trump steal a boatload, another point that you refer to is a crapload, a though you used a different word, why did he lie about having returned them and what did he plan to do with them? that's still the big question, right, Andrew? we are about to see the warrant. we see where we end up there, but those questions are the pertinent questions and no one on Donald Trump's team or anybody really in the Republican camp has come close to answering them. >> you know, one of the things that Donald Trump is very good at doing is monopolizing the conversation. this reminds me and they recognized this when you are a trial lawyer and representing the government, any day that the defense has the jury thinking about the prosecution table and the agents and what did the prosecution do is a day that the prosecution is losing and the defense is winning and conversely, the prosecution wants to have you focus on the defense table. well, you know, one of the things that Donald Trump is very good at getting everyone to focus on, isn't this outrageous that the department of justice followed the rule of law and then speculated about improper practices whatsoever. the issue was not merrick garland, the department of justice or the court system. all of that, there's no reason to think that any of that is not totally in keeping with what should be done. the real issue is why did the president have classified documents at Mar-a-Lago? why did he not return a lot of the documents which think what we are soon going to get the chapter and verse on and what was he planning on doing with those documents or what did he do with those documents? those are the real questions, and you know, there's somebody who can answer these questions. Donald Trump, and he hasn't said a word about those key questions. >> barb, there's been a lot of speculation over the past couple of days about, you know, is there a word in which given overclassification that the DOJ would have gone to the length to try to get back some classified document that's not of maybe of that much significance and not something that's incredibly scandalous, that's an archivist thing and Donald Trump has them and who knows why he has them and let's go back and get them. other people have said there's no way merrick garland would have approved a search that would create this kind of firestorm that in some way would have gotten something approaching the fueling of a civil war like situation where the Republican party has turned against the federal law enforcement in a very straightforward way, in a very loud and unequivocal way. is there any word where you can imagine where what we learned in this case is that Trump is able to say, yeah, it was a classified document, but who cares? it's not that big a deal? or is it just on the face of it that this is going to turn into a big deal? >> think there's no word that they would push these documents did not contain information that was critical important to keep confidential. the definition of classified information was information, the disclosure of which would cause grave damage to the national security of the United States. there's been some reporting that there were even top secret documents in here and that's a subset of classified documents that's a much rarer set and involves the most secret of information and in fact, the definition there is that the release would cause exceptional grave damage to the national security of the United States, and so this seems like something they've pushed and pushed for months. first they ask for a subpoena and then they asked a subpoena and then they had to go in and get those documents. don't think this was on the menu of what was on the White House mess on January 19 of 2021. these are things related to national defense information. can't begin to speculate what they might be, but these are the kinds of secrets that would harm our national security if they were released and they can't be out there in the ether where the ether where they can fall into prying eyes. there was a woman who was a Chinese national who was caught trying to steal secrets from Mar-a-Lago. you can't have this stuff lying around in a place where the public comes and goes. >> that's a relevant benign explanation that falls into the wrong hands or Donald Trump is trying to place it into the wrong hands for political gain or personal gain. Kate, you've been crushing this story ever since Monday, breaking news on the hour, basically. one of the big questions in your mind now, and in the reporter's ...

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FNC 8/11/2022 4:17:37 PM: ...and the reason why he shouldn't be treated like an every day decision, we don't want to create bad incentives for future presidents. that's why attorney general merrick garland should be treadng carefully. to treat a former president as a criminal, like a mafia boss to destroy records, that's the on your circumstance that could think would justify this kind of search. leads you to think that they're terrible prosecutors and terrible decisions making going on at the justice department looking for something involving January 6 and hope they find it by chance. >> neil: to that not on, John, the preamble to a.g. garland's comments included comments about applying the law evenly, without favor, that everyone's entitled with evenhandedness of the law. feel like he sort of echoing what we heard from speaker Pelosi earlier in the week that nobody's above the law. but we do to your point treat the president, former president and the president's office with a certain level of respect? is that the word looking for? >> we want to treat former presidents carefully. we want future presidents to be able to act with deliberation, with speed so they're not worrying about the regulations. do you think president Biden's going to be worried about how he acts and what kinds of documents he's going to keep and file will be investigated? this is the dynamic we don't want to create. we want to negotiate things fairly. we don't see agents busting on Harry Clinton to see what classified information she had. we allowed her lawyers to produce them to the justice department. it's very, very strange that this happened, that you used 300 agents to search a former president's house just to look for the location of classified documents, which it appears the justice department knew where they were, how many they were and they were under safe lock and key already. >> Charles: Mar-a-Lago was just on with Martha. she talked about there could have been an informant. let's take a step. >> sadly look at his White House. look at the number of people that were out for sabotage at a times. a ways have to look behind your back especially when your last name the Trump. seems like there's a ways somebody out to get you. don't know in particular that he's focused on this one. ...

CNN - U.S. Cable
Situation Room With Wolf
Blitzer



CNN 08/11/2022 05:00:11 PM: our coverage continues right now with wolf blitzer in "the situation room." president trump's now responding to the u.s. justice department's new move to unseal the warrant used to search his home. the attorney general of the united states revealing he personally approved the request to retrieve documents from mar-a-lago and condemn attacks on the integrity of his department and the fbi. we come to our viewers here in the united states and around the world. m wolf blitzer. you're in "the situation room." let's get straight to our top story. we're just learning right now that a federal court in florida has instructed the u.s. justice department to confer with former president trump about his request to unseal the search warrant and to let the court by 3:00 p.m. tomorrow if he opposes it. our reporters working the story for us. ka tan, what's the latest? >> reporter: wonderful, we're talking about a court document under seal right now, and the judge has set a deadline of 3:00 p.m. tomorrow to get an answer whether donald trump and his lawyers want this document out there in the public eye. so the justice department requested in court to unseal this document. they want to give the courtesy to trump's team, as you normally would do in court, to get a response. the arguments the justice department's making is that it's in the public interest to put this document out there. and that a lot of this has already been spoken about by trump and his team that a search occurred at mar-a-lago. but want to listen to a little bit of what merrick garland said in his remarks around 3:00 this afternoon. here's h m n f u . >> since became attorney general, have made clear that the justice department will speak through its court filings and its work. just now, the justice department has filed a motion in the southern district of florida to unseal a search warrant and property receipt, relating to a court approved search that the fbi conducted earlier this week. that search was a premises located in florida belonging to the former president. the department did not make any public statements on the day of the search. the former president publicly confirmed the search that evening, as his right. copies of both the warrant and the fbi property receipt were provided on the day of the search to the former president's counsel, who was on site during the search. the search warrant was authorized by a federal court upon the request of probable cause. the property receipt is a document that federal law enforcement agents leave with the property owner. the department filed the motion to make public the warrant and receipt, in light of the former president's confirmed ratification of the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in this matter. faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the justice department and of our democracy. upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly, without fear, or favor. under my watch, that's precisely what the justice department is doing. americans are entitled to the evenhanded application of the law, the due process of the law, and to the presumption of innocence. much of our work is by necessity conducted out of the public eye. we do that to protect the constitutional rights of americans and to protect the integrity of our investigations. federal law, longstanding department rules, and our ethical obligations, prevent me from providing further details as to the basis of the search at ...

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FNC 8/11/2022 4:27:17 PM: ... independent, in a dig to trump. the DOJ's not the president's personal lawyer and makes decisions independent from the white house. something that president Biden has set to make clear since he appointed Garland. >> more than anything, we need to restore the honor, the integrity, the independence of the department of justice in this nation. it's been so badly damaged. he embodied honor, fidelity to the rule of law and judicial independence. to those same traits, he's now bringing as attorney general to the united states not as a personal attorney to the president, but as the people's lawyer. >> so perhaps unsurprisingly, house republicans are not necessarily convinced though. they read into merrick garland's statement that he personally signed off on the search warrant as saying that it creates more questions than answers. they want to know does signed off mean that he actively directed or did he just allow it to happen and not stop it down or intervene. they say the fact that he admitted that he signed off has created questions among white house republicans about his decisions on making involvement. beyond that, they're skeptical of garland overall. many see him as a political person and harken back to that scuffle among the teachers. they point to the white house and DOJ having discussions about investigating parents who are protesting CRT, race theory in schools and investigating possible domestic terrorism as a sign that there's been some level of political influence over the justice department in the past. that's the view from house republicans, so at this point they did not hear enough from garland to be assuaged from political influence. >> and now here's a shahasne. >> the white house has tried to avoid this topic, stay as far away. chuck schumer said he didn't want to comment about it until he knew more information. now he has more information and we still haven't seen any comments from h.m. speaker pelosi has on your eye ...

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Blitzer



CNN 08/11/2022 05:07:21 PM: ...that brief statement from attorney general garland, is put the ball in trump's court. for him to make these decisions whether or not they are going to unseal this warrant and let the public see what was included in that ed up to that unprecedented search on his residence on monday. or they could object to it, and try to fight it and lay out why they don't think this information should become public. that would come several days after the former president and his aides frame this as a political motivated search conducted by the fbi. so that remains to be seen how he's going to respond to this. am getting the sense, wolf, that they were caught off guard by this announcement from the justice department, that they were moving to unseal this warrant. it seems like something that would stay private, unless trump decided to release it, which over the last 72 hours they had not decided to do. that remains to be even. trump has responded in a statement on net, talking about the actual search that happened. again, framing this as a raid, saying they went through former first lady melania trump's closets where agents were on the ground. that's not something we've confirmed with the justice department about what rooms they went into. we do know they went into his bedroom and office, including that basement room where these documents were being stored. we are waiting to see how he responds to this, and he does have a deadline of 3:00 p.m. tomorrow, wolf. >> ka tan, cons, stay with us. want to bring new ottwams and chief political analyst g or a borger. e ott, how unprecedented is this? the attorney general of the united states breaking the silence on an ongoing investigation, and effectively calling the former president's bluff. >> excellent way to put it, wolf. what this does is it puts the onus on the president to say whether he wants this information released or not released. the three

things that the attorney general said in this truly unprecedented statement, without talking about the substance of what was in there, number one, he approved the personally, that this is the buck stops with him. number two, the justice department doesn't just go knocking down people's doors and trying to find the east ntrusive means possible, and number three, attacks on my folks are baseless and are corrosive to democracy. so there were three important, powerful statements without ever saying what was in the documents, which is sort of a long the lines of what any attorney general would and should have done. >> dramatic stuff, indeed. go or a, the attorney general confirmed that he personally approved this decision to seek a search warrant. this isn't something he takes lightly, is it? >> no, certainly isn't. he took pains to say that they went through a process before reaching this step, and reaching the step of probable cause. and so, you know, as Donald Trump has portrayed it, it was a baseless, he called it a radical. it was something that was unprovoked. there was no reason to do it. they had been talking. everything was going just swimmingly. and then the attorney general said, you know, wait a minute, you know, wait a minute. well you know, there is a process here that was followed. and this wasn't an FBI that was, you know, trying in any way, the impact on of his statement was clear that this wasn't an FBI in any way trying to go in there and make a spectacle of this. in fact, just the opposite. and thank when he said, look, you know, let's release this. now Donald Trump has to say, okay, can release it. maybe Donald Trump would decide to release it. we don't know. and what we will not see, however, and what an knows more about this than do, what we will not see is a lot of the redactions, which would be contained in the affidavit. that is something that will remain under seal, and that would give us more of an insight on about why the justice department and the FBI really felt that they had to go in there and search for these documents. >> let me bring back Kate Lynn. if these documents do become public, the warrant and the list of items seized, what could they reveal? >> right. so we have four documents in total. there is the warrant, so that is the piece of paper on top that the judge could sign, saying yes, go do this search. we approve of it, we have reviewed it. yes, go ahead. and then there would be attachments to that, two in this case. one describing exactly what should be searched. some certain rooms, maybe trying to get into a locked area of some sort. maybe if there was a person that was searched, although we haven't had an insight on that is the case here. and then another document where the justice department has to write out in concise detail why they believe they need to search this, why they are wanting to take possession of it. they can either put in that document the probable cause, so the ideas of the crimes. so these are the specific crimes they are investigating. this is why they believe they can find this evidence of those possible crimes at this very place. but, of course, as go or a was saying, there is an affidavit that is another piece of paper that is not part of what goes and is trying to unseal here. the other one that should mention is the paper that was given back to the Trump lawyers. at the end of it, it is essentially a receipt. >> yeah, it is interesting. what an knows, the former president has effected you tried to set the narrative since Monday, calling it yet another witch hunt. but that is harder to do now, isn't it? >> reporter: well, he has had the last 72 hours to set the narrative here, because something that attorney general said and went out of his way to note she talked about the search warrant being granted to be executed at this address in Palm Beach, Florida. he noted it was Trump who confirmed it was his address, it was March 1st ago where this happened. because that was how the world found out that this search happened Monday night when Trump put out that statement. since then, he's been fundraising off of this. they are sending out multiple texts that the fundraising texts about Democrats and inflation, but they have been about this search of March 1st ago. he's using this to bolster his Republican allies. Republicans have been heavy critics of the justice department, certainly Republicans who are Trump's allies have been critics and said attorney general Merrick Garland needed to come out and talk about it. that has really been what you have seen pay out over the last 72 hours. today for the first time, we have gotten the justice department's side of things. as they do not often not comment over the last several days. so what this really does is turn things back on Trump to have his little team respond to this. it could shed a lot of light on this. one thing about the Biden White House is they say they were completely unaware that attorney general Garland was going to come out and make this statement today. they found out when the rest of us did that he was going to come out and they said they did not know what he was going to say. that matches on Monday when they found out from watching on television and reading tweets they are this search had gone on. >> interesting indeed. want everybody to stand by. much more we need to discuss. we will when we come back, including how soon we could potentially see these documents. stay with us ... right now, we're following the extreme unusual move by the U.S. justice department to have the search warrant for President Trump's Florida home unsealed in the face of increasing sharp blowback from Trump's allies. as a thought, a federal court has to direct the department to let it know by 3:00 p.m. tomorrow whether Trump opposes the unsealing of these documents. let's bring back our experts and reporters. walk us through what we can expect tomorrow and how soon we could see these documents. >> this could be wrapped up by the end, that is a real possibility. when a judge sets an order for a response without further briefing, just saying to us what you think by 3:00 tomorrow, that is well before the end of the day. they could look at what the Trump team decides to do on this, and make a decision fairly quickly. they could take it under advisement, think about it, write an opinion on it. that is something we also see in high profile, political charged issues like this, especially in unprecedented issues. there are a so other things that could happen between now and then. there are media organizations that are also in this docket, in this court, asking for some unsealing here. and so potentially we could see the judge set additional briefings. so this could pay out fairly quickly. but there are lots of steps here. the one thing that do want to emphasize, this isn't ultimately up to Donald Trump and his lawyers. we are waiting on what they decide to do, whether or not they want this to be released and what they tell the court, what they will ask for in court. ultimately, it's up to the judge. >> good point. let's get your legal perspective. what do you think? do you expect we could see these sensitive documents? >> agree, certainly soon may not be tomorrow, but within weeks. even if the judge allows Trump's lawyers to brief on paper, the judge could issue a ruling very soon after that, and make the documents public. the most notable part about this is that both in his comments today and as the justice department wrote in the actual motion, essentially they say you drove us to this. we were perfectly fine, keeping things as we would with any

other person of the united states, we would have kept this secret. and there was no media attention around this number one, the president and his attorneys both issued or spoke publicly about this. therefore, breaking with justice department tradition, we are speaking out publicly on this. his comments, again, on paper, legally written out, they sort of this is a brush back pitch for a lack of a better way to put it, for the president saying this is the reality where we are and this is your fault. >> gora, how potent is the fraud that is with the midterm elections in november? >> very potent is the fraud and the trump people though this. what they have managed to do in taking to republicans this week, as they have, someone said to me, this has managed to unite republicans like we haven't seen in a long time. when do you get mckinzie and ron desantis on the same page, defending donald trump? hardly ever. mccarthy came out, you know, saying watch out, merrick garland, and he managed to unite his right flank in the republican house caucus. so they have united behind donald trump on this. and the democrats are saying, you know, hold on, there are notably some republicans, argey in the senate, two have held the rifle, because they want to see how this plays out. let me just, you know, remind our viewers that we now we know sort of what was happening and the process of a of this. but what we really don't know, we don't have any idea, what specific the justice department is looking for in these documents. and we don't know that by the end of this week. think that's still the big question mark here, what's this about? this is just about getting these documents, which should never have been taken? or is it about specific documents and what was in these documents? we just don't really we don't have a full explanation yet of what's behind a of this. >> wof, could you say one quick thing on that. even if you don't see the documents themselves, the containers or files they're might be marked top secret, top secret information or whatever else, and just that fact alone is indicative they shouldn't be out of government hands and not in a safe in somebody's house. even if you don't read the documents. >> good point. katan, how does the trump inner circle react to the news that a witness cooperated with the federal investigators? >> reporter: think they're a little skeptical of this. of course, there have been many questions of who this person is that spoke to investigators about what they knew about these documents. think you have to look back at what a chaotic period it was when trump decided to leave the white house in january of 2021. of course, that was after he had been disputing the election for months, trying to overturn the results, pressuring lawmakers and state firms. and when you spoke to people in the west wing at that time, it was a chaotic time, and there were documents going back and forth, being taken to the residents. you saw when trump left the white house that day, there were a dozen carryng documents as they went to marne island, before they heard that farrast left to leave the capitol and leave washington to go to palm beach. so think there have been a lot of questions about what was cataloged, what was taken, why it was taken, and then what gora was getting to, which is not just what's in these documents, but once the national archives made clear they wanted these documents back in the repository, why they got 15 boxes and not a of them. that's been a critical component here. as the reportng showed on monday, when investigators visited mar ago on june 3rd, trump's attorneys showed them the room where these documents were being kept, the ones they had not returned to the national archives. so a lot of questions about what's in those documents, and the federal government and the national archives is very interested, as we. >> a lot of sensitive issues, indeed. thank you very much. >>> first on cnn, which former trump cabinet official is the latest to talk to the house january 6th select committee, and who might be next? we have new information straight ahead: bout to get down, vng t up ...

MSNBC - U.S. Cable
Deadline: White House



MSNBC 08/11/2022 04:52:05 PM: ...>>> this was not just extreme carelessness with classified material, which is still totally disqualifying. In my administration, I'm going to enforce laws concerning the protection of classified information. We also need the best protection of classified information. That's the worst situation. >> totally disqualifying. Keep that in mind as we go forward here. If you go back a little bit, though, after years of saying all the stuff you just saw, but here comes, look her up, all those attacks, Donald Trump, in 2018, signed a law that increased the penalty for the, quote, unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or material from one year to five years in prison, and changed the status of that violation from a misdemeanor to a felony. Turns out, that decision, that move by Trump, could ultimately be what costs him dearly in the end, something that probably bumps points out today in his column in the "Washington Post." He joins us now and Barbara back as well. Ph, gives the quick summary of the piece you wrote today, which I saw, and thought, this is really interesting, and now it seems even more interesting because this could be bad news for Trump. Self-inflicted harm. >> right. What essential happened there is a section 702 of the FISA Act, gave the government all sorts of power to do surveillance, but it was expiring at the end of 2017, and there was this push to renew it, and as part of that legislation, actually authored by Devin Nunes, who was a hard core Trump loyalist even then, they inserted this one that increased the penalty for retaining classified documents from one year to five years. Donald Trump, after hemming and hawing, because he was on the outs with the intelligence community, he ended up signing that statute on and now it's fascinating because you see out there in conservative media, one of the most fervent defenders of Donald Trump's kashpate, who worked for Devin Nunes at the time so Trump's relying on Kashpate to defend him on his ownership of classified material is now that this is a statute on that he could potentially face five years in prison. >> Barb, we were talking about the fact that there have been examples of people who have run afoul of this of the appropriate way of handling classified material. Sandy Berger, bipartisan national security advisor, but there was never the notion that you might spend five years in prison for this, at least in prior cases. Talk about whether this really is something that would weigh with Trump having gone this far, whether you could imagine a scenario in which Donald Trump, if he's found guilty, actually ending up having to go to jail for a not trivial amount of time. >> so, the penalty, as we just heard, has gone from one year to five years. Ordinarily, sentences are determined not based on the statutory maximum but based on sentencing guidelines. Did this do this genuine national security? The content of these documents is going to matter. The eve of a witness matters. There are a number of facts but the court is not limited to a misdemeanor, and it could sentence up to five years. That would be the statutory cap. I'd be surprised if anybody got that much time, but think any prison time for a person who's running for president is a very substantial amount of prison time. >> Barb, with those kind of with the maximum at five years, it's hard to imagine peeling yourself down to probation on that case, even if all the factors are cutting the right direction for you and you're a former president, hard to imagine you could bargain your way out of doing any prison time. Maybe I'm wrong about that. >> yeah, it's not impossible. Again, you know, the guidelines would matter, mitigating factors would matter, aggravating factors would matter, but no doubt the stakes have gotten higher because of that change in the law that Donald Trump himself signed. So, a phrase about karma comes to mind. >> Ph, do you have a phrase about karma. Yes indeed. Ph, do you imagine that any of these any of the the fact that Trump did this thing that we're talking about here, has ever come into his mind at all as he was deciding that, hey, you know, it's okay for me to keep classified documents down at Mar-a-Lago? It seems like a lack of awareness maybe about the recent history. If you were aware of what you just did, you might think that would change your behavior, but that's not the way Trump rolls. >> yeah, mean, the false assumption is not that Donald Trump has an intimate familiarity with the letter of the law. Do think, though, that this is something that came up before, and it came up even before he left office. Think it's safe to assume that the predicate for this was this outrage on the right over Hillary Clinton and trying to, you know, make it so this was a more problematic thing for offcass, so there certainly was some awareness among his allies that there was a reason for doing this. But he'd be this is something that he should have been aware of. There were questions even before he left office about the retention of classified documents and now obviously it's come back to bite him. >> a right, Ph, that's a story about geese and ganders. What's good for the goose, good for the gander. Donald Trump may be about to earn that. Thank you both. >>> more on today's breaking news right after this quick break. On today's breaking news right after this quick break. ...

CNN International (US) - U.S. Cable
The Global Brief with Bianca Nobilo



CNNI 08/11/2022 05:02:16 PM: ... nterest. th s means we may be c ose to know ng why the fb wanted to search mar a ago and what they were ook ng for and what they found. but t s not certa n that trump and h s a es w want that nformat on revea ed. cnn po t cs sen or reporter s n wash ngton d.c. for us. stephen, prosecutors don t tend to revea the r cards dur ng an ongo ng nvest gat on. espec a y one of th s magn tude. why s th s happen ng? how unprecedented s t? >> t s very unusua for the just ce department to f e for a warrant to be unsea ed, because the warrant s sea ed n the f rst p ace to try to protect the pr vacy of the person that t targets n case t turns out that they hadn t comm tted the cr me as to stop any damage to the reputa on. n th s case, the former pres dent, dona d trump was the person to f rst above amer ca wh tmer gar and s do ng s try ng to get ahead and to respond to the tsunam of consp racy theor es and m srepresentat on that has come from trump s campa gn, th s was an ega ra d, that th s was a po t ca persecut on of the former pres dent. he s us ng the too s that he has under the w to try to push back aga nst t s very unusua >> to ead w th the property owner. the department f ed a mot on >> s >> apo og es for that techn ca d ff cu ty. stephen, te us what s go ng to happen next? f the warrant s and sea ed how c ose are we to f nd ng out why the fb searched mar a ago? >> th nk we are c ose to f nd ng out why t wanted to search mar a ago f the warrant sn t stee, because n order to get a warrant you have to show there s probab e cause to be eve that a cr me was comm tted, so f the fb be eves there were c ass f ed documents thershou dn t have been. they wou d have to say that to the judge. whether the accompany ng document of the just ce department says t wasn t unsea ed on a prompt to st a vote was taken away, w th that mater a was s a tte uncerta n. t s qu te key y to be on spec f c f th s conta ns c ass f ed documents as we be eve t too. we may not f nd out now wet wasn t the ho e that was taken away, but we may f nd out f the judge, poss b y next week, dec des that th s shou d be unsea ed, why the fb wanted to take away those documents. >> we w wa t and see. steven co ns, thank you for break ng us down the atest front.

Fox News - U.S. Cable
Your World With Neil Cavuto



FNC 8/11/2022 4:49:12 PM: ...across the agency as we cont nue to stay v g ant and adjust accord ng y. we know that fb d rector chr stopher wray knew about th s before t happened on monday. same th ng w th attorney genera merr ck gar and. u t mate y the department of just ce oversees the fb as chr s swecker just sa d. that s why we heard attorney genera merr ck gar and come out. and a tte wh e as, the a.d. came to ment on that the search warrant that doj s ask ng to unsea s d fferent than the aff dav t. the aff dav t won t be unsea ed per doj s request. they re just ask ng for the search warrant to be unsea ed. the search warrant there have nformat on on t, but t s the aff dav t that w g ve a spec f c reason that the judge n f or da s gned off and sa d okay, et me put my name on th s and have the agents go ns de and co ect what we need to co ect. >> char es: thanks, dav d. want to go to aw professor jonathan tur ey. he jo ns me on the phone. so jonathan, saw you on ear er w th martha. you ve had more t me to ook nto th s. what are your thoughts r ght now? >> we , there s st mount ng quest ons that have been eft unanswered even after the attorney genera spoke. n fact, some of those quest ons seem even more po gnant. he d d knock down the news week story that he d d not approve th s ra d. many of us have specu ated that he m ght be ab e to do that. he d d not address any of the other co atera quest ons. mmed ate y when he spoke, a number of us sort of threw a f ag on the p ay when he sa d we wou d re ease the warrant and tem zed st of secured mater a . the warrant w answer a few weeks, but arge y conf rm what we know as to the bas s of the search. at east what has been reported. t s rea y the aff dav t that s the core nformat on that we ve acqu red. there s some aspects of th s account that don t make sense. someone s obv ous y y ng. the trump team s say ng that they d d not hear from the fb after the june meet ng. they agreed to secure the storage area as they requested. ...

Fox Business Network - U.S. Cable
Kudlow



FBN 8/11/2022 4:11:18 PM: ...the bun but no beef. >> m gett ng hungry a ready. arry: the th ng s, john, th nk, th s has attracted so much attent on. f the just ce department, mean, gar and sa d today you know peop e wou dn t have an nterest n th s but then he sa d because trump re eased t that a of sudden everybody had nterest. my response to that s whatever. when they start bang ng the door down everybody had an nterest and therefore don t know how, what report ng you re go ng to do or what you re th nk ng about for them to th nk there w not be another uproar over th s where he essent a y n three m nutes and 30 seconds whatever sa d noth ng, th nk he w be very bad y m staken. >> yeah. sten peop e w care and just ce department knew they were go ng to care. that s why they were try ng to worry about ow mpact. h s statement s debunked by h s own department s comments. et me te you about someth ng that struck me. merr ck gar and s very buttoned up we don t ta k about ongo ng cases except what the aw a ows us to. ook at a the comments fb d rector way and attorney genera gar and made by ongo ng january 6th comm ttee. they were expans ve n comments an efforts, amounts, mot ves, pena tes. seems ke the attorney genera can comment on cr m na cases n the nterest of h s democrat c party and be buttoned up when t s not. just encourage peop e to go back, ook at the c ps. you saw a d fferent attorney genera he was g ad to ta k about the january 6 cases. arry: he sort of referred to but don t know f he used term of doub e standard. was th nk about h ary c nton and james comey. doub e standard, john so omon, was th nk ng about potent a assass n outs de of judge kavanaugh s house, or doub e standard just the fact a the protesters were on the rea estate owned by other just ces. he never sa d, never went after that. n fact he k nd of d ssed t. he seemed to go out of h s way or remember the parents domest c terror sts at the board of educat on meet ngs. he wasn t bashfu about comment ng on th s but th s one a of sudden he s buttoned down. john, ast one. you re very k nd w th your t me and your ns ghts. s your report ng show ng anyth ng that the wh te house knew about th s? >> no. wou dn t be surpr sed based on trad t on f the wh te house counse knew but a my report ng nd cates the pres dent was never to d unt t became pub c that wou d be cons tent how th ngs happen. somet mes the wh te house ...

Newsmax TV - U.S. Cable
The Chris Salcedo Show

NEWSM 08/11/2022 04:06:48 PM: ...system c prob ems and aw enforcement for years. the way to prevent t s to make sure that there are peop e who are watch ng transparent y to make to see that noth ng mproper has done. courts are supposed to do that. the med a s supposed to do t, uh, when gar and was easy appo ntment because there was a former judge. who shou d be oversee ng the just ce department and nonpo t ca way m st prepared to



give him kind of presumption of innocence, as he said about trump, but think he has to come forward and justify a lot more clearly why they went for a search warrant. in this case so unusual in a case like this. the other thing he has to justify is why they arrested navarro. why they arrested Manafort why they arrested Stone. normally if my client is indicted, get a call at four o'clock in the afternoon. check your clients indicted. bring him in tomorrow. no. tomorrow is a little inconvenient. alright bring it on Tuesday or Wednesday. that's the way it's done. they don't go around shackling and handcuffing people and that shouldn't be done in today. no, I'm sorry, professor. that's the way it's done for Democrats. republicans get brought in shackles and chains and with CNN cameras until that's how this works. justice department handles republicans professor. I'd show you thank you very much appreciate. the time is always served. alright folks, let's get on to my next guest president trump he met with him day after the raid. he's a so-called chair of the border security caucus. Texas conservative congressman Branban. congressman wanted to get you to react to the breaking news. indictment of justice here. going to unseal the warrant, but not the affidavit. your reaction? reacted the same as your previous guest. uh and that's also quite a surprise that Mary Garand had signed off on this. it was going to come out, so he had to fess up. but and then that to hear the quote of Merrick Garland, who could have been on the Supreme Court? thank God he's not um Mary Garand says he wants to see the law applied evenly. Americans are entitled to even handed application of the law, due process and presumption of innocence. where the heck was he where we're so where was a lot of this? when Hillary had 30,000 emails and James Comey, the head of the FBI, said there was classified information on that nothing ever happened. Peter Stricker, the lowest earner, you can go back. the anti-fascists compare them to what president Trump has gotten. what are January 6th the rioters that, uh at on January 6th, and what kind of treatment they're getting, and this is a witch hunt from the very get-go. no other president in history. Chris has ever been treated like this. and can't you tell this is just the same as during Stalinist the soviet union when the secret police barrer uh, he said, show me the man and show you the crime. they are out to get this president because they know that he's an enormous threat to the elite and the powers that be in this country and they don't want him to run again. and can't you tell they will stop it. nothing to do so it's a disgraced congressman. yeah as you know, congressman your leadership in the republican party. McConnell and Paul Ryan and others just like them. they've been the ones saying oh, no. we got to roll over and take a lot of this. they're the ones saying I'm a duck, pucker me in congress, but want to talk to you about that this government is too big and spends too much and congress is incapable of providing proper oversight to this bunch of unelected bureaucrats who are taking over right in front of our eyes. president Trump. was reluctant to cut government spending. uh what did what did he tell you? when you met with him? do you think he might be reconsidering that position? considering how out of control this unelected bureaucratic system of government that fourth branch of government is. there's no question mean, he fought it from day one. in fact, they're one minus one. they started talking about impeaching him. they went. they started going after Trump before he was inaugurated. 5.5 years the man has been attacked just relentlessly and everything they have accused him of has turned out to be a hoax and fake news and this is there's nothing different here. we had a great meeting with him with the republican study committee going up to his golf club in New Jersey. we had a had a good dinner. the man was he was energized. he was upbeat. he was fired up to lead our country out of this. they're self-inflicted disaster of that that we're seeing about by the Biden administration, and can't you tell that we urged him to really think very seriously about coming out. and he had lots of support in that room. and can't you tell this to Chris. even people who have said you know what we need a new republican to run for congress. we heard that coming from from several corners. we had those same people contact me and say, you know what we're going to need to. we need to get behind this man because he's fearless. he wants to drain the swamp. he will remove and clean house up there in this fourth branch of government you just talked about and they said will vote for that man again. we hope that he runs again. and can't you tell what. I'm not here to make an announcement. but think think it looks pretty serious that that he may want to jump back in and leave this country out of the wilderness. we, congressman, think think a lot of people are speculating. he may do just that. and just wanted to say that a vote for Mitt McConnell and a vote for Kevin McCarthy. as so-called leaders. you're gonna get more of the same. uh this is a

note to the republicans. you're now being actively targeted by an unaccountable fourth branch of government and your leaders have been telling you you've got to roll over and take it and just accept the double standard. thank it's fun. it's time that the republican party found new leaders. and a so just to buttress a point that you had said congressman you remember christopher wray comes out yesterday, saying that he wants to decry a lot of these individuals who are threatening law enforcement. where was christopher wray? when dave patrick underwood dhs cop was killed with by b m and anti-fascists? oh, he was nowhere to be found when left wingers are harming cops. but that the minute there's a threat made allegedly from a trump supporter. he's out there in front of the cameras as night comes tomorrow. congressman to fund 87,000 new r s agents, uh, on the job posting for these new agents permanent. washington's asking if these agents would be willing to kill the reform americans in collecting taxes. aren't the democrats trying to create a police state here, and if the police state exists, what does that do to elections? congressman what do you think it does to them that reduces everybody's confidence in the election process here, no one would trust the outcome. no one would trust the result, and the peaceful transfer of power would absolutely be in great jeopardy. let me tell you one thing, though, christians, because really have confidence. that our new majority, which we will have in january, uh, thank you're going to see some real bringing to the table overnight. you're going to see hearings. you're going to get some answers. we're going to have people testified under oath. uh and we thank you're going to get uh, of course. then let me back up a little bit, even though we might find that there's a lot of guilt and a lot of corruption going on there. it's still going to be up to the DOJ to prosecute this. and look at the difference between merrick garland going after the former president and what happened under obama, uh, with the whistleblower who was held in contempt by the congress as well. there's such a double standard of justice going on in this country today, and people are sick of it, and we really want to see some accountability and thank you're going to see that again. we won't have the white house in january. but god, we were praying to the good lord that we have a house and the senate and you're going to see some reckoning. we congressman, I'd have just encourage you and your staff have a look at the job posting for those r s agents. they're they're being asked if they'd be willing to kill the reform americans in the commission of the duties. thank you look at that congressman brannan. absolutely disgraceful and to have 87,002 r s agents, and we only have 56,000 border patrol agents guarding our southern border. send those 87,000. down to the border, make them into border patrol agents and turn them loose to be able to do the job. that's what needs to happen. well, yeah, but that that would take a congressman that actually puts the american people first rather than government first, sir, appreciate the time come back soon. here in the christians cedo ...

Radio

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WBBR 8/11/2022 3:05:44 PM: ...to change chance to Repub can contro but the Senate cou d be a tossup Yeah r ght wou dn t be got anyth ng at th s po nt fee ke we get so many unpred ctab e th ngs thrown at us. Jen grass a host of B oomberg aw we are wa t ng a merr ck Gar and the US Attorney genera aga n rem nd us what you re go ng to be sten ng for we obv ous y we re go ng to see whether or not he s go ng to g ve any spec f cs actua y Let s go to the Just ce Department and US Attorney genera merr ck Gar and s nce became Attorney genera have made c ear that the Department of Just ce w speak through ts court f ngs Ns work just now the Just ce Department s f ed a mot on n the southern D str ct of F or da to unsea a search warrant and property rece pt re at ng to a court approved search that the FB conducted ear er th s week that search was a prem se s ocated n F or da be ong ng to the former Pres dent. The Department d d not make any pub c statements on the day of the search, the former Pres dent pub c y conf rmed the search that even ng, as s h s r ght Cop es of both the warrant and the fb property rece pt were prov ded on the day of the search to the former pres dent s Counc who s on s te dur ng the search. The search warrant was author zed by a federa court upon the requ red f nd ng of probab e cause. The property rece pt as a document that federa aw requ res aw enforcement agents to eave w th the property owner the Department f ed the mot on to make pub c the warrant and rece pt n ght of the former pres dent s pub c conf rmat on of the search the surround ng c rcumstances and the substant a pub c interest n th s matter fa thfu adherence to the ru e of aw s the bedrock pr nc p e of the Just ce Department and of our democracy, upho d ng the ru e of aw means app y ng the aw even y, w thout fear or favor under my watch. That s prec se y what the Just ce Department s do ng a Amer cans are ty ent ted to the evenhanded app cat on of the aw to due process of the aw and to the presumpt on of nnocence. Much of our work s by necess ty conducted out of the pub c eye we do that, to protect the const tut ona r ghts of a Amer cans and to ...

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Thank you, a of your quest ons but as sa d was, a can say th s. A r ght, a very qu ck statement that s the US Attorney genera merr ck Gar and mak ng a statement from the US Just ce Department he started speak ng about 3 or 4 and t s now 3.9 so 5 m nutes tak ng no quest ons from the members of the Press n the room there. The b g head ne as we ve h gh ghted on the B oomberg the Department of Just ce, ask ng the judge a judge to unsea the search warrant for that Trump property. We re ta k ng about the F or da home of Pres dent Dona d Trump that was searched by FB agents. On Monday, spec f ca y a so merr ck Gar and com ng out and say ng he w not stand by s ent y when the ntegr ty s under attack. He s referr ng to those FB agents so aga n. He a so ment oned he was honored to work a ongs de Department off c a s ta k About the Just ce Department off c a s. He a so sa d, merr ck Gar and. We re ta k ng about the US Attorney genera say ng pub c interest we ghs heav y n favor of the unsea ng of that search warrant of Mar a Lago, the home of former Pres dent Dona d Trump you are sten ng to B oomberg Bus nessweek a Nasr M ke Reagan here n stud o w th us and st w th us. Lucky for us s the host of B oomberg aw on B oomberg rad o June Grasso June you are fur ous y tak ng notes. t was a qu ck statement as th nk you expected from Merr ck Gar and. He s not someone who seeks a ot of attent on. What does th s mean th nk t s be carefu what you w sh for. Because n th s case, Pres dent Trump sa d th ngs about the search that were most ke y you know that were outrageous act on at the FB p anted ev dence, Repub cans who are ask ng for nformat on and merr ck Gar and tak ng the rea y unusua step of ask ng to have the search warrant unsea ed so that means and a so he met not ce that he d d say wh ch we ve known but he d say that a copy of a war of the warrant and the property rece pt were eft w th Pres dent Trump s Attorney and h s Attorney was on the scene that s that s rea y what t was happen ng when th s was happen ng because they ve been say ng that no attorneys were present when th s was happen ng. So th s s n response to what Pres dent Trump sa d and what the Repub cans have sa d and t s rea y unusua to ask to have that unsea ed because now we re go ng to f nd out what the reasons were. And take t, we re go ng to f nd out the aff dav t that supported t, wh ch s where the rea ev dence s that aff dav t s go ng to be unsea ed as we . don t remember a t me when the Just ce Department d d th s m sure there must have been one but don t remember

especially so soon after, usually you don't find out about the search warrant until you almost go to trial in some cases and then they they they try to object to what's been admitted through the search warrant but have to say that this really shows you the seriousness of it and think what moved him was the last thing he said which was the integrity of the FBI was being questioned and think that that played into his decisions here. But also think it was important. He said the ethical obligations, prevent him from revealing what happened and what was in the search warrant but now he's doing it in the legal way so this shows you how this Justice Department under Merrick Garland's going to do things through the right process due process for a and protecting people's constitutional rights. That's really search warrants. Normatively to protect the constitutional rights of people and not have things blasted out when you don't know what's going to happen later on, as you mentioned before charges are even going to be brought so because it turns out to be nothing. Why would you want a lot of this reveal that the public and he took responsibility. He said personally what among the things in mode. one was personally approved this and he said the Department doesn't take this lightly these are ah-hahs that what we're going to find out's going to be something very important. And something that possibly Donald Trump doesn't want out there because he hasn't revealed what was taken during the pratt during these are we're taking to the host of Bloomberg Laubenberg read across so we want to bring into the conversation. A. En Rosenstien he's associate professor of law at the University of Minnesota, member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He joins us via zoom from Minneapolis. A. En, nice to have you here. A. ot go on and no quiet summer day. What do you make of what we heard from the US Attorney general Merrick Garland. think it's notable that the Attorney general he had to say something, though, what he said was ultimately quite limited and is fundamentally consistent with the Department's longstanding practice of trying to say very little publicly about an ongoing investigation it's notable that he confirmed that he personally approved the search warrant think many of us who've been following the suspected as much given the gravity of executing a search warrant on the residents of the former President, it's notable also that the Department's moving to unseal and make public the warrant and the receipt of what was taken so do think it's important to distinguish between the warrant on the one hand, which is a short document outlining the crimes investigated the place to be searched in the things to be seized from the underlying application on affidavit to the one which is key in this case a very lengthy document setting out a lot of detail the facts that the law enforcement agencies to get that warrant my reading of the Attorney general statement as well as the court findings, is that the Department of Justice's moving to unseal only the former the warrant itself, not the one application. So think we should be cautious about how much actual information. We are going to get the we wait the very east get a list of federal crimes of the Department's investigated and that's admitted a lot of important information professor. I'm wondering if there's any reason in your mind why a judge would actually turned down this request from the Justice Department. And it's not how soon do you think that would be before they would actually release this warrant. think that the judge in this case will give a lot of deference to the request of the Department think with the judge will be looking for whether Donald Trump objects Donald Trump as a private citizen has privacy interests in this and if Donald Trump objects. Then the judge might decide the DOJ doesn't submit a motion to make this a public. Of course, given how much Trump has already talked about this. it's perhaps a little bit harder for him to camouflage privacy interests here as to he's you mentioned on a pending the 5th year which we've heard a lot from the former President no there's there's no pending the 5th not nothing here. Nothing in this particular motion as they do with the criminaling Donald Trump we know a search warrant was executed Donald Trump's motion can object or not object to making that Warren public add to a 50 women issue we could think be a long drawn out legal process before this Warren's either released or not. Do you think there's an appeals route and stuff like that. mean, it could be. suspect that it will not be and that we have a decision pretty quickly again especially if Trump does not object, it could be that. You know, as early as this afternoon or tomorrow if Trump objects and, you know, the former President has been known to use the legal system aggressively in his interests and Yes that could be there could be a fight about this. But ultimately what this is not a substantive issue the investigation does not depend on whether or not this document is made public or not. And frankly,

think just DOJ trying to make it public so DOJ is saying that it wants to be transparent and Donald Trump wants to StoneWall that session. Do you remember the last time that in a high profile case, the Justice Department made emotion the standard mean, there are many, many cases that you know happen across the country all the time. It wouldn't surprise me if these motions occur for one reason or another, but obviously this is an unprecedented case and we really you know, other than perhaps the FBI investigation into the Harry Clinton email situation we really haven't had anything this high profile and of the very long time, forever. All right, you are listening to Bloomberg Businessweek and NPR Morning June a so host of Glenn Grass excuse me host of Lombard Law on Bloomberg radio and a so with us is professor Alan Rosenstien, associate professor of law at the University of Minnesota, of course, one of our top stories. One of our most written stories on the Bloomberg has to do with something that just happened moments ago US Attorney General Merrick Garland saying he personally approved a decision to search former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence and the Justice Department is asking a judge to unseal the search warrant regarding the search of a rare public parents today the FBI of course just a reminder searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday looking for classified documents that the former President may have improperly removed from the White House. And right now we have been talking about legal implications what this means. Certainly for the Attorney General of the United States to come out, make the statement and a so point legal implications what this means. Certainly for the former President. Want to bring back Jodie Schneider she's Bloomberg news Bloomberg TV and radio point called rector and she joins us as a student. So having heard the statement now what Jodie we think a couple things struck me listening to it. One is that the Attorney General said he signed the document himself. He made a point of saying that. So that's a little bit like the Buck stops with me. We thought there was enough probable cause for us to go do that search and signed it. There was ... a so a little bit of there's been so many attacks in recent days since the search in Palm Beach County. The other day that against the Justice Department and against just, you know, Democrats saying this is a political witch hunt, that think his statement that this was done according to the law, and no one is above the rule of law. He was trying to say we are doing what the constitution wants us to do what we're supposed to do and kind of stop the political arrows. Yeah, you know, 30. My assumption is that if the Justice Department wants this document unsealed that Trump's knee jerk reaction will be to fight them on that might be my Trumpology right 30 think absolute yes and again, the other point he made from a political standpoint more than a legal one but they may have some legal implications that he said President Trump was the one who came out and told you about it. We did not do that. We conducted our search. We had the evidence we believed we needed. Had the evidence believed needed to sign this we went about our search, but we didn't announce that are bringing back to Alan Rosenstien he's associate professor of law at the University of Minnesota, member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Sit with us. The zoom in Minnesota. So what is it that you want to see or know about in this warrant what will you be looking for. Professor, mean, want to see to know everything think everything this is a most what's everything for those of us who are not familiar with the law and what might be in a warrant yet wonder what exactly could be in this war and everything that could be in it sure so so you know we Cook, a couple things. So want to know what specific federal statutes. The Department of Justice is investigating. Are we talking about mishandling of or improper retention of official information mishandling of classified information, all the way up too you know the espionage act or other things. That's very important. Want to know what places were searched with in Mar-a-Lago. Want to know what things were seized and perhaps most important, want to know and we see if this is a so part of what DOJ is unsealing we're moving to unseal want to know the application. Want to know a lot of the facts that went into the law enforcement officer, going to the judge getting a warrant based on probable cause, because that's a huge amount of things to add a lot of color to this investigation with us who the Department is talking to. Tell us what informants. They may have told us what sort of surveillance is going on. We just tell us a lot of information and that will also tell us if this investigation in any way ate to the other investigations that we either no or suspect are proceeding in particular related to the fake election scheme Trump's call to Georgia. The January 6

resurrect on You know eccentric cetera but really in the case of this magnitude every breadcrumb is a potential bombshell. I want to ask you, looking at the motion now and they're requesting unsealing of the search warrants signed and approved by the court including attachments A and B, what do you think or attachments A and B could one of them be the affidavit FBI agent as to why they want this and what the evidence is absolutely could. I don't know what the specific practices in the Southerners to Florida where this affidavit where this warrant would have been issued. It's possible that it includes the effort. The affidavit which would be a very interesting but we have we have to see. I don't have any attachments. There were in this warrant. And, you know, we're dealing with a unique situation. And so I don't know if they your form out of the warrants in a somewhat different way it would have been in case of the Attorney General just said one way or the other. If the motion to unseal included the affidavit but we have to wait to see you on everything do, because just explain the importance to us knowing what's going on of seeing the affidavit supporting the search warrant that led the judge to sign the search warrant sure so again it's important to distinguish between two things. So the warrant and this is true in a cases. The search warrant is basically a permission slip from a judge to law enforcement agents saying you are allowed to go to this place, search and seize these items. But in order to get that permission slip. This is under the 4th Amendment in 8 States constitution the law enforcement agent must establish what's called probable cause that there are a crime has been committed and that evidence of a crime is located in the particular place and what specific type of evidence is there now. Probable cause does not strike the beyond a reasonable doubt burden at a criminal trial. But this is so not nothing so it requires the law enforcement agent usually working in conjunction with the local federal prosecutor to set out in a lot of detail the facts that the law enforcement agent knows that supports the issuance of the warrant and usually this is done in the narrative in which the law enforcement agent explains what the investigation is about how this been going who the sources of information are what they found and one can imagine no one would expect or one would hope that in the case of a search of a former President which would be truly unprecedented in American history that affidavit would be exceptionally detailed because both the FBI and the Justice Department and also the judge would expect an enormous amount of detail right they go they want to go way beyond regular probable cause just because this is such an extreme case so sour to be made public, then we would find out a huge amount of information. I'm not just about this particular investigation but potentially about how this investigation relates to other investigations. Now, it would not tell us to be clear, it would not tell us of the Department of Justice about to indict Donald Trump. There are plenty of search warrants that are executed that high they don't find what they were hoping to find or at the end of the day the Department chooses not to indict probable cause means probable. It doesn't mean definite but still tell us information and right now, information is what we all want to know now what's important as so to realize that although we may want to know information that is not necessarily the Department of Justice's job to give us that information until the indictment and there are good reasons involving individual rights and Donald Trump is a person with rights not to comment too much on investigations before, you know, you have an indictment or or some other some of the resolution so I'm just going to read from part of this motion, it said in these circumstances which are some of the circumstances of national you're reading I'm ready from the motion that Attorney General Gar and said he's going to issue they're making a motion to unseal the search warrant so they say he says a lot about for example what he said when we listen to him that President Trump made a statement that there's a great deal of public interest in this and he said these circumstances involving a search of the records of a former President the Government here by request the court unsealed the notice of filing its attachment absent objection by former President Trump so professor, what do you think there are they anticipate that President Trump is going to try to interfere. I don't think they necessarily anticipate but they are pointing out that under the standard principles of these kinds of motions in the privacy interests of the target of the search the target should get an opportunity to object to this. So I wouldn't say this is a boilerplate necessarily but they're just pointing out that again Donald Trump is a person like any of us, and he has the right to object to this if you want to again whether you will or not, I don't know even if he does, it's a little awkward to check given that he's

made so many public statements he said a lot of things that are awkward Yes we that's you've got to think but about the point what's the next shoe to drop in the point backer going over this. Where do you where do you see it going are they going to attack Gar and now for the statement today do you think, Oh, I'm sure, and we probably guess we will hear from President Trump, would be very surprised if we don't hear from him in this news cycle normally I'd be following Twitter know went to look at Twitter right away there. But, Yes, a symbol here from him as we did Monday he was how we know about this right and we will so probably hear from others. We heard from a number of lawmakers on Monday who basically came out and said, you know, this is a point watch hunt. This shows that there's you know there's a lot of unfairness and and the House minority leader Kevin McCarthy when's far Monday to say as Merrick Gar and and others should be careful when we take over the House. We will be investigating there's some point risk in these type of attacks. When you have no idea what's in this warrant and these other documents certainly there's a lot of risk and there's also, you know, there's point risk in that voters at some point some voters may decide. This is a too messy, as we were discussing earlier today there's you know the January 6 hearings there worse was going that showed that some Republican voters were essential to favor Donald Trump's 2024 candidate after, you know, after some of the allegations came out in those hearings on this in a particular Prmet me. Harris so there's risk there. But at the same time, one must keep in mind, one of the things that former President Trump's quite good

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NPR news/2022-04-28/2135 PM The people's eyes and the going on can see the road way out because they truly believed they were going to be use fee from NPR news in Washington. I'm winter Johnston Attorney general Merrick Gar and says he personally approved the decision to execute a search warrant for former President Donald Trump's Florida state this week. NPR's Ryan Lucas reports the Justice Department says it's so taking steps to unseal the details of the warrant Gar and says the Department has filed papers in federal court in Florida to unseal the search warrant and the property receipt of what was taken during the FBI's court authorized search this week of Mar-a-Lago, upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly, without fear or favor under my watch. That's precisely what the Justice Department's doing Gar and says he personally approved the decision to seek the warrant and said it was not a decision made lightly. He also defended the Justice Department and the FBI, both of which have faced fierce criticism from Trump supporters since the Mar-a-Lago search. Ryan Lucas, NPR news, Washington, gas prices hit a milestone in the United States today. NPR's Scott Horsley reports that's helping to extend a rally on Wall Street stock prices are going up as gas prices continue to fall. He says the average price of regular gas nationwide dropped below 4 \$ a gallon today for the time since March. Falling gas prices pushed inflation down last month from a 4 decade high in June. Many investors think that will give the Federal Reserve room to proceed more cautiously in raising interest rates, betting markets now anticipate a half percentage point rate increase. The next Fed meeting in September as makers were expecting the larger rate hike before this week's cost of living report who says prices are also easing the producer price index unexpectedly by half a percent. Between June and July. Scott Horsley, NPR news, Washington the Democrat controlled House is preparing to vote on President Biden's tax cut and climate change proposal on Friday, the bill provides more than 430 billion dollars in new spending over the next 10 years. The measure cleared the Senate with no support from Republicans on Sunday. It's expected to pass the House by a simple majority vote German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is promising a new package of measures to help the country tackle inflation and the rising cost of energy, NPR's Rob Schmitz has more. Speaking at his annual summer press conference, Scholz said Germany would tackle its energy crisis in solidarity with the European Union and that he was pushing for the construction of a new pipeline from Portugal through Spain and France to reduce Germany's dependence on Russian natural gas. Germany has brought down its reliance since the war started but still depends on Russia for around a third of its natural gas. That's NPR's Rob Schmitz reporting from Berlin. At last check on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 27 points. The S&P 500 down to this. NPR news this is WSAW news. I'm buckner New Haven's Puerto Rican festival will return this weekend after a two year hiatus will choose Mike Lyne was on the new haven Green today to see the city raised the Puerto Rican flag. Tue

Mar Mark the start of the celebration on Friday hop on the radio on a hot summer afternoon on the New Haven Green state representative one Candera set the mood with the rendition of Caballero Bandera, a famous song that touches on the history of the Puerto Rican flag and its importance to the culture Candera a Johns new haven mayor Justin Licher to announced the Puerto Rican festival of New Haven will return this Saturday for the time since the COVID 19 pandemic shut down for two years. Connecticut has among the highest concentration of Puerto Ricans of any state. We have much to celebrate which is our culture Moritz a bond is a city's public health director she says there is no better place to celebrate her Puerto Rican heritage and pride than in the Emerald City. We have to take the pride we as have our fellow Americans who will be part of this process we as a Porter we can on Saturday. The festival will include live music performances dance food family activities, arts and crafts, health and wellness resources and a career fair that starts at one p.m. Saturday on the new haven Green and stretches to city Hall. Make Ley Was a two news. A judge has ruled in favor of a Port Jefferson ice cream shop owner who challenged his free speech was infringed when a judge off a case cited him for hanging pro trump and anti Cuomo signs in 2020, off a case said. George Wallace was cited due to the size of the sign and lack of permits not the message Port Jefferson judge Terra Hogan says the sign ordinance was valid, but was outweighed by Wallace's constitutional right to free speech. The judge plans to appeal the decision in the ice cream shop now has a big sign that snub support of Lee Zeldin for governor this for O 6 support for NPR comes from NPR stations other contributors include pay come a too for HR and payroll designed for productivity allowing employees to perform their HR and payroll tasks using software. Learn more at paycom dot com, /radio this is a things considered from NPR news, in Wana Summers in Washington and in Massachusetts Chang in Cupertino, California Attorney general Merrick Garland has broken his silence about the unprecedented search of former President Trump's property in Florida this week in careful public remarks, Garland said he personally signed off on the search warrant and he has asked a court to unseal the warrant so the public can see that full adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy. NPR Justice correspondent Carrie Johnson has been listening and she is here with us now to talk more about it. Carry high. As okay so know that Garland and generally likes to speak through the work of the Justice Department. But today, he made a choice right to make a personal direct public statement in this case, why do you think that is where there has been a lot of speculation about exactly why the FBI search former President Donald Trump's residence at Mar-a-Lago. Trump and Republican leaders in Congress have been demanding answers about the search in bypassing the Justice Department without providing any evidence so Garden this afternoon, asked the court in Florida and seal the search warrant and the property receipt that is a kind of inventory. The FBI gave Trump's lawyer Garland pointed out that a search warrant was a big step for the DOJ perhaps referring to what our sources have described as a runaround from Trump and turning over the materials that should have gone to the national archives Here is Garland and the Department does not take such decisions lightly where possible in a standard practice to seek less intrusive means as an alternative to a search and to narrow the scope any search that is undertaken and of course as so Trump could have made this information public on his own. But he didn't want to he preferred to issue a statement accusing the administration of weaponizing the Justice Department against him again with no evidence right OK and as we mentioned, Garland said he personally signed off on the warrant and so did judge so curious how soon do you think the documents might be released. Kerry we, the court filing by the DOJ this afternoon is intense public interest in the case and the fact that the former President is the one who confirmed the search in the process. But this giving Trump a chance to object to the release of these documents. There is no word from Trump yet, so it's not clear how quickly the court will act on this we at that several media organizations have gone to court to unseal these materials to and we don't know exactly what the FBI was looking for, only that it relates to what the national archives has called the discovery of some key classified documents. Trump took to Mar-a-Lago archives got 15 boxes back but the FBI on Monday took a bunch more boxes OK and remember like when Garland became Attorney general. He was accused by Democrats for not moving quickly enough to investigate Trump's inner circle after the Capitol riot and

now mean he's getting criticism from Republicans who want to defend Trump. So do you have any insights as to how Gar might be thinking about all these different pressures on him? Yeah, the Attorney General wants to pay attention to the middle of the line, he says, at the time that he wants to follow the facts and the law, not to undermine any investigations but also not to smear anyone who's not charged with a crime. Here's more of what Gar said today about that: "Following the rule of law means applying the law even if, without fear or favor under my watch. That's precisely what the Justice Department does, and Americans are entitled to the evenhanded application of the law to due process of the law and to the presumption of innocence. We want to talk about public perception of the Justice Department because this week, Chris Wray, the FBI Director, raised concerns about an increasing number of threats against FBI agents, and there was even an incident in Ohio today at an FBI office there, what did Gar have to say about all these threats, the Attorney General didn't directly reference the incident in Cincinnati, but he spoke forcefully on behalf of the FBI and as prosecutors this afternoon. We won't stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked, the men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants. Every day they protect the American people. In the Attorney General says he's honored to work alongside those people as they process, involving Trump and the search at Mar-a-Lago plays out over time."

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WBBR 8/11/2022 5:03:20 PM: ...Washington wants to know what you'd say about the nation once we might know soon. The Justice Department has moved to unseal parts of the search warrant for Mar-a-Lago and moments taken Attorney General Merrick Garland didn't get a lot of details today about what could be in the warrant what they were looking for, but he said that it was decisions that the Department didn't take lightly. Emily Wakens is again today for Joe. Matthew, we have a jammed packed new show for you today. But as always, we've got to start off by getting up market report with Charles, thank you very much, Emily, you're on board the fastest are in politics. Lots going on. Lots going on Wall Street as we today. S&P 500 lower after an advance the top 1% that fizzed faded gone with a loss today of 3 points, lower, it's changed down less than one tenth of 1% the down today up 27 points. A gain of about one 10th of 1% Aztec down 74 drop. There are 5 tenths of 1% stocks wiped out earlier gains on speculation that the rate that followed softer inflation data went too far with the Federal Reserve still set to keep its monetary policy tight bond yields climbed 10 year yield 2.88.2 year old 3.21% spot gold 1789 the ounce West Texas Intermediate crude up 2.6% 94.34 Perot in character, that Emily Wakens as a Bloomberg business flash, thank you so much. Charles, it's rare, not often that the Attorney General, held a Press conference and when Merrick Garland spoke today about Washington was listening but in case you were here's what Attorney General Merrick Garland said personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter. Second, the Department does not take such decisions lightly where possible in a standard practice to seek intrusion means as an alternative to a search and to narrow the scope any search that's undertaken, Garland further address the criticisms of the Department has been under a taking the sun President to step of searching of executing a search warrant on a former President, faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy, following the rule of law means applying the law even if, without fear or favor under my watch. That's precisely what the Justice Department does. This is a developing story. There are still many ...

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[Carr e Johnson](#) (NPR)



[Steve nskeep](#) (NPR)



[Domen co Montanaro](#) (NPR)



Domenico Montanaro
@DomenicoNPR

AG Garland puts the ball back into Trump's court. The motion to unseal the search warrant:

"the government hereby requests that the Court unseal the Notice of Filing and its attachment ABSENT THE OBJECTION BY FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP...."

(CAPS mine for emphasis)

3:59 PM · Aug 11, 2022 · TweetDeck

[E e Mysta](#) (The Nat on)



Elie Mystal
@ElieNYC

The Garland presser was a very good job of standing up to Trump and his cohort of Republicans whose lies and bad faith are now threatening the lives of FBI agents

3:21 PM · Aug 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

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Tweet your reply

Reply



Elie Mystal
@ElieNYC · 2m

Replying to @ElieNYC

And moving to unseal the warrant... which will lay out all the probable cause to search him, is a fantastic move. 10/10 no notes.

24 110 1,008

[Zachary Petrizzo](#) (Da y Beast)



Zachary Petrizzo
@ZTPetrizzo

The right-wing blog, The Gateway Pundit, provides their pro-Trump readers what they want to hear following the Merrick Garland presser and falsely claims that Garland "basically admits THEY GOT NOTHING in the raid," further calling the search a "fishing expedition."

4:01 PM · Aug 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Caitlin Dickson](#) (Yahoo News)



Caitlin Dickson
@CEDickson

Garland says he "personally approved the decision to seek [the] search warrant" that was executed Monday at Mar-a-Lago.



news.yahoo.com

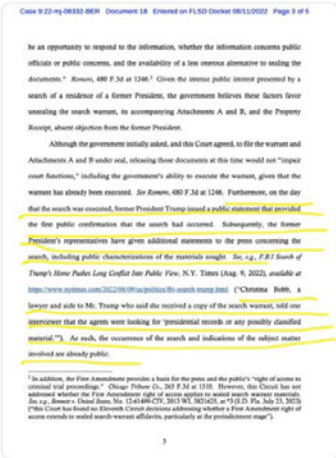
Merrick Garland: DOJ asks judge to unseal Mar-a-Lago search warrant
Garland said that he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," adding that "the department does not take such a decision ..."

3:42 PM · Aug 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Jessica McMaster](#) (KSHB41 Kansas City)

Jessica McMaster
@jessicamasterKC

Garland is using Trump's decision to first go public about the search at Mar-a-Lago to his advantage here:



4:09 PM - Aug 11, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

[Aaron Rupar](#) (Free lance journal st)

Aaron Rupar
@arupar

Unsurprisingly, Trump's response to Garland's statement is weak whataboutism



3:52 PM - Aug 11, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

Congress

[Sen. Marsha Blackburn](#) (R TN)



[Rep. Jerry Nadler](#) (D NY)



[Rep. Eric Swalley](#) (D CA)



Other

[Genn Krschner](#) (Legal Analyst and Former Federal Prosecutor)



[Barb McQuade](#) (Professor at the University of Michigan School of Law)



[Steve Vadeck](#) (Professor at the University of Texas School of Law)



[Jennifer Rubin](#) (Washington Post Opinion Columnist)



Jennifer "Pro-privacy" Rubin
@JRubinBlogger

...

By the HRC test his removal of docs is disqualifying for pres. - and he doesn't even need to be indicted. In fact his actions provoked the opening of the warrant. Garland playing chess. Trump eating checkers.

3:50 PM · Aug 11, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Greg O'ear](#) (Author)



Greg Olear @gregolear

Wow.

Merrick Garland sounded PISSED, especially when talking about the integrity of the men & women of the FBI & DOJ.

That sort of communication is EXACTLY what we've been calling for. Thank you.

3:11 PM - Aug 11, 2022 - Twitter Web App

George Takei (Actor)



George Takei @GeorgeTakei

Slow. Clap. Merrick. Garland. They demanded transparency, so you gave it to them—or otherwise forced Trump to object and keep the warrant and inventory contents sealed.

That's a grand master move.

3:26 PM - Aug 11, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

Full Articles

AP: [Justice Dept. seeks to unseal search warrant of Trump home](#), by Eric Tucker and Michael Baumgardner

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department's asking a federal court to unseal the warrant the FBI used to search the Mar-a-Lago estate of former President Donald Trump, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday, acknowledging extraordinary public interest in the case about classified records.

The request is striking because such documents traditionally remain sealed during a pending investigation. But the Justice Department appeared to recognize that its sentence the search had created a vacuum for bitter verbal attacks by Trump and his allies and Garland wanted to provide the FBI's side for what led to the action.

"The public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing," said a motion filed in federal court in Florida on Thursday seeking the unsealing.

Should the warrant be released — the request is now with the judge, and Trump can object — it could disclose potentially unflattering information about the former president and his handling of sensitive government documents right as he prepares for another run for the White House. During his successful 2016 campaign, he pointed frequently to an FBI investigation into his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, over whether she mishandled classified information.

It's unclear at this point how much information would be included in the documents, if made public, or if they would encompass an FBI affidavit that would presumably lay out a detailed factual basis for the search. To obtain a search warrant, federal authorities must prove to a judge that probable cause exists to believe that a crime was committed.

Neither Trump nor the FBI has said anything about what documents the FBI might have recovered. But the former president complained anew on Thursday about the search.

Trump, who for years has lambasted the FBI and sought to sow distrust among his supporters in his decisions, said the warrant was served and the search conducted despite his cooperation with the Justice Department.

In a post to his Truth Social platform, Trump said that his "attorneys and representatives were cooperating fully" prior to the search, and that government officials "could have had whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted, if we had it."

FBI and Justice Department policy cautions against discussing ongoing investigations, both to protect the integrity of probes and to avoid unfairly maligning someone who is being scrutinized but winds up ultimately not being charged. That's especially true in the case of search warrants, where supporting court papers are routinely kept secret as the investigation proceeds.

In this case, though, Garland cited the fact that Trump himself had provided the first public confirmation of the FBI search, "as his right." The Justice Department, in its new filing, also said that disclosure of information about it now would not harm the court's functions.

Even so, Garland, in a hastily scheduled public statement delivered from the Justice Department podium, appeared to acknowledge the unusual nature of the department's request as he declined to take questions or provide any substantive details about the FBI's investigation.

"Much of our work is by necessity conducted out of the public eye. We do that to protect the constitutional rights of Americans and to protect the integrity of our investigations," he said. "Federal law, longstanding department rules and our ethical obligations prevent me from providing further details as to the basis of the search at this time."

He said he personally approved the search warrant, a step he said was part of an ongoing Justice Department investigation into the discovery of classified White House records recovered from Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Florida, earlier this year. The National Archives had asked the department to investigate after saying that classified records were found in 15 boxes of records that were retrieved from the estate.

The attorney general condemned verbal attacks on FBI and Justice Department personnel over the search. Some Republican allies of Trump have called for the FBI to be defunded.

Earlier Thursday, an armed man wearing body armor tried to breach a security screening area at an FBI field office in Ohio, then fled and was injured in an exchange of gunfire in a standoff with law enforcement.

"We won't stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked," Garland said of federal law enforcement agents, calling them "dedicated, patriotic public servants."

Bloomberg: [Garland Seeks to Unseal Trump Warrant, Says He Approved Search](#), by Zoe Tamman

US Attorney General Merrick Garland said he personally approved a decision to seek a search warrant for former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence and is asking a judge to unseal the warrant and what FBI agents seized.

“The department does not take such a decision lightly,” Garland said Thursday, in his first public comments about the search.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation searched Trump’s estate in Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday looking for classified documents that Trump may have improperly removed from the White House.

Garland’s comments marked a sharp departure from the department’s usual practice of not discussing an ongoing investigation, and rebutted the torrent of criticism from Trump and his Republican allies over the unprecedented search of a former president’s home.

The docket next anticipated Aug. 25 would be the deadline for Trump to say whether he objected to the unsealing of the warrant. The judge then entered an order setting a 3 pm Friday deadline for DOJ to check with Trump’s attorneys and tell the court if Trump would oppose it.

Justice Department lawyers wrote in a court filing that the original reasons for sealing some of the warrant materials were no longer relevant now that the search had been executed and Trump and his representatives had spoken publicly about it.

“The public’s clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing,” the Justice Department said in the filing.

If the judge grants the government’s request, the public would get to see a copy of the search warrant including attachments that explain the general contours of the search and may reference what federal crimes are under investigation and a receipt that FBI agents left behind stating what exactly they took. A separate affidavit that prosecutors have to file in court as part of a search warrant application would remain under seal.

The Justice Department had written that they wouldn’t take any steps to release the documents until Trump had a chance to raise objections based on “egregious privacy interests” or some other possible harm.

The government’s unsealing request was signed by the head of the National Security Division’s counterintelligence and export control section, Jay Bratt, signaling investigators’ interest in the potential sensitivity of any documents in Trump’s possession. CNN previously reported that Bratt had visited Mar-a-Lago earlier in the summer to review documents and speak with Trump’s lawyers. The US attorney in Miami, Juan Gonzalez, also signed the document, another indication that this was no ordinary court filing from the government.

The filing comes after several news outlets and advocacy groups argued that a federal magistrate judge in Florida should unseal the docket for the search warrant. US Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart had given the government until early next week to respond.

Trump’s personal lawyer, Anna Habba, didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on the government’s motion to unseal the warrant.

Trump allies suggested the search warrant – which a federal judge had to sign off on after finding probable cause that a search would yield evidence of crimes – was potentially motivated. Some conservative commentators also floated baseless conspiracy theories that FBI agents might have planted evidence.

Trump said on his Truth Social media after Garland’s comments that his attorneys and representatives had been cooperating fully and that the search was a surprise.

“The government could have had whatever they wanted, if we had it. They asked us to put an additional lock on a certain area – DONE! Everything was fine, better than that of most previous Presidents, and then, out of nowhere and with no warning, Mar-a-Lago was raided,” Trump posted.

The Justice Department wrote in its court filing that they notified Trump’s lawyer – they did not name which attorney – “at the time the warrant was next executed.” Garland pushed back on what he called unfounded attacks on the professionalism of the FBI and Justice Department agents and prosecutors.

“We won’t stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked,” Garland said. “The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants. Every day they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to their safety while safeguarding our civil rights. They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves.”

The search and seizure of documents from Mar-a-Lago was part of an investigation into whether Trump unlawfully held onto presidential records, including classified materials, after leaving office in January 2021. Removing presidential records without authorization potentially violates a number of federal laws.

The Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have a longstanding practice of not speaking publicly about pending investigations, a policy rooted in concerns that they could wrongly implicate a person of criminal conduct who ultimately might not face any charges.

Garland stood by that policy in July when asked to share details about the department’s Jan. 6 investigation.

But there have been exceptions, sometimes with dramatic fallout.

Just over a week before the 2016 presidential election, then FBI Director James Comey announced the reopening of an investigation into Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton’s email server. Comey faced intense criticism for doing so as Republicans seized on the news to boost Trump’s candidacy in the final days of the campaign.

Garland, who had served as a top Justice Department official before becoming a federal appeals judge, vowed as attorney general to restore and defend the department’s institutional norms following what Democrats regarded as Trump’s attempts to politicize federal law enforcement.

But over the past few days, Republicans have turned that accusation back upon Garland, with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy accusing him in a tweet Monday of “weaponized politicization” of the Justice Department. That echoed an earlier statement by Trump calling the search “prosecutor misconduct, the weaponization of the Justice System, and an attack by Radical Left Democrats who desperately don’t want me to run for President in 2024.”

McCarthy warned Garland to “preserve documents and clear your conscience,” hinting Republicans would subject the attorney general to grueling hearings if they win back control of the House in November.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell was more measured in his response but called for an explanation for why the former president’s home had been searched. “Attorney General Garland and the Department of Justice should already have provided answers to the American people and must do so immediately,” McConnell said on Tuesday.

New York Times: [Subpoena Preceded Search Warrant in Push to Retrieve Material From Trump](#), by Maggie Haberman, Ben Protess, and Glenn Thrush

Former President Donald Trump received a subpoena this spring in search of documents that federal investigators believed he had failed to turn over earlier in the year, when he returned boxes of material he had improperly taken with him upon moving out of the White House, three people familiar with the matter said.

The existence of the subpoena helps to flesh out the sequence of events that led to the search of Mr. Trump's Florida home on Monday by F.B.I. agents seeking classified material they believed might still be there, even after efforts by the National Archives and the Justice Department to ensure that it had been returned.

The subpoena suggests that the Justice Department tried methods short of a search warrant to account for the material before taking the potentially expensive step of sending F.B.I. agents unannounced to Mar-a-Lago, Mr. Trump's home and members-only club.

Two people briefed on the classified documents that investigators believe remained at Mar-a-Lago indicated that they were so sensitive in nature, and related to national security, that the Justice Department had to act.

The subpoena was first disclosed by John Solomon, a conservative journalist who has also been designated by Mr. Trump as one of his representatives to the National Archives.

The existence of the subpoena is being used by allies of Mr. Trump to make a case that the former president and his team were cooperating with the Justice Department in denying and returning the documents in question and that the search was unjustified.

The Justice Department declined to comment. Christopher Bobb, a lawyer working for Mr. Trump, did not respond to messages. It is not clear what precise material the subpoena sought or what documents the former president might have provided in response.

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland on Thursday confirmed that he personally signed off on a search warrant that was executed on Monday. He did not address a subpoena, but said that "where possible, it's standard practice to seek less intrusive means," indicating that other measures were tried before a search took place.

The subpoena factored into a visit that Jay Bratt, the Justice Department's top counterintelligence official, made with a small group of other federal officials to Mar-a-Lago weeks later, in early June, one of the people said.

The official met with Mr. Trump's lawyer, Evan Corcoran. Mr. Trump, who likes to pay host and has a long history of trying to charm officials inquiring about his practices, also made an appearance. During the visit, the official examined a basement storage area where the former president had stowed material that had come with him from the White House.

A few days after the visit, Mr. Bratt emailed Mr. Corcoran and told him to further secure the remaining documents, which were kept in the storage area with a stronger padlock, one of the people said. The email was reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal.

Then, they subpoenaed surveillance footage from the club, which could have given officials a glimpse of who was coming in and out of the storage area, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. They received footage specifically from areas of the club where they believed the documents might have been stored, the person said.

During the same period, investigators were in contact with a number of Mr. Trump's aides who had some visibility into how he stored and moved documents around the White House and who still worked for him, three people familiar with the events said.

Among those whom investigators reached out to was Moly Mchae, Mr. Trump's assistant in the outer Oval Office who also went to work for him at Mar-a-Lago, three people familiar with the outreach said.

Investigators have also reached out to Derek Lyons, the former White House staff secretary, whose last day was Dec. 18, 2020, and no longer works for Mr. Trump, with questions about the process for handling documents, according to a person familiar with the outreach.

Federal officials came to believe that Mr. Trump had not relinquished all the material that left the White House with him at the end of his term, according to three people familiar with the investigation.

Less than two months later, about two dozen F.B.I. agents, intent on not wearing the blue windbreakers emblazoned with the agency's logo usually worn during searches, appeared at Mar-a-Lago with a warrant.

The club was closed; Mr. Trump was in the New York area; the F.B.I. started a crew fixing a large fountain, a maid who was dusting and a handful of Secret Service agents who guard the complex.

The search warrant was broad, allowing the agents to investigate areas of the club where classified material might have been stored. They went through the basement, Mr. Trump's office and at least part of his residence at the club.

After hours of searching, they left with several boxes that were not filed to the bedroom and in some cases simply contained sealed envelopes of material that the agents took and were otherwise empty, one person familiar with the search said.

The person said that the F.B.I. left behind a two-page manifest of what was taken. The F.B.I. does not need to list the substance of every item removed from Mar-a-Lago, and it is not clear what the inventory will reveal if it is unsealed by a Florida judge. If the manifest is made public, it is likely to be redacted to shield any classified material.

But the inventory provided to Mr. Trump's team does reference an array of sensitive material, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. For example, it alludes to miscellaneous confidential documents as well as some labeled "top secret."

Mr. Trump's team has declined to disclose the contents of the search warrant. A number of organizations, including The New York Times, are seeking a federal court to have it unsealed.

Some senior Republicans have been warned by allies of Mr. Trump not to continue to be aggressive in criticizing the Justice Department and the F.B.I. over the matter because it is possible that more damaging information related to the search will become public.

When Mr. Trump left the White House after refusing to concede that he had lost the 2020 election and seeking re-election to stay in power, a number of boxes of material made their way from the West Wing to Florida.

In the boxes was a mishmash of papers, along with items like a raccoon and golf bags, according to people briefed on the contents. The National Archives tried for months after Mr. Trump left office to retrieve the material, engaging in lengthy discussions with his representatives to acquire what should have been properly stored by the archives under the Presidential Records Act.

When archives recovered 15 boxes this year, they discovered several pages of classified material and referred the matter to the Justice Department. But officials later came to believe that additional classified material remained at Mar-a-Lago.

Some of Mr. Trump's advisers have maintained that they were trying to cooperate with federal officials and had kept an open line of communication.

But others familiar with federal officials' efforts to recover the documents have said that Mr. Trump resisted returning property that belonged to the government, despite being told that he needed to.

Some of Mr. Trump's informants advise outside his direct employees have insisted to him that he can claim the documents are personal items and keep them.

Washington Post: [Merrick Garland seeks to call Trump's bluff](#), Aaron Blake

From virtually the moment former president Donald Trump expounded on the execution of a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago and his GOP allies joined him in instantly crying foul, there has been a disconnect: A bunch of people immediately claimed this was a very bad thing, even as they (most) knew next to nothing about it.

What if the evidence behind the search was damning? How could you know the search went too far if you don't know what it was about? Otherwise, it sounds a lot like saying a former president is above the law.

Trump himself could shed a lot of light on this alleged miscarriage of justice, it was noted repeatedly, by disclosing the search warrant. But three days later, he still hasn't done so.

On Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Garland decided to put the ball more explicitly in Trump's court.

In a news conference, Garland announced that the Justice Department would seek to unseal the search warrant. But in doing so, DOJ made clear — repeatedly — that this wasn't a decision that could make unilaterally in a court filing, the department emphasized that Trump could object.

"In these circumstances involving a search of the residence of a former President, the government hereby requests that the Court unseal the Notice of Filing and its attachment (Docket Entry 17), absent objection by former President Trump," the Justice Department said.

It reemphasized at the end of the filing that "the former President should have an opportunity to respond to this Motion and lodge objections, including with regards to any 'egotistical prerogative interests' or the potential for other 'injurious' if these matters are made public."

That Trump could object is a matter of course. But the fact that the Justice Department chose to drive that point home to him — and even go through the route in the first place — is important.

The pushback against the search warrant on the right put the Justice Department in an unenviable spot: It's a most never comments on ongoing investigations, but this is a matter of significant public interest and is already the subject of plenty of very uninformed criticism.

From there, it could set aside protocol and make disclosures, or it could say nothing and let its critics drive the message, including with continued false and baseless accusations.

There was also the matter of whether Trump's lawyers even had the warrant. Public comments from one of his lawyers suggested his legal team was in possession of a copy, but a Fox Business reporter has called that into question. The filing Thursday effectively negates that.

From there, it's up to the Trump team to decide whether to sign off — or not.

On the one hand, there might be things in the warrant that Trump quite logically doesn't want people to know. But his lawyers object — even to the disclosure of limited details — to work like they're obscuring something, which would undermine the president's pushback. That could also give allies some heartburn, for fear of what they don't know.

(The New York Times reported Thursday that some Trump allies are warning some Republicans against overzealously criticizing the FBI and Justice Department, because damaging information might be coming out that would reflect poorly on those critics.)

On the other hand, Trump could just let it all come out — something he hasn't appeared apt to do thus far. That could reshape the entire conversation — one that's been much more fruitful for Trump in the abstract, because he didn't have to account for the actual details. Greenlighting the release would force a true reckoning over precisely what he or someone else might have improperly removed from the White House.

And unless things were to progress to a criminal case, it's not clear we would ever learn what's in the warrant. So Trump would be allowing the release of something that might not otherwise ever see the light of day.

Trump has until 3 p.m. on Friday to decide whether he'll oppose unsealing the documents.

Whatever the case, this seems to put the DOJ on significant footing rarer ground than in 2016. Back then, concerns were raised about FBI Director James B. Comey's unorthodox disclosures about the Hillary Clinton email server investigation — something Clinton allies later blamed for her loss to Trump.

Comey was effectively pushed into a corner, just as Garland was this week. On Thursday, Garland effectively pushed Trump into the corner with him.

Reuters: [U.S. confirms search of Trump's home, asks court to unseal warrant](#), by Sarah Lynch

WASHINGTON, Aug 11 (Reuters) — The U.S. Justice Department asked a judge on Thursday to make public the warrant that authorized an FBI search of Donald Trump's Florida home, after the former president attacked the search as an act of political retaliation.

Attorney General Merrick Garland confirmed for the first time that agents had searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach. The search is part of an investigation into whether he illegally removed records from the White House as he was leaving office.

Garland, the national top law enforcement official, said he had personally approved the decision to order the search.

His confirmation was highly unusual, since U.S. law enforcement typically does not discuss ongoing investigations. But it came after Trump himself announced the search on Monday night, alleging that it was an act of political retaliation by Democratic President Joe Biden.

Garland said the Justice Department had asked a court to publish a sealed search warrant "in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in this matter."

It was not clear whether Trump's legal team would object to the release of the warrant, which could shed light on the nature of the investigation.

In a statement on his Truth social network, Trump said: "My attorneys and representatives were cooperating fully, and very good relationships had been established. The government could have had whatever they wanted, if we had it."

FBI agents visited Trump's property earlier this year to investigate boxes in a locked storage room, according to a person familiar with the visit. The agents and a Trump lawyer, Evan Corcoran, spent a day reviewing materials, the source said. A second source who had been briefed on the matter told Reuters that the Justice Department also has surveillance footage from Mar-a-Lago in its possession.

Garland's Justice Department has faced fierce criticism and online threats this week following the search. Trump supporters, and some of his fellow Republicans in Washington, have accused Democrats of weaponizing the federal bureaucracy to target Trump.

The FBI said an armed person had tried to breach its office in Cincinnati on Thursday in what it called a "critical incident." Local law enforcement said officers traded shots with a male suspect wearing body armor. [Read more](#)

Gar and condemned the attacks on employees of the FBI and Justice Department. "I will not stand by silently when the integrity of the FBI is unfairly attacked," he said.

Some Democrats, meanwhile, have criticized Gar and for being overly cautious in investigating Trump over his attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden.

Republicans react to Gar and split between those ready to attack the attorney general and the FBI for the Trump search and others who warned against rhetoric that could undermine federal law enforcement.

"I have been ashamed to hear members of my party attacking the integrity of the FBI agents," Representative Liz Cheney, the Republican vice chair of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters, wrote on Twitter. "These are sickening comments that put the lives of patriotic public servants at risk."

Republican Senator John Cornyn mocked Gar and for suggesting the search could have been conducted quietly.

"Who would possibly believe that an application and issuance of search warrant for a former president's home and subsequent search could be done quietly?" the Texas Republican asked on Twitter.

Washington Post: [Justice Dept. seeks to unseal mot on for search warrant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago](#), by Devin Barrett and Perry Stein

Attorney General Merrick Garland announced Thursday that the Justice Department has filed a motion for a judge to unseal the court-authorized warrant that led FBI agents to search the Florida residence of former President Donald Trump.

Garland said he personally authorized the request for a search warrant and decided to file the motion to unseal since Trump had confirmed to the public that the FBI raided his property.

The statement Thursday marks Garland's first public appearance or comments since agents executed the warrant at Mar-a-Lago resort, taking about a dozen boxes of material after opening a safe and entering a padlocked storage area.

In keeping with general Justice Department practice, Garland has so far refrained from revealing details about the investigation involving Trump, which people familiar with the situation said is focused on whether the former president or his associates withheld classified or other government material that should have been returned to government custody.

So far, little is known about what specifically FBI agents were searching for at Trump's residence.

Pressure had been building for Garland to say something so the public understands why the Justice Department — and a federal magistrate judge — believed the extraordinary step of executing a search warrant at the home of a former president was necessary. But Garland and his general has refused to discuss ongoing investigations.

Upholding the rule of law means applying it even without fear and favor," Garland said Thursday. "Under my watch that is precisely what the DOJ is doing."

FBI search of Mar-a-Lago puts Garland in midst of political reform

Trump and his allies have denounced the search as unlawful and politically motivated but provided no evidence to back that up. They have refused to publicly share a copy of the warrant, which remains under court seal.

Since the search, many conservative talk show hosts and pro-Trump conspiracy theorists have issued explicit or thinly veiled calls for violence.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association — the professional association representing 31,000 federal law enforcement officers and agents — said in a statement Wednesday evening that its agents had received "extreme threats of violence" this week.

"A law enforcement understand the work makes them a target for criminals," the group's president, Larry Cosme, wrote in a statement. "However, the politically motivated threats of violence against the FBI this week are unprecedented in recent history and absolutely unacceptable."

Wall Street Journal: [Attorney General Merrick Garland Asks Court to Reveal Trump Search Warrant](#), by Sadie Gurman

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department has asked a Florida judge to unseal the warrant FBI agents used to search former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home this week, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday, raising the prospect that details of the extraordinary search of the former president's home could soon be public.

"I personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," Mr. Garland said in his first public remarks since Monday's search. "The department does not take such a decision lightly."

Mr. Garland said he filed the motion — which asks to unseal both the warrant and the receipt that lists the items seized — in light of Mr. Trump's confirmation of the search and the "substantial public interest" in the matter.

Monday's search of Mr. Trump's Mar-a-Lago home and social club in Palm Beach, Fla. was a dramatic escalation of a months-long investigation into the former president's handling of classified information. The move, while Mr. Trump was in New York, stoked a political firestorm with Republican lawmakers demanding an explanation for the unprecedented search of a former president's home.

Mr. Trump and his allies have criticized it as a politically motivated stunt by Justice Department officials.

LA Times: [Atty. Gen. Gar and personally approved Mar-a-Lago search, moves to unseal Trump records warrant](#), by Sarah Ware

The Department of Justice is moving to unseal the search warrant and the itemized receipt of what was taken from former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence earlier this week, Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland said Thursday, his first public comments since the FBI search took place.

It's extraordinarily unusual for the Justice Department to comment on an ongoing investigation, especially one involving such a high-profile person. Garland did not take questions from reporters. The motion to unseal the warrant was filed as Garland spoke. A judge must rule before the warrant can be unsealed.

"The department filed the motion to make public the warrant and receipt in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in this matter," Garland said.

The FBI did not disclose the day-long search of Trump's Florida estate. Trump announced it had occurred in a statement, referring to the court-sanctioned search as a "raid."

For days, Republicans have decried the search as a "witch hunt" and demanded more information about why a warrant was necessary to reclaim documents that Trump did not hand over to the National Archives upon leaving office in January 2021.

Far right agitators and commentators have threatened FBI agents, Department of Justice officials and the judge who signed the warrant, and online forums have surged with calls for violence. On Thursday, a man wearing body armor exchanged gunfire with law enforcement officers and attempted to breach the FBI federal detention center, though it's not yet clear whether it was in response to Monday's search.

The National Archives announced in February that it had recovered 15 boxes of material from Mar-a-Lago — including documents that had been damaged and some that were labeled classified or top secret — and was asking the Department of Justice to determine if criminal charges were warranted. Under the Presidential Records Act of 1978, such records belong to the public and must be turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration when a president leaves office. The act gives broad discretion in determining what records are personal and what are presidential records.

The New York Times reported Thursday morning that Trump received a subpoena this spring for classified documents that federal investigators believe he had failed to turn over earlier in the year. Multiple news outlets have reported that Trump's lawyers met with Justice officials in June to discuss what confidential records the former president still had in his possession.

The New York Times also reported that Justice officials believe that the information being withheld was related to national security and so sensitive that it had to act.

"Personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," Garland said Thursday. "The department does not take such a decision lightly."

Details of what records the FBI sought and obtained through the court-approved search warrant are not yet clear, but the itemized receipt should provide some details. Trump's lawyers have a copy of the warrant and list of the removed items, but have not made it public.

Trump's lawyers and several prominent Republicans have said—without providing evidence to back up the claim—that they believe the FBI planted information in the boxes it removed.

In his brief remarks, Garland said he had to respond to the "unfounded attacks on the professionalism" of the department.

"We will not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked. The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants."

CNN: [Merrick Garland just called Donald Trump's bluff](#), by Chris Cizza

(CNN) For the last 72 hours, since the FBI conducted a search of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home, the former president has spouted any number of claims about what happened and why. He's said that Democrats led the search (they didn't) and raised the possibility that FBI agents might have planted evidence, without providing any proof of the allegation.

On Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Garland struck back at both in the immediate wake of his appointment as the head of the Justice Department and actively investigating the possibility that Trump took classified documents out of the White House and had them stored at his mansion in Florida.

Garland announced that he had asked a judge to unseal both the search warrant justifying Monday's search as well as the receipt of what was taken.

Now, it's worth noting that Garland didn't go full ham on Trump and release the affidavit, which outlines a lot of the particulars informing the investigation.

The search warrant and receipt, according to CNN senior legal analyst E. Jean Honig, would provide a limited view of what happened at Mar-a-Lago Monday. It's unlikely, for example, that the receipt, which details what was taken from the resort, will have page-by-page records that can be pored over for clues as to where the DOJ's investigation headed. But Honig noted that there's sometimes an attachment appended to the search warrant that outlines the specific charges that the department's investigation in the warrant. Which, if it's part of what Garland's asking to be unsealed, could be very interesting.

The key thing to know here is that what Garland's asking to be unsealed is exactly what Trump and his lawyers have had since Monday night. And therefore, what Trump could have released at any point between then and now.

Trump has not done that. Instead, he has hurriedly lectured at the FBI and the broader Department of Justice, openly speculating about how the search of his property is good news for him politically as he contemplates a third run for president in 2024.

What Garland's doing is saying to Trump: You want to pay hardball? I'm here for it.

Now, again, Garland's hands are somewhat tied here. He's overseeing an ongoing investigation into the handling of classified documents by the former president of the United States. Trump's popping off on Truth Social, his social media website. They aren't paying by the same set of rules. Garland is bound by long-standing policy not to comment on ongoing investigations. Trump can essentially say anything he wants—true or not, backed by proof or not—without impunity.

Which means, of course, that nothing Garland said on Thursday, nor the release of the search warrant and the receipt of what was taken from Mar-a-Lago, will show Trump's insistence he's being unfairly targeted or b) change his followers' beliefs that he's.

Garland knows that. But he also wanted to make clear to Trump that he wasn't going to stand idly by in the face of an almost nonstop series of attacks about the DOJ and those who work for it.

Just in case anyone missed that message, Garland said this directly after he broke the news of his call to unseal the search warrant:

"Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy. Upholding the rule of law means applying the law even if, without fear or favor."

CNN: [Merrick Garland says FBI filed motion to unseal Trump Mar-a-Lago warrant and property receipt](#), by Terney Sneed, Evan Perez, Hannah Rabnowitz

(CNN) — In his first public statement since federal agents searched former President Donald Trump's home at Mar-a-Lago earlier this week, Attorney General Merrick Garland on Thursday said that the Justice Department had filed in court a request that the search warrant and property receipt from the search be unsealed.

Garland also said he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter."

He noted that the department did not comment on the search on the day that it occurred. He pointed out that the search was confirmed by Trump that evening. He said that copies of the warrant and the warrant receipt were provided to the Trump lawyers who were on site during the search.

"The Department filed the motion to make public the warrant and receipt in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in this matter," Garland said. "Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy. Upholding the rule of law means applying the law even if without fear or favor. Under my

watch, that's precisely what the Justice Department is doing."

The statement comes after days of silence from the Justice Department with regard to the search, as is the department's normal practice for ongoing investigations. Garand stressed that some of the department's work must happen outside of public view.

"We do that to protect the constitutional rights of Americans and to protect the integrity of our investigations," he said, while explaining that he would not provide more details about the basis of the search.

The Justice Department has been instructed by the court to confer with Trump about his request to unseal certain warrant documents from the FBI Mar-a-Lago search and to tell the court by Friday 3 p.m. ET if he opposes the release.

The FBI executed a search warrant Monday at the Palm Beach, Florida, resort as part of an investigation into the handling of presidential documents, including classified documents, that may have been brought there.

Newly filed court documents outline what the Justice Department has officially moved to do Thursday.

"On August 8, 2022, the Department of Justice executed a search warrant, issued by this Court upon the request finding of probable cause... at the premises located at 1100 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Florida 33480, a property of former President Donald J. Trump," the motion reads.

"At the time the warrant was initially executed, the Department provided no direct reply to former President Trump's counsel. The Department did not make any public statements about the search, and the search apparently attracted little or no public attention as it was taking place. Later that same day, former President Trump issued a public statement acknowledging the execution of the warrant. In the days since, the search warrant and related material has been the subject of significant interest and attention from news media organizations and other entities," the Justice Department writes.

DOJ then argues for unsealing the search warrant, citing "the intense public interest presented by a search of a residence of a former President."

The filing confirms that the search warrant was signed and approved by the Court on August 5. "On Thursday, the DOJ filed 'the redacted Property Receipt statement pursuant to the search,'" according to its unsealing motion.

"Former President Trump, through counsel, was provided copies of each of these documents on August 8, 2022, as part of the execution of the search," the filing adds.

Earlier this year, officials from the National Archives arranged the retrieval of 15 boxes of presidential documents from Mar-a-Lago. In June, federal investigators served a grand jury subpoena and took away sensitive national security documents.

Then, according to sources, prosecutors developed evidence that there were potentially classified documents with national security implications remaining at the property.

FBI officials under attack

Republican lawmakers have lashed out at the department, casting the search positively motivated. Several lawmakers on the right have called for increased oversight of the department, and some have even suggested defunding the FBI or that agents present evidence at the Florida estate.

Violent threats also have exploded online since the search. Posters have written things like "Garand needs to be assassinated" and "kill a feds." The biography and contact information of a federal magistrate judge who appears to have signed the search warrant used to execute the search at Mar-a-Lago has been wiped from a Florida court's website after he too became the target of violent threats.

In a message reviewed by CNN on Thursday moments ahead of the public statement, FBI Director Chris Wray told the bureau's employees the "safety and security" was his "primary concern right now."

"There has been a lot of commentary about the FBI this week questioning our work and motives," Wray said. "Much of this comes from critics and pundits on the outside who don't know what we know and don't see what we see. What we know — and what we see — is an organization made up of men and women who are committed to doing their jobs professionally and by the book every day; this week is no exception."

In his public comments, Garand also called out the "unfounded attacks on the professionalism of the FBI and Justice Department agents and prosecutors."

"We will not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked. The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated patriotic public servants," he said. "Every day, they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety while safeguarding our civil rights. They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves. I am honored to work alongside them."

NBC: [Garand said he moved to unseal Trump search warrant, defends DOJ from attacks](#), by Jonathan Allen and Vaughn Hardy

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday that he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant" for former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort and that the Justice Department filed a motion earlier in the day to make the warrant public.

Speaking about his decision during a press conference on Thursday, Garland said the department "does not take such actions lightly" and first pursues "essential" means to retrieve material. Garland noted that it was Trump's "right" to reveal Monday's FBI search of his property and that Americans are entitled to a presumption of innocence.

Garand also said that Justice Department has also asked to make public the property receipt detailing what agents found inside the Trump property.

Trump received a federal grand jury subpoena this spring for sensitive documents the government believed he retained after his departure from the White House, a source familiar with the matter confirmed to NBC News.

Garand's nod to "essential" avenues for recovery of documents appeared to be a reference to the subpoena and suggested that Trump had not turned over all of the material sought by the Justice Department.

Conservative journalist John Solomon first reported Thursday afternoon that Trump was sent the subpoena months before the FBI searched his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida on Monday. The source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the subpoena was related to documents that Trump's legal team discussed with Justice Department officials at a previously reported on June 3.

The federal officials who went to Mar-a-Lago for the June meeting were "coming down to retrieve the documents that were being requested" in the subpoena, the source familiar with the matter said, adding that the meeting was arranged with the Trump team's understanding that turning over relevant documents that day would fulfill the subpoena.

Citing "two sources briefed on the classified documents" sought in the subpoena, The New York Times reported Thursday that federal officials were prompted to conduct the search of Mar-a-Lago because unclassified material was particularly sensitive to national security.

MSNBC: [AG Garand moves to unseal Mar-a-Lago warrant, defends DOJ](#), by Steve Benen

Since the FBI executed a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago earlier this week, many of Donald Trump's most aggressive allies have called for the release of the court-approved materials. I'm starting to wonder if they're familiar with the phrase, "Be careful what you wish for."

At a Justice Department press conference this afternoon, Attorney General Merrick Garland addressed the subject publicly for the first time, and he made some news:

"Just now, the Justice Department has filed a motion in the southern district of Florida to unseal a search warrant and property receipt relating to a court-approved search that the FBI conducted earlier this week. That search was a premises located in Florida belonging to the former president."

Garland added that the former president's counsel was on site during the search, and his lawyer received the court-approved materials, in keeping with standard law enforcement practices. (This is worth noting, of course, because there have been some suggestions to the contrary in conservative media.)

In other words, Justice Department officials, in recognition of public interest, coupled with the fact that Trump has a readily issued public statements about what transpired, are asking a federal court to unseal relevant materials that would ordinarily be kept under seal. Team Trump will have an opportunity to oppose the motion — though that would certainly be a political interest move under the circumstances.

If, on the other hand, the Republican's lawyers agree that the warrant should be unsealed, we're likely to see it quite soon. The judge in this case has ordered the Justice Department to meet with Trump's lawyers to see whether they oppose the motion to unseal.

The deadline to let the court know is tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m. eastern.

It's worth emphasizing that the new motion filed by the DOJ isn't to disclose everything, but it would bring to light the materials Team Trump already has in its possession, which would make clear key details of the search.

It's why Marcy Wheeler noted, in response to today's statement, "Garland is calling Trump's bluff."

The attorney general went on to note that he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant" in this case — something that was widely assumed, but not confirmed before this afternoon. He added that the Department of Justice "does not take such actions lightly" and first pursues "essentially" means.

But before wrapping up, Garland also took about a minute to defend federal law enforcement from "recent unfounded attacks on the professionalism of the FBI and Justice Department agents and prosecutors."

"We will not stand by silently when the integrity of our country is attacked. The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated protectors of public servants. Every day, they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism, and other threats to their safety, while safeguarding our civil rights. They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves. I am honored to work alongside them."

He didn't really say Republicans who've spent this week attacking federal law enforcement should back off, but it seemed like the obvious subtext.

Fox: [Merrick Garland torched for admitting he approved the Mar-a-Lago raid: 'Shutter the FBI, mmed ate y](#), by Gabrielle Hays

Conservatives on NPR panned into U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland for his address to the nation on the FBI raid on Mar-a-Lago on Thursday.

During the speech, which was less than five minutes and contained no opportunity for press questions, Garland offered few details on why the raid occurred on former President Donald Trump's Florida estate, though he mentioned that the search warrant and its contents would be unsealed at the behest of Trump.

The only major detail Garland did provide, however, was that he "personally approved" of the execution of the search warrant that occurred Monday evening. He also made a point to defend the FBI and the DOJ from critics who have been claiming that they have been turned into political weapons against the Republican.

"We will not stand by silently while the [FBI's] integrity is unfairly attacked... The men and women of the FBI and the DOJ are dedicated and protectors of public servants," Garland asserted.

Conservative Twitter users expressed frustration that Garland gave no real details, nor was willing to answer any questions about the nature of the raid. Some slammed him for admitting he personally approved the warrant, and others remarked on his "defensive" tone.

Newsbusters executive editor Tom Graham blasted the DOJ's lack of transparency in this matter, tweeting, "It's annoying that they won't answer any questions, but they will comment on anyone questioning the integrity. You undermine your integrity by answering questions."

MRCTV podcast host Brittany Hughes wrote, "Be careful when listening to Garland's statement. Garland said that he personally approved seeking a search warrant. But seeking a search warrant and carrying out the raid are two different decisions. He never said he green-lit the raid."

She elaborated: "This is big because a) either he's lying to deflect blame, or b) he truly didn't know, and therefore his entitlement to do his job is in question. In either case, he should resign immediately."

Newsweek opinion editor Josh Hammer remarked on Garland's overall tone in the speech, tweeting, "Garland's tone there was remarkably defensive. He's clearly feeling the heat."

The ForAmerica Twitter account blasted Garland and, writing, "Merrick Garland is a coward just like his boss Joe Biden."

"Merrick Garland seems to be confused. We're attacking his integrity—or rather lack thereof," The Daily Wire's Michael Knowles quipped.

Former Georgia congressional candidate Vernon Jones tweeted, "Merrick Garland provided a nothing burger at his one-way press conference. More questions now than ever and no more credibility with the DOJ & FBI."

Former Republican congressional candidate and conservative influencer Robby Starbuck accused Garland of being "entirely corrupt," tweeting, "Just so everyone understands, Merrick Garland was nominated to become a Justice on the Supreme Court. He isn't on the Supreme Court because President Trump nominated someone else. AG Garland personally signed off on raiding Trump's home. Entirely corrupt!"

The Federalist editor-in-chief Moe Hemingway wrote, "Shutter the FBI. Immediately. They are a threat to the country and self-governance."

"Garland suggests nobody at the FBI lacks integrity and how dare any of us suggest some of them do, but we've seen many times over the last few years that that isn't true," tweeted conservative columnist Eddie Zapper.

RealClearInvestigations senior writer Mark Hemingway added to Zapper's point, tweeting, "The same DOJ that declared parents complicit about school boards a terrorist threat says the FBI that forged warrant applications to spy on an elected president deserves the benefit of the doubt. Yeah, no."

"The FBI fabricated evidence in an e-gate warrant in order to spy on Trump's campaign. Multiple times," wrote The Federalist co-founder Sean Daviss,

n response to Z pperer s po nt.

Nat ona Pu se ed tor n ch ef Raheem Kassam added, "We don't need to embe sh. We just heard the Attorney Genera of the Un ted States persona y state that he approved the ra d on a po t ca opponent. Unprecedented tyranny."

And Former New York Mayor Rudy G u an 's son, Andrew G u an , tweeted, "Merr ck Gar and LY NG to the Amer can peop e! Sorry, don't buy the ' m ted scope' gas ght when the FB spends 9 hours and ends up on Me an a's c oset!"

Fox: [Gar and: DOJ moves to unsea search warrant, property rece pt from Trump ra d](#), by Ty er O son

Attorney Genera Merr ck Gar and Thursday announced the Just ce Department s mov ng to make pub c the search warrant and property rece pt from ts ra d on former Pres dent Dona d Trump s Mar a Lago home Monday.

"The Department of Just ce w speak through ts court f ngs and ts work," Gar and sa d dur ng a pub c statement. "Just now, the Just ce Department has f ed a mot on n the Southern D str ct of F or da to unsea a search warrant and property rece pt re at ng to a court approved search that the FB conducted ear er th s week. That search was a prem ses ocated n F or da be ong ng to the former pres dent."

Gar and added: "The department f ed the mot on to make pub c the warrant and rece pt n ght of the former pres dent s pub c conf rmat on of the search, the surround ng c rcumstances and the substant a pub c nterest n th s matter."

He a so sa d that he cou d not prov de further deta s on "the bas s of the search," but conf rmed that he persona y approved the search. Gar and sa d that the department "does not take such a dec s on ght y."

The attorney genera s comments come after Repub cans and even some Democrats for have demanded that the Just ce Department re ease more nformat on on the search, wh ch was an unprecedented act on aga nst a former pres dent.

H s comments were the f rst pub c statement from the Just ce Department address ng the matter.

Sources to d Fox News D g ta the search was n connect on w th mater a s that Trump took w th h m from h s t me as pres dent, wh ch the DOJ has been nvest gat ng over whether remov ng the mater a s broke any aws.

Gar and a so sa d that he be eves the FB has been "unfa r y attacked" by cr t cs n the wake of the search. "Every day they protect the Amer can peop e from v o ent cr me, terror sm and other threats to the r safety wh e safeguard ng our c v r ghts," he sa d.

Gar and d d not take quest ons from reporters.

ABC: [AG Merr ck Gar and says he s gned off on Trump search, denounces attacks on aw enforcement](#), by Adam Car son

Attorney Genera Merr ck Gar and on Thursday afternoon spoke for the f rst t me s nce FB agents ra ded former Pres dent Dona d Trump s Mar a Lago res dence n Pa m Beach, F or da.

C t ng "the substant a pub c nterest n th s matter," Gar and sa d the government had f ed a mot on to unsea the warrant author z ng Monday s search, wh ch Trump has sharp y cr t c zed as a part san attack.

t was not mmed ate y c ear how qu ck y the judge n the case may re ease the warrant and federa prosecutors noted n the r request, f ed Thursday, that t shou d be granted on y "absent object on by former Pres dent Trump."

Gar and sa d that Trump s attorney had been prov ded on Monday w th a copy of both the warrant and a st of what was taken from Mar a Lago by the agents c ntrad ct ng past statements by Trump s son Er c.

n h s four m nute remarks, Gar and d d not d scuss any spec f cs of aw enforcement s work or the arger nvest gat on re ated to Trump.

"Fa thfu adherence to the ru e of aw s the bedrock pr nc p e of the Just ce Department and of our democracy. Upho d ng the ru e of aw means app y ng the aw even y w thout fear or favor," he sa d. "Under my watch, that s prec se y what the Just ce Department s do ng."

Sources prev us y to d ABC News that Monday s search was n connect on to documents that Trump took w th h m when he departed Wash ngton, nc ud ng some records the Nat ona Arch ves sa d were marked c ass f ed.

Gar and sa d Thursday he "persona y approved" the unprecedented dec s on to seek a search warrant aga nst a former pres dent but stressed that "the department does not take such a dec s on ght y."

"Where poss b e, t s standard pract ce to seek ess ntrus ve means as an a ternat ve to a search and to narrow y scope any search," he sa d.

He acknow edged there was st much he cou d not say g ven ongstand ng department po cy not to comment on ongo ng nvest gat ons and undu y harm those caught n aw enforcement s wake before charges, f ever, are brought.

The search of Trump s home marked a s gn f cant deve opment n one of severa ega ssues that Trump faces. (He den es wrongdo ng n each.)

"A Amer cans are r ght y ent ted to the even handed app cat on of the aw, to due process of the aw and to the presumpt on of nnocence," Gar and sa d. "Much of our work s by necessity conducted out of the pub c eye. We do that to protect the const tut ona r ghts of a Amer cans and to protect the ntegr ty of our nvest gat ons."

F na y, he sa d, he wanted to "address recent unfounded attacks on the profess ona sm of the FB and Just ce Department agents and prosecutors."

The search of Mar a Lago drew a resound ng chorus of cr t c sm from Repub cans and some others over what the detractors sa d was a ack of c ar ty about why such a move was necessary.

"The Amer can peop e want transparency when you are ra d ng the home of a former pres dent," Repub can Nat ona Comm ttee Cha rwoman Ronna McDane sa d Wednesday. "The FB s ra d ng the home of a former pres dent. The Amer can peop e deserve to know why."

Speak ng at a separate event Wednesday, FB D rector Chr stopher Wray sa d of the search, " m sure you can apprec ate that s not someth ng can ta k about."

As Trump has many t mes before, he and h s a es cast the federa nvest gat on as a part san sham. Trump sa d the search was "not necessary or appropri ate"; he has not re eased any nformat on about the court author zed search warrant.

"These are dark t mes for our Nat on. ... t s prosecutor a m sconduct, the weapon zat on of the Just ce System, and an attack by Rad ca Left Democrats who desperat y don't want me to run for Pres dent n 2024," Trump sa d n a statement on Monday n ght, n the f rst pub c conf rmat on of a search that Gar and sa d Thursday off c a s had worked to keep out of v ew.

He a so pushed back on the denunc at on of aw enforcement.

"The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants, every day," Garland said. He would "not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked."

"They protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety while safeguarding our civil rights," Garland said. "They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves. I am honored to work alongside them."

"This is a can say right now," Garland conceded, rebuffing questions from journalists in the room. "More information will be made available in the appropriate way and at the appropriate time."

In its request to unseal the search warrant, filed Thursday in federal court in Florida, the Justice Department wrote that its decision was made in light of "the public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances."

The government's filing notes the warrant was signed on Friday and also requests the unsealing of a redacted inventory of what was taken by agents at Mar-a-Lago.

Prosecutors wrote that that Trump "should have an opportunity to respond to this Motion and judge objections, including with regards to any legitimate privacy interests or the potential for other injury if these materials are made public."

Court records showed that responses would be due in the matter by Aug. 25.

The head of the Department of Justice's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, Jay Bratt, is one of two DOJ officials who signed off on the filing along with U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Juan Gonzalez.

The head of DOJ's national security division, Matt Olsen, was also present in the room for Garland's remarks Thursday, a reflection of the NSD's prominent role in the investigation.

CBS: [Justice Department moves to unseal search warrant used to seize documents from Trump's home](#), by Melissa Quinn

Washington — The Justice Department moved Thursday to unseal the search warrant used by federal agents to seize documents from former President Donald Trump's home in Florida, with Attorney General Merrick Garland revealing he "personally approved" the extraordinary step to seek the warrant.

In brief remarks from the Justice Department as the government filed its request in federal court, Garland defended the move to have dozens of federal agents descend on Trump's home at Mar-a-Lago, saying he "does not take such decisions lightly." He noted, however, that he was bound by federal law, department rules and ethical obligations from providing more information about the basis of the search. CBS News has reported the search was related to an investigation into documents Trump took with him when he left the White House.

"Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and our democracy. Upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly without fear or favor," he said. "Under my watch, that's precisely what the Justice Department's doing. Americans are entitled to the evenhanded application of the law, to due process of the law and to the presumption of innocence."

The decision by the Justice Department to ask the court to make the warrant public was made "in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial interest in this matter," Garland said.

He noted that the warrant was authorized by a federal court in South Florida "upon the required finding of probable cause," and copies of the warrant and a list of property seized by the FBI — required by law to be left with the property owner — were provided to Trump's attorneys on the day of the search.

One of Trump's lawyers, Lindsey Hanagan, confirmed to CBS News that she and a second attorney, Christina Bobb, a former television host for the far-right One America News network, were at Mar-a-Lago where the search was conducted.

In its filing in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, the Justice Department cited the "intense public interest" in the search of a former president's residence to ask U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart to unseal the search warrant and accompanying information, as well as the list of seized items, "absent objection from the former president."

"The press and the public enjoy a qualified right of access to criminal and judicial proceedings and the judicial records filed there in," wrote U.S. Attorney Juan Antonio Gonzalez and Jay Bratt, head of the Justice Department's counterintelligence and export control section. They added that the "public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing."

Reinhart, the judge, quickly ordered federal prosecutors to confer with Trump's attorneys and determine whether they oppose the motion to unseal the warrant and related documents, setting a deadline of 3 p.m. Friday for the Trump team's response.

The New York Times and Times Union of Albany, New York, along with the conservative organization Judicial Watch, filed separate requests with the court on Wednesday to obtain access to the documents — including any underlying affidavits — related to the search warrant. CBS News on Thursday requested to join the Times' effort to make the search warrant and other related materials public.

Garland's comments came amid increasing pressure from Republicans to address the search by the FBI at Mar-a-Lago. The former president revealed the search, and sources confirmed to CBS News that it was connected to a Justice Department investigation into Trump's handling of presidential records. In January, the National Archives and Records Administration retrieved 15 boxes of presidential records, some of which contained classified national security material, from Mar-a-Lago, and asked the Justice Department to investigate.

During the search, the FBI took boxes and documents, two sources confirmed to CBS News, and no electronic devices were taken. One official said some or possibly all of the seized records contained classified information.

Sources familiar with the matter told CBS News on Thursday that a federal grand jury issued a subpoena related to the document investigation in the spring, before Justice Department officials met with Trump attorneys at Mar-a-Lago in June regarding the records. The online news outlet Justice News first reported the existence of the subpoena.

Trump and his GOP allies were quick to denounce the unprecedented search, claiming without evidence that it was a politically motivated attack against a key challenger to Mr. Biden in 2024. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy vowed to investigate the Justice Department's Republican wing control of the House in the November midterm elections, telling Garland in a tweet to preserve records and prepare to testify next year.

But Garland defended the department from the attacks by Republicans about its credibility and independence.

"I will not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked," he said. "The men and women of the FBI and Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants. Every day they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety, while safeguarding our civil rights."

The White House did not know in advance that Garland would be delivering a statement, and officials learned of it through news reports, a White House official told CBS News ahead of his remarks. President Biden left Washington on Wednesday for a vacation to Kawahis and, South Carolina.

NPR: [Just ce Department asks a federa court to unsea warrant used to search Mar A Lago](#), by Deepa Sh varam

Attorney Genera Merr ck Gar and sa d the Department of Just ce has asked a federa court n F or da to unsea the search warrant served at former Pres dent Dona d Trump s Mar A Lago res dence three days ago, as we as a property rece pt for what was taken.

Gar and made remarks Thursday afternoon at a press conference from the Department of Just ce headquarters n Wash ngton, D.C., the frst t me the agency has commented on the search s nce t took p ace.

"Both the warrant and the FB property rece pt were prov ded on the day of the search to the former pres dent s counse , who was on s te dur ng the search," Gar and sa d. A property rece pt s a document eft w th the property owner after a search ke th s take s p ace.

He a so sa d he persona y approved the dec s on to seek that search warrant.

Gar and sa d the department d d not take the dec s on to use a search warrant ght y.

"Where poss b e t s standard pract ce to seek ess ntrus ve means as an a ternat ve to a search and to narrow y scope any search that s undertaken," he sa d.

He d d not prov de any further deta s about the nature of the search or other DOJ matters but he sa d more nformat on wou d be made ava ab e.

Trump sa d n a statement Monday n ght that h s home at Mar A Lago was "under s ege, ra ded, and occup ed by a arge group of FB agents." He a so sa d they opened h s safe.

H s son, Er c Trump, to d Fox News that federa author tes had g ven h m a heads up that the search was about to take p ace on Monday morn ng and he nformed h s father. Trump was at h s res dence n Manhattan the search took p ace.

n h s remarks, the DOJ head a so b asted what he ca ed "unfounded" attacks on the profess ona sm of the FB and Just ce Department agents.

" w not stand by s ent y when the r ntegr ty s unfary attacked," Gar and sa d.

Gar and s remarks come just hours after a suspect breached an FB f e d off ce n C nc nnat .

Ear er n the day, the FB f e d off ce n C nc nnat sa d the subject f ed north onto nterstate 71 after an a arm went off and FB spec a agents responded.

The FB , Oh o State H ghway Patro , and oca aw enforcement agenc es are on the scene near W m ngton, Oh o, "try ng to reso ve th s cr t ca nc dent," a tweet from the bureau sa d.

And Gar and h mse f has a ready faced cr t c sm from top rank ng Repub cans.

"The Department of Just ce has reached an nto erab e state of weapon zed po t c zat on," House M nor ty Leader Kev n McCarthy, R Ca f., sa d n a statement after Trump pub c zed the search took p ace.

McCarthy sa d f the GOP w ns the House n the m dterm e ect ons, there wou d be overs ght of the department, and he to d Gar and, "preserve your documents and c ear your ca endar."

Trump, n h s Monday statement, a so b amed po t ca mot vat on for the search, say ng t happened because of h s potent a to run for pres dent aga n n 2024.

But Pres dent B den and Wh te House off c a s found out about the FB search from med a reports, Wh te House Press Secretary Kar ne Jean P erre to d reporters on Tuesday.

"The pres dent was not br efed, was not aware of t. No one at the Wh te House was g ven a heads up," Jean P erre sa d, add ng that the DOJ conducts the r nvest gat ons ndependent y.

A Wh te House off c a a so sa d Thursday that B den d d not have an advance not ce that Gar and was mak ng comments today, and eard about them from med a reports.

Insider: [Merr ck Gar and defends Just ce Department after Trump and GOP awmakers attacked the FB for ra d ng Mar a Lago: They are patr ot c pub c servants](#), by Brent Gr ff ths

Attorney Genera Merr ck Gar and on Thursday defended the Just ce Department and the FB after a torrent of cr t c sm fo w ng the dec s on to ra d former Pres dent Dona d Trump s res dence at Mar a Lago.

" w not stand by s ent y when the r ntegr ty s unfary attacked," Gar and to d reporters at the Just ce Department. "The men and women of the FB and the Just ce Department are ded cated, patr ot c pub c servants."

Gar and s words come as Trump, h s a es, and scores of Repub can awmakers tear nto the FB for the r dec s on to stage an unprecedented ra d on the property of a former pres dent. Trump conf rmed the court ordered search as t was unfo d ng and compared the operat on to what occurs n "a th rd wor d country."

Rep. Marjor e Tay or Greene and other far r ght awmakers have a so ca ed for the FB to be defunded. Others on the r ght compared federa agents to the Gestapo, the Naz s secret po ce.

Dur ng h s surpr se news conference, Gar and revea ed that he persona y s gned off on the dec s on to obta n an unprecedented search warrant of a former pres dent s home. He a so added that the Just ce Department s tak ng forma steps n court to unsea the search warrant and the st of tems se zed by aw enforcement.

Trump and h s attorneys cou d have pub c y re eased the warrant, but so far have dec ned to do t.

Guardian: [Doj has asked court to unsea Trump search warrant, Merr ck Gar and says](#), by Staff

The US just ce department (DoJ) has asked a court to unsea the search warrant the FB rece ved before search ng the F or da estate of Dona d Trump, Merr ck Gar and sa d on Thursday.

The attorney genera c ted the "substant a pub c nterest n th s matter" n announc ng the request at a hast y schedu ed just ce department news conference.

The news fo ws an FB ra d on the former US pres dent s resort home of Mar a Lago ear er n the week. That search was part of an nvest gat on nto whether Trump took c ass f ed records from the Wh te House.

The DoJ has been nvest gat ng the potent a m shand ng of c ass f ed nformat on s nce the Nat ona Arch ves sa d t had rece ved from Mar a Lago 15

boxes of White House records, including documents containing classified information, earlier this year.

In a brief press conference announcing the move, Garland said the personally authorized the decision to seek a search warrant of Trump's home and that the decision had not been "taken lightly".

Since the search Republicans, led by Trump, have attacked the FBI and the DOJ and accused it of conducting a politically motivated investigation. The fury of the Republican response has prompted fears that FBI agents and officials could be placed in danger.

Earlier on Thursday, an armed man decked out in body armor tried to breach a security screening area at an FBI field office in Ohio. The man then fled and exchanged gunfire in a standoff with law enforcement, authorities said.

The Hill: [Garland, in go ng pub c, pushes back at cable news f restorm](#), by Domnick Mastrangelo

Attorney General Merrick Garland was quiet a week as former President Trump, GOP lawmakers and cable news pundits theorized about the FBI's search Monday of the former president's Mar-a-Lago estate.

On Thursday, he ended the silence, announcing the Department of Justice (DOJ) would move to unseal the warrant authorizing the search and defending the integrity of the FBI, which had been under heavy attack a week.

"We won't stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked," Garland said, saying the FBI and DOJ had been subject to "unfounded attacks" on the professionalism.

"The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants," Garland said.

The attorney general had been under pressure to speak even though it's a standard for DOJ not to comment publicly on details about active investigations.

But in this case, the silence had been fed by the remarks of lawmakers, a former president and some cable news pundits who had gone so far as to suggest the FBI might have planted evidence at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence.

Garland on Thursday sought to push back, while putting the onus on Trump to agree to unseal the warrant — which could lead to more information about the fight between the ex-president and DOJ over classified documents reportedly taken without authorization to Florida.

Following standard practice, investigators had provided Trump's attorneys with their own copy of the search warrant and a receipt that would have itemized the materials seized during the search, neither of which the former president has publicly released.

If a federal judge grants the DOJ's motion, both documents would be made public, key in addition to a law enforcement affidavit detailing the reasons why investigators suspected there was evidence of criminal conduct on Trump's property.

Just before Garland's public remarks, The New York Times reported Trump received a subpoena this spring in search of documents that federal investigators believed he had failed to turn over earlier in the year. The news of the subpoena suggested federal officials had tried more genteel approaches to reach some kind of agreement with Trump over the return of the documents in question.

On cable news and on social media, the FBI search has been a No. 1 story, and speculation about the FBI's motives and actions has been running wild.

"If you are associated with Donald Trump in any way, you better cross all your 's and dot all your t's," Sean Hannity, a close personal friend of Trump, declared on his show Monday. "Because they are coming for you with the full force of the federal government."

On Tuesday morning, one of Trump's attorneys, Christina Bobb, a former host on the staunchly pro-Trump network One America News, said she "was not allowed to observe" the search.

"There's no security that something wasn't planted," Bobb said. "I'm not saying that's what they did. They have to go through the legal process to figure out what was taken and a lot of that."

Garland on Thursday said a Trump attorney was on site during the search.

There has been no evidence to suggest anything was planted by the FBI at Mar-a-Lago.

The search was authorized by a federal judge, and while Republicans have inked it to political motivations, the White House has said that President Biden was unaware it was about to take place. No evidence has been presented to suggest Biden had prior knowledge of the search.

By Wednesday morning, the theory that the FBI might have planted evidence had made its way onto Fox News' highly rated morning show "Fox & Friends," where host Ansley Earnhardt expressed concern at allegations from Trump's attorneys that they were not allowed to be present during the search.

"His lawyer said they brought in backpacks, what was in those backpacks? Did they bring those in to find them up or did they have something in there?" Earnhardt asked during an interview with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

On his evening opinion show Tuesday, Fox host Jesse Watters also foated the idea.

"They could have easily negotiated the return of documents like that without guns and warrants," Watters said. "What the FBI is probably doing is planting evidence, which is what they did during the Russia hoax."

On MSNBC, hosts and guests have spent the last three days speculating about what the FBI could have been looking for at Trump's home and suggesting the former president was withholding information about the search deliberately to fuel speculation and keep himself in the news.

"That's what this is all about, Trump took this public because he thought it was in his interest not just to spur these conspiracy theories but to pressure on the DOJ, what would they say," said the political pundit John Heiman Wednesday while guest hosting a show on MSNBC.

During an appearance on the network's "Morning Joe" program, contributor Maya Weir decried Trump and his defenders for "attacking non-politicized and independent law enforcement."

Longtime host Andrea Mitchell this week called a promise from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) to investigate DOJ over what led to the search if Republicans take back power of Congress this fall "outrageous."

"Merrick Garland is the most careful, judicious to fault someone would say attorney general in this case," Mitchell said.

Observers say the way Monday's event and the ensuing political fallout is being spun on cable news fits a predictable pattern.

"The media and the internet hate a vacuum," said Peter Loge, the director of George Washington University's Project on Ethics in Political Communication. "Absent information, pundits, columnists and voters will fill that vacuum with speculation on."

" 't's like 'are we there yet? Are we there yet?' Cable news can sound like six year olds demanding answers," he said. "And absent information, news organizations that focus on political controversy will either make up a reason for the report not being answers or they'll find the best answer for themselves."

Garland, on Thursday, appeared to be trying to take back control of the narrative with his statement.

"Americans are entitled to the evenhanded application of the law, to due process of law and to the presumption of innocence," Garland said in remarks at DOJ headquarters. "Much of our work is by necessity conducted out of the public eye. We do that to protect the constitutional rights of Americans and to protect the integrity of our investigation. Federal law, ongoing standing department rules and our ethical obligations prevent me from providing further details as to the basis of the search at this time."

Politico: [Garland defends the FBI's search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago, releases portions of warrant](#), by Kyle Cheney

The Justice Department moved on Thursday to unseal portions of the search warrant executed at the Mar-a-Lago estate of former President Donald Trump earlier this week.

"The public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing," prosecutors revealed in a court filing connected to the search warrant.

Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the news moments after the department filed the motion in federal court in Florida.

"personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in the matter," he said. Addressing critics of the department and FBI agents led by Trump and his allies, he added: "We will not stand by silently when the integrity of our country is attacked."

It's unclear how quickly the presiding magistrate judge in Florida, Bruce Reinhart, will act on the DOJ's motion to unseal the warrant. The filing noted that the motion was being made "absent objection by former President Trump," who could either support or attempt to block public release of the warrant.

Thursday's press conference was Garland's first public statement since Monday's search and the first public acknowledgment that the Justice Department is investigating Trump's handling of classified presidential records. He declined to reveal much about the search warrant or about the circumstances surrounding the case. He spoke for roughly five minutes and did not take questions.

"Americans are entitled to the evenhanded application of the law, the due process of the law and to the presumption of innocence," said Garland. "Much of our work is by necessity conducted out of the public eye. We do that to protect the constitutional rights of Americans and to protect the integrity of our investigation."

The motion to unseal portions of the search warrant, including a "redacted Property Receipt listing items seized pursuant to the search" was signed by U.S. Attorney Juan Gonzalez and Jay Bratt, chief of DOJ's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section.

The only reference in the DOJ's motion to the subject of the search was a direct quotation from one of Trump's attorneys, Christina Bobb, who told the New York Times that the search concerned "presidential records or any possibly classified material." It was Trump himself who first publicly confirmed the search and his representatives who made statements characterizing what agents were after.

"As such, the occurrence of the search and indications of the subject matter involved are a ready public," Gonzalez and Bratt wrote in the filing. Garland, however, said he was speaking out publicly only after Trump himself acknowledged the FBI search.

The rapid Monday follow-up months of indications that the Justice Department was scrutinizing Trump's handling of presidential records, including classified materials that were relocated to Mar-a-Lago in the closing days of his presidency. The National Archives revealed its concerns about the missing records in February, acknowledging that it had referred the matter to prosecutors.

Trump allies were incensed over the court-ordered search in part because of what Trump's lawyers have claimed were productive discussions between DOJ, Trump's lawyers and Trump himself, who was present when investigators visited Mar-a-Lago on June 3.

Since the search, Republicans have marshaled an intense defense of the former president, assailing Garland and the FBI as political hatchetmen despite having no insight into the basis of the actions. Some have called for Garland's impeachment, others have simply vowed to mount an intense investigation of the department should Republicans retake the majority in January.

Axios: [Garland says he "personally approved" search warrant at Trump's residence](#), by Erin Doherty

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday that the Department of Justice is filing a motion to unseal parts of the search warrant for former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence.

Driving the news: Garland also said that he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter."

- "The department does not take such a decision lightly. Where possible, the standard practice to seek less intrusive means as an alternative to a search and to narrow the scope of any search that is undertaken," Garland said.

The big picture: The FBI on Monday searched Trump's Florida residence in what is likely related to documents Trump took from the White House that may have been classified, two sources familiar with the matter told Axios. Jonathan Swan.

- When a search warrant is requested for a major figure, such as a former president, "it goes through a long review process," Gene Ross, a former federal prosecutor, previously told Axios.

Details: "Both the warrant and the FBI property receipt were provided on the day of the search to the former president's counsel, who was on site during the search," Garland said.

- The Justice Department has moved to unseal the search warrant signed and approved by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida on Aug. 5, "including Attachments A and B" and "the redacted Property Receipt listing items seized pursuant to the search, filed with the Court on August 11, 2022."
- "In these circumstances involving a search of the residence of a former President, the government hereby requests that the Court unseal the Notice of Filing and its attachment (Docket Entry 17), absent objection by former President Trump," the filing states.

State of play: Garland also addressed "unfounded attacks on the Justice Department agents and prosecutors" in the aftermath of the search.

- "We will not stand by silently when the integrity of our country is attacked. The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated patriots of public servants every day."
- "Every day they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to their safety, while safeguarding our civil rights."
- "They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves. I am honored to work alongside them," he said.

Trump said in a Truth Social post Thursday after Gar and his press conference that Mar-a-Lago was raided "out of nowhere and with no warning" by "very large numbers of agents." He claimed he and his representatives had been cooperating fully.

- "The government could have had whatever they wanted, if we had it," he said.
- "They got way ahead of themselves," he added.

Between the lines: Hours before Gar and his remarks, an armed person tried to break into the FBI building in Cincinnati, leading to a lockdown in the nearby area.

What he is saying: "Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy. Upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly, without fear or favor," Gar said.

- "Much of our work is by necessity conducted out of the public eye. We do that to protect the Constitutional rights of Americans and to protect the integrity of our investigations."

The Hill: [Gar and says integrity of DOJ, FBI 'unfairly attacked' after Trump search](#), by Jared Gans

Attorney General Merrick Garland defended the integrity of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI following the FBI's execution of a search warrant at former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago property.

Garland said at a news briefing on Thursday that he will not stand by while the DOJ and FBI's integrity is "unfairly attacked."

"The men and women at the FBI and Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants," he said. "Every day, they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety while safeguarding our civil rights."

Trump and many other Republicans have sharply criticized the DOJ and FBI since the search at Mar-a-Lago in Florida on Monday, accusing officials of acting under political motivation against the former president, who is considering another run for the White House in 2024.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) promised to launch an investigation into the Department of Justice if Republicans retake control of the House in the November midterm elections.

Garland said DOJ and FBI employees protect the public at "great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves." He said he is "honored" to work alongside them.

Garland also announced his statement that the DOJ filed a motion to unseal the warrant authorizing the search of Mar-a-Lago after Trump publicly confirmed the search and given the significant public interest in it.

Independent: [How the lawyer y Merrick Garland just called Donald Trump's bluff](#), by Andrew Buncombe

It was a cover and done with rather quickly, so it was easy to miss.

But in announcing on Thursday that the Department of Justice had asked a court to unseal the warrant given to the FBI to raid Mar-a-Lago, Attorney General Merrick Garland said something else—he called Donald Trump's bluff.

"The property receipt is a document that federal law requires law enforcement agents to leave with the property owner," Garland said, speaking at the Department of Justice in Washington DC.

"The Department filed the motion to make public the warrant and receipt in light of the former president's public confirmation with a search the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in this matter."

Or to put it another way, either put up or shut up, Mr Trump.

Since the former president announced that his "beautiful" property south of Palm Beach had been raided by dozens of agents on Monday, Trump and his supporters have sought to portray the episode as an example of stark government overreach.

How could agents storm into the home of a former president just to recover some documents he may have taken from the White House when he left in Jan 2021 and the National Archives had been seeking, his friends have been asking on Fox News. If they can do it to a former president, they can certainly do it to you and me.

A fact often missing from the story was that the DOJ, in an operation we now know was approved by Garland himself, had obtained a warrant from a Florida judge that detailed what they hoped to find. A copy of the warrant has been in the hands of Trump's lawyers since Monday, but they have chosen not to release it.

The reasons for such a decision can only be speculated on, but it turns out that the documents being sought were not only classified, but were of interest to national security officials, then it might be harder for Trump to claim agents were breaking into his safe simply to search for a draft plan of his infrastructure week plan, or some other policy document he had hung on to.

It even makes it harder to think they even came in search of the so-called "love letters" Kim Jung-un had sent to Trump, items that are not by any means personal property but rather that of the nation.

Such letters ought to be back in the National Archives, but the suggestion has been they would not have come looking for something in such manner had it not been important. Remember, a counterterrorism official had previously visited Mar-a-Lago as part of the documents investigation, and Trump had been previously sent a subpoena, another detail revealed on Tuesday.

Garland, 69, who spent more than 20 years as a judge and might have ended up on the Supreme Court but for the antics of Mitch McConnell, looked sober and calm. His dark suit and navy tie looked awfully, his words were measured.

"First, personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter. Second, the department does not take such decisions lightly," he said.

"Where possible is a standard practice to seek less intrusive means as an alternative to a search and to narrowly scope any search that has undertaken."

He also wanted to protect the integrity of the FBI, an agency whose offices in Ohio were attacked by a gunman on Thursday, and which has been verbally attacked by Republicans alike.

"The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants. Every day they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety while safeguarding our civil rights," he said. "They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves. I am honored to work alongside them."

Gar and spoke for a little under six minutes. As he left the podium, it appeared he was going to respond to a question, but quickly thought better of it and left the room.

Trump can try and get ahead of the story by releasing the warrant and revealing what the feds were after. But let's not bank on it.

He responded by again stating he was trying to help. "My attorneys and representatives were cooperating fully, and very good relationships had been established. The government could have had whatever they wanted, if we had it," he said in a statement.

It's far more likely the information will be ordered released by a judge, in a manner consistent with the law.

Either way, soon enough we will know what the agents were after and who's telling the truth – Merrick Garland or Donald Trump.

USA Today: [AG Merrick Garland: Justice Department files motion to unseal Mar-a-Lago search warrant](#), by Rick Rouan, Joey Garrison, Erin Mansfield, and Kevin Johnson

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday the Justice Department had filed a motion to unseal the search warrant and property receipt from a search FBI agents conducted Monday at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Florida

"I personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," he said Thursday, the first time he has spoken publicly since the search.

On Monday, agents searched Trump's residence and his safe in what sources familiar with the matter have told USA TODAY's an investigation related to Trump's removal of classified documents from the White House when he left office.

Trump has denounced that investigation. The latest act prompted Trump to make accusations of a "witch hunt" in a letter to the government, including the bureau itself. However, FBI Director Christopher Wray was appointed by Trump while he was president.

Attorney General Merrick Garland, pictured during a news conference Aug. 2, spoke publicly on Thursday for the first time since FBI agents searched former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Florida.

Republicans have said the search was potentially motivated, and Wray has responded to threats against the department since the search.

Since 2021, Trump has faced legal scrutiny in at least five independent federal and state inquiries that are both criminal and civil in nature. At least two investigations involve the 2020 election. A bipartisan House committee's dogging into Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack. New York's attorney general's investigation of the Trump Organization's business practices. And a federal inquiry into presidential records' ongoing, and appears to have prompted a search by the FBI at his Florida estate.

What was taken: Donald Trump knows what FBI agents took from Mar-a-Lago and why they took it, experts say

Trump's confirmation prompted Justice to unseal warrant

Attorney General Merrick Garland said a combination of factors influenced the Justice Department's decision to file to unseal the search warrant.

Those included: Trump's confirmation of the search, made via a public statement Monday, "surrounding circumstances" and the "substantial public interest in the matter."

AG signed off on seeking search warrant

Attorney General Merrick Garland said he personally approved the department's decision to seek a search warrant of former president Donald Trump's residence in Mar-a-Lago.

Garland said this was in accordance with Department of Justice policy and procedures, and added, "The department does not take such a decision lightly."

"Upholding the rule of law means applying the law evenly, without favor," Garland said. "Under my watch, that's precisely what the Justice Department is doing."

DOJ seeks to unseal search warrant of Mar-a-Lago

Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Department of Justice has asked a federal court in South Florida to unseal a search warrant and property receipt related to a search of the former president's home.

Garland said a federal court authorized the search "upon the required finding of probable cause." He said the DOJ's motion came "in light of the former president's public confirmation" as well as "the substantial public interest in this matter."

White House: Biden did not have prior knowledge of Garland's statement

A White House official said President Joe Biden had no prior knowledge that Garland would be making a statement Thursday and earned about \$1 million through media reports.

The White House has previously said Biden was not given advance notice of the FBI search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago property Monday.

"We did not have advance notice of this activity," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said earlier this week.

Before he was attorney general, Garland was a longtime judge who was nominated for the Justice Department post when Joe Biden won the presidency.

Garland is a Chicago native who attended Harvard University for both undergraduate studies and law school. He practiced corporate law and then served as a deputy attorney general under President Bill Clinton, who then nominated him to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

President Barack Obama nominated him to the Supreme Court in 2016, but he was never confirmed to the high court when Senate Republicans decided to give him a hearing.

US News: [DOJ Files Motion to Make Search Warrant Public, Garland Says He Personally Approved Decision to Seek Trump Search Warrant](#), by Kaitlin Hubbard

Attorney General Merrick Garland said he personally approved a search of Donald Trump's Florida home earlier this week and that the Justice Department has asked a federal court to make public the warrant in his first public remarks since federal agents searched the former president's home.

"The search warrant was authorized by a federal court upon the required finding of probable cause," Garland said on Thursday, taking no questions from reporters.

Gar and said he personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant, adding that the department "does not take such a decision lightly."

The White House, Democratic leaders and the Justice Department have remained largely quiet on the search, after Trump himself disclosed that the FBI had entered his Mar-a-Lago estate where he was in New York.

Refusing to comment is not unusual for the Justice Department, which typically chooses not to remark on ongoing investigations. The agency's investigations surrounding the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, but the search was thought to be part of an investigation into the handling of presidential documents.

But pressure mounted in recent days for the agency to speak up, as some Democrats feared Trump and his GOP allies would control the narrative.

In a statement on Monday, Trump called the search "dark times for our nation" and blamed Democrats for using the justice system to keep him from running in 2024, although the Justice Department is not a political entity.

Gar and noted that the department filed the motion to make the warrant public "in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in the matter," adding that the agency is applying the law "without fear or favor."

Since Trump announced the search, protesters have gathered near the president's Florida estate, where some far-right rallies. And on Thursday, an armed man approached an FBI office in Ohio and exchanged gunfire with law enforcement as the agency has reported growing threats against its agents and offices in recent days.

Gar and addressed what he called "unfounded attacks" on the professionalism of the FBI, and Justice Department agents and prosecutors.

"We will not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked," he said. "Every day they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety while safeguarding our civil rights. They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves."

Daily Beast: [Fox News Anchors Invite Trump to Call in After Gar and Presser: 'Open the Phone Line'](#), by Justin Baragona

Moments after Attorney General Merrick Garland wrapped up his short Thursday news conference about the FBI raid on former Donald Trump's Florida residence, Fox News anchors Bret Baer and Martha MacCarm invited the network's most fervent viewer to comment via phone with his reaction.

Following days of dangerous, irresponsible and overheated rhetoric from Trumpworld and right-wing media about the search warrant executed on the ex-president's Mar-a-Lago estate, Garland finally broke his silence on Thursday afternoon.

As before confirming that Trump's lawyers did receive a copy of the search warrant and property receipt at the time, the attorney general also revealed the Justice Department has filed a motion to unseal those documents. Trump's team can also request that information at any time, but can also request that the warrant remain sealed.

Garland also said that he personally approved the search of Trump's property, which is related to an investigation into whether the ex-president improperly removed classified documents from the White House when he left office. Furthermore, he rebuked the "unfounded attacks" made against the FBI and DOJ by conservatives. Trump allies, including those at Fox News, have suggested that agents "participated in evidence" when removing material from Mar-a-Lago, where the judge who approved the search warrant has faced death threats.

Following Garland's presser, MacCarm first spoke to former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, who explicitly said that Trump hasn't done himself "any favors" by suggesting FBI agents "had an opportunity to participate in evidence." Mukasey added that it would be "fairly unremarkable" if Trump's attorneys weren't allowed to directly observe the FBI's search, knocking down a current MAGA talking point.

MacCarm would then bring on Baer to discuss the fallout from Garland's presser, with Baer insisting "we have a lot more questions now" and that they have entered into "unchartered territory." He also noted that, as long as Trump doesn't object, the public should eventually see the search warrant.

"I'll tell you something else that feels unchartered to me, that is the silence from the former president," MacCarm reacted.

"He's not known for being silent," Baer quipped.

The panel noted that while Trump has released some "forceful statements" and a campaign-style video on social media, he hasn't made a public appearance to deliver a response yet. This prompted Baer to issue an open offer to Trump.

"We should point out that we would like the former president to come on our air and sit down for an interview on a lot of the issues," the Fox chief political anchor stated.

"Absolutely," MacCarm declared. "We'll open the phone line now if he would like to respond to what Attorney General Garland just said. We are also looking for an answer to the question, 'Do you want to release that warrant?'"

Prior to this week's scorched earth reaction in defense of Trump over the FBI raid, there had been a growing (and ultimately wrong) consensus that Fox News had been distancing itself from the twice impeached ex-president in an effort to move onto other Republican candidates ahead of 2024. Outside of some Murdoch-owned editorial boards writing critical op-eds, one data point that was spotlighted to make this case was Trump's recent acknowledgment on the network.

It appears that Fox News is looking to rectify that in short order.

Yahoo News: [Merrick Garland: DOJ asks judge to unseal Mar-a-Lago search warrant](#), by Caitlin Dickson

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday that the Justice Department had filed a motion to unseal a search warrant and property receipt from the FBI's recent search of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate.

Garland announced the motion at a press conference, marking his first public statement about the matter since Trump publicly confirmed the search at his Florida residence on Monday evening.

Although he declined to answer questions or provide any further details about the search, Garland said that he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," adding, "The department does not take such a decision lightly."

Garland said that the search warrant "was authorized by a federal court upon the required finding of probable cause," and that copies of both the warrant and the FBI property receipt "were provided on the day of the search to the former president's counsel, who was on site during the search."

According to multiple reports, the raid was related to an investigation into Trump's potential mishandling of classified documents. In May, a federal grand jury began investigating whether he had mishandled top secret documents, including taking 15 boxes of material to the Florida resort.

Monday's raid was first reported by Florida Politics — which said the FBI had executed a search warrant and left the premises — minutes before Trump posted his statement about the raid to his social media site, Truth Social.

“These are dark times for our Nation, as my beautiful home, Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida is currently under siege, raided and occupied by a large group of FBI agents,” Trump said in his statement. Without evidence, he decried the search as “prosecutorial misconduct, the weaponization of the Justice System, and an attack by the Radical Left Democrats who desperately don’t want me to run for President in 2024.”

Gar said on Thursday that the search warrant “was authorized by a federal court upon the requested finding of probable cause.”

Nevertheless, Trump’s outrage quickly reverberated across the right, as Republican lawmakers and conservative commentators jumped to the former president’s defense, echoing his claims of persecution and calling for the FBI to be disarmed.

It didn’t take long for some of the rhetoric around the Mar-a-Lago raid to turn violent. Within hours of Trump’s statement announcing the raid, social media users from Twitter to more fringe platforms like Gab and Telegram were issuing calls for civil war and vowing to take up arms.

At Thursday’s press conference, Gar sought to address what he called “recent unfounded attacks on the professionalism of the FBI and Justice Department agents and prosecutors.”

“We will not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked,” Gar said. “The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants. Every day they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety, which we safeguard our civil rights. They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves.

“I am honored to work alongside them,” he added.

Deadline: [Justice Department Files Mot to Unseal Search Warrant Of Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Property, Merrick Gar and Says](#), by Ted Johnson

Attorney General Merrick Gar told reporters on Thursday that the Justice Department has filed a motion to unseal portions of the search warrant used in Monday’s FBI action at former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago property.

In the motion — which you can read here — prosecutors write that “the public’s clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing. That said, the former president should have an opportunity to respond to this motion and redact objecting information with regards to any ‘legitimate privacy interests’ or the potential for other ‘injurious’ if these materials are made public.” It now will be up to Trump’s legal team to respond.

He said that the department filed the motion “in light of the former president’s public comment on the search, the surrounding circumstances and the substantial public interest in this matter.”

In his first public comments on the search, one that triggered a fierce condemnation from Trump and his allies, Gar said that he personally approved the warrant.

“The department does not take such a decision lightly. Where possible, the standard practice to seek less intrusive means as an alternative to a search, and to narrowly scope any search that is undertaken,” Gar said.

Trump said on Monday evening that the FBI raided Mar-a-Lago, quickly triggering his supporters and lawmakers to claim that he was being unfairly treated and to obfuscate unfounded accusations against the government, even though the facts of the incident are not yet known. Reports since then have indicated that the FBI conducted the search for potential government documents, perhaps including classified material, that should have been turned over to the National Archives when Trump left office. The New York Times reported on Thursday that the Justice Department had suspected that Trump did not turn over a lot of the documents, and that federal prosecutors previously sought to obtain the documents through a subpoena.

Gar and his colleagues pushed back at attacks on the DOJ and the FBI agents and prosecutors, something that has raised concerns of potential violence.

“We will not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked,” Gar said. “The men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department are dedicated, patriotic public servants. They protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to the safety which we safeguard our civil rights. They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves. I am honored to work alongside them.”

On Monday evening, shortly after the news of the search, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) blasted Gar and his colleagues and said that the DOJ “has reached an intolerable state of weaponized politicalization.” He warned that when Republicans take back the House, they will “leave no stone unturned” in the reorganization of the DOJ and that Gar should “preserve your documents and clear your conscience.”

Trump, his allies and Fox News’ Jesse Watters also have suggested or claimed that the FBI was planting evidence during the search, whipping up supporters into anger even though they have offered no basis for the claim. Earlier this week, Watters said, “What the FBI is probably doing is planting evidence, which is what they did during the Russia hoax.” He did back up his suspicion on the Mar-a-Lago search with any source, but said that he had a “hunch” that the law enforcement agency “doctored evidence to get the warrant.”

On Fox News on Thursday, following a report on a gunman showing up at the FBI headquarters in Ohio, Gerao Rivera said that “this really vicious hatred directed at the FBI by people who believe they are supporting the former president’s re-election, really, really, very, very dangerous.”

Vox: [Why the DOJ won’t talk about its investigation of Donald Trump](#), by Ian Miller

If you were hoping for more information about the recent FBI search of former President Donald Trump’s Florida residence, Attorney General Merrick Gar and just delivered — kind of.

On Thursday, Gar announced that the Justice Department asked a federal magistrate judge to unseal certain records relating to the Monday search at Mar-a-Lago, including the actual search warrant served on Trump, the “redacted Property Receipt items seized pursuant to the search,” and two documents identified on as “Attachments A and B.”

The upshots of this announcement are that the public will soon learn more about this search, but may not learn more than Trump — who has a copy of the search warrant — already knows. Gar emphasized that DOJ will not provide additional information about the search, or any other ongoing investigation into Trump, saying, “Federal law, longstanding department rules, and our ethical obligations prevent me from providing further details.”

These developments come after Republicans have spent much of the week attacking the DOJ and insisting that comment on the ongoing investigation. As Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said in an angry statement implying that the Justice Department’s inappropriately keeping important details about this investigation secret, “the country deserves a thorough and immediate explanation of what led to” the search, McConnell demanded, adding that Gar and “should have a ready provided answers” and “must do so immediately.”

But McConnell, who once served as a deputy assistant attorney general with the Justice Department, almost certainly knows better. The Justice Department has explicit policies and very strong norms that prevent it from speaking publicly about ongoing investigations, and these policies are bolstered by external rules that bind the department’s lawyers. A lot of these matters exist for very good reasons. They not only protect the Justice Department’s own investigations, they also protect potential suspects from being disparaged by the government before they are charged with any crime.

But these matters on disclosure could also advance a different, more nefarious goal — at least in the short term. Lawmakers who want to bolster Trump

or the GOP more broadly can use DOJ's silence to mislead the public into thinking that the Justice Department's taciturnity is somehow nefarious. Here's the reality.

Multiple rules and policies prevent the Justice Department from speaking about an ongoing criminal investigation

For starters, let's look at the Justice Manual, DOJ's internal document which lays out, in excruciating detail, the various rules and procedures DOJ employees must comply with.

That manual explicitly warns DOJ personnel not to speak about ongoing criminal investigations — to the media or otherwise.

"DOJ personnel shall not respond to questions about the existence of an ongoing investigation or comment on its nature or progress before charges are publicly filed," the manual states in fairly categorical terms. The manual does permit exceptions "when the community needs to be reassured that the appropriate law enforcement agency's investigation is a matter, or where release of information is necessary to protect the public safety." But neither of these exceptions should apply to the Trump investigation — among other things, the "community" does not need reassurance that Trump is being investigated because the FBI search of his residence was widely reported and confirmed by Trump himself.

The Justice Manual, admittedly, is an internal policy document laying out the constraints the Justice Department imposes on itself and its own employees. But there are also external constraints that DOJ lawyers must comply with regardless of the reporter's policies. One of these is Rule 6 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which provides that government attorneys "must not disclose a matter occurring before the grand jury."

This matters because the New York Times reported in May that "federal prosecutors have begun a grand jury investigation into whether confessed White House documents that ended up at former President Donald Trump's Florida home were mishandled." The FBI's search of Trump's residence is reportedly connected to that grand jury investigation, and if that's the case, Rule 6 therefore constrains the Justice Department's ability to speak about it.

In fairness, Rule 6 is not so broad that it forbids DOJ from revealing to anyone any information related to this search. As Andrew Weissmann, a longtime veteran of the Justice Department, explained on Twitter, Rule 6 should not prevent the department from disclosing the actual search warrant that was executed this week, or "any part of the supporting affidavit that does not contain [grand jury] info." (To obtain a warrant, a federal agent typically must submit a sworn affidavit laying out where they intend to search, what they hope to find, and the basis for believing that this search will reveal evidence of a federal crime.)

For the moment, however, there is another constraint preventing disclosure of the warrant and accompanying affidavit. These documents are "under seal," meaning that a federal court order prevents them from becoming public.

That's likely to change soon, as the Justice Department has now asked the court to disclose at least some of this information. Multiple media and advocacy groups have also asked the court to unseal the affidavit, although it's less clear whether that will happen.

It should be noted that there is one person who could provide some additional information about what happened during the FBI's search — Donald Trump himself. When federal agents execute a search warrant, they typically provide a copy of that warrant (but not the supporting affidavit) to the person being searched. Trump's lawyer Christopher Bobb reportedly received a copy on behalf of Trump, which Gar and confirmed Thursday.

This warrant will reveal some information about the search, including the specific criminal statutes that were alleged to have been violated. Trump is free to disclose his copy of the warrant at any time.

Why the Justice Department does not talk about ongoing investigations

In case there is any doubt, the Justice Department has very good reasons why it keeps its lips shut about ongoing criminal investigations.

One reason is fairly obvious. If prosecutors and law enforcement speak openly about a criminal investigation, they could reveal information to a suspect that could undercut the investigation itself. Trump could conceivably destroy evidence if he knows that DOJ is looking for it, or he might attempt to intimidate a witness if he knows that witness is one of DOJ's sources.

Indeed, while the Supreme Court has said that "the courts of this country recognize a general right to inspect and copy public records and documents, including judicial records and documents," lower courts have held that this right can be overcome by the government's need to keep sensitive information about ongoing investigations secret. As the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, which oversees federal cases in Florida, said in one case, documents may be kept secret when there is a "substantial probability that the government's ongoing investigation would be severely compromised if the sealed documents were released."

(That doesn't necessarily mean that the entire warrant affidavit in Trump's case must be kept secret, but it does mean that it will likely remain under seal if it could compromise DOJ's investigation of Trump.)

There's also another reason why the Justice Department rarely speaks about ongoing investigations: Doing so is unfair to criminal suspects — including Trump.

If Trump is eventually indicted for an alleged violation of a federal criminal law, he has a right to stand trial and will have an opportunity to present evidence that he is, in fact, innocent. Assuming that he does not accept a plea deal, a jury will weigh the evidence and return a verdict of "guilty" or "not guilty." Technically, a "not guilty" verdict would not be a declaration that Trump is actually innocent — it merely means that the prosecution failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt — but it would go a long way toward clearing the cloud of suspicion that hangs over anyone charged with a crime.

But if the Justice Department speaks openly about a criminal investigation before anyone is actually arrested, they place that cloud over a criminal suspect's head without giving that suspect a forum to vindicate their reputation. As former deputy attorneys general James Gorelick and Larry Thompson explained in a 2016 Washington Post op-ed, the Justice Department's "long-standing and well-established traditions of maintaining disclosure of ongoing investigations" that might influence elections prevent prosecutors from "creating unfairness to which an accused party cannot properly respond."

So we should expect the Justice Department to be very quiet from here on out about its investigation of Donald Trump, an essential investigation leading to arrests. This silence is not an attempt to stonewall. It is consistent with longstanding DOJ policies that protect both the Department and anyone accused of a federal crime.

Slate: [Merrick Gar and Just Took a Bowtorch to the GOP Attacks on the Mar-a-Lago Raid](#), by Jeremy Stah

On Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Gar and offered the first official account of Monday's FBI raid on Donald Trump's home at Mar-a-Lago. In search of reportedly confiscated documents that Trump had taken from the White House when he left office, documents that he allegedly still had not turned back over to the government. While Gar and did not reveal many details, he did take a bowtorch to the GOP's unhinged defenses of the former president and attacks on the Department of Justice over the past 72 hours.

Gar and pushed this off with a straightforward explanation: The Department of Justice requested that the judge in Trump's case unseal the search

warrant and the FB property receipt stating what was taken from Mar a Lago, "absent objection from the former President."

This puts the onus on Trump and his lawyers—who for the past three days have unleashed fury against the FBI and gone so far as to suggest the bureau was "phantom" evidence—to object in court to unsealing the documents in order to keep them secret. This immediately flips the script away from the saturation of "what's the DOJ hiding" media coverage of the past few days and raises the obvious question: if Trump objects to unsealing these documents, what's he hiding?

Indeed, Republican former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell have demanded that the DOJ provide immediate answers about the raid. Now the DOJ is saying that so long as the judge in question ascends, they will immediately turn over answers the moment Trump relinquishes his rights to keep those answers secret and lets the DOJ publicize what this was about. If Trump surrenders his rights to keep this secret and the DOJ is asking them to reveal it, then it seems like there would be little rationale for the judge to deny the motion. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart has given Trump until Friday afternoon to notify the court whether he objects to the unsealing of the documents.

Ordinarily, the DOJ would not make this request. In order to protect the rights of people under investigation by the department—so as not to impugn subjects in the event that criminal charges are never filed—such information would normally be kept secret unless and until there was an indictment.

However, the Republican Party and its media allies have raised such hackles over the lack of information about this raid—with Trump in turn fundraising off of the nose—that apparently the DOJ thinks there's a clear "public interest" in releasing the documents.

"The Department filed the motion to make public the warrant and receipt in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances, and the substantial public interest in this matter," Garland announced matter of fact.

The accompanying motion to unseal the documents was similarly straightforward in its argument.

"Given the intense public interest presented by a search of a residence of a former President, the government believes [the] factors favor unsealing the search warrant, its accompanying Attachments A and B, and the Property Receipt, absent objection from the former President," the motion read.

The motion was signed by Acting U.S. Attorney for Southern District of Florida Juan Antonio Gonzalez and Jay Bratt, the chief of the counterintelligence and export control section at the Justice Department. This is notable because Gonzalez would have signed off on the warrant and Bratt—a top counterintelligence official—reported it was among four investigators who previously visited Mar a Lago seeking to have Trump comply with a grand jury issued search warrant for the confidential documents.

Garland also sought to tamp down claims in the press that this was an overreaction to a minor document dispute, saying that he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter." It has previously been reported by Newsweek that Garland had not signed off on the search, which would have been an extraordinary oversight. Garland has been noted for his excessive caution in his approach to potentially charged law enforcement decisions, and the implication that he did not sign off made it look like the search may have been conducted by rogue actors over something trivial.

The Newsweek source, who is now shown to have been not telling the truth, indeed said as much himself:

The senior Justice Department source [...] insists [...] that Garland had no prior knowledge of the date and time of the specific raid, nor was he asked to approve it. "It's hard for people to believe," says the official, "but this was a matter for the U.S. Attorney and the FBI."

FBI Director Christopher Wray ultimately gave his go-ahead to conduct the raid, the senior Justice official says. "It really is a case of the Bureau misreading the impact."

A most certainly auding to the previous efforts to get Trump to turn over the documents, reported by the New York Times earlier on Thursday, Garland added: "The Department does not take such a decision lightly. Where possible, its standard practice to seek less intrusive means as an alternative to a search and to narrow the scope of any search that is undertaken."

Again, assuming the judge would agree to make the warrant public, the motion itself puts the entire impetus now on Trump and his legal team to keep the details of the search a secret.

"This matter primarily concerns public officials or public concerns, ... as to involves a law enforcement action taken at the property of the 45th President of the United States," the court motion notes. "The public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing. That said, the former President should have an opportunity to respond to this Motion and lodge objections, including with regards to any 'egitimate privacy interests' or the potential for other 'injurious' if these materials are made public."

Your move, Donald Trump.

Real Clear Politics: [AG Merrick Garland: Personally Approved The Search Warrant To Raid Trump, by Ian Schwartz](#)

Attorney Merrick Garland announced on Thursday at a press conference that he personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant that resulted in the raid of former President Donald Trump's Mar a Lago property.

"I personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," Garland said.

"The department filed the motion to make public the warrant and receipt in light of the former president's public confirmation of the search, the surrounding circumstances, and the substantial public interest in this matter," Garland said.

"The department does not take such a decision lightly," he added. "Where possible, its standard practice to seek less intrusive means as an alternative to a search, and to narrow the scope of any search that is undertaken."

Buzzfeed News: [Attorney General Merrick Garland Defended The FBI's Raid Of Trump's Mar A Lago Estate](#), by David Mack

Three days after the FBI search of Donald Trump's Mar a Lago estate in Florida, Attorney General Merrick Garland broke his silence on Thursday to discuss the investigation into the former president and to defend the Department of Justice.

Garland also revealed that he personally approved the decision to ask a court for a search warrant in the potentially charged case, which appears to be centered on Trump's removal of classified documents from the White House.

"The department does not take such a decision lightly," Garland told reporters in a brief statement in Washington, DC. "Where possible, its standard practice to seek less intrusive means as an alternative to a search and to narrow the scope of any search that is undertaken."

The New York Times reported Thursday that Trump had received a subpoena this spring from the DOJ about the documents.

Garland announced that federal prosecutors had filed a motion in the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida asking that the search warrant and an FBI property receipt, which lists the items taken, be unsealed.

Both of these documents were provided to Trump's attorney, who was on site as the search took place, according to Garland.

The attorney general said the decision to ask a court to make the documents public was made in light of Trump revealing the FBI raid on Monday to the public, as well as what he said was the "substantial public interest in this matter."

In the court filing, DOJ prosecutors wrote, "Given the intense public interest presented by a search of a residence of a former President, the government believes these factors favor unsealing the search warrant ... and the Property Receipt, absent objection from the former President."

The rationale also cited a Trump aide speaking to media to say the FBI agents were searching for "presidential records or any possibly classified material."

"As such, the occurrence of the search and indications of the subject matter involved are a ready public," the motion states.

Faced with attacks from Trump and his Republican allies who have called for the FBI to be defunded over what they say is a political witch hunt, Garland also defended these agents and DOJ officials.

"We will not stand by silently when the integrity is unfairly attacked," Garland said.

When Garland decided to immediately provide further information about the case, he said the investigation was being guided by law, not politics.

"Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy," Garland said. "Upholding the rule of law means applying the law even without fear or favor. Under my watch, that is precisely what the Justice Department is doing."

The Root: [Atty Gen. Merrick Garland Taking About Trump's House Raid](#), by Keith Reed

Since ex-president Donald Trump's residence at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida was raided on Monday, Trump and his supporters have lobbed accusations that the FBI and Justice Department weren't being transparent about the raid. The talking points that the FBI might have patented evidence — of what, who knows — and that Attorney General Merrick Garland should go public about what he knew about the raid have been a staple of Fox News and Trump's propaganda organ since media outlets, Truth Social, in the days since.

Ignoring that Trump and his supporters have already abandoned the once-undying support of a thinning law enforcement since the Jan. 6th capitol riots, Trumpwor's argument about transparency on its face seemed farcical. Either Trump or his representatives had been given copies of the warrant that was served, and a receipt for whatever was taken. In other words, Trump himself could have let the world know what the FBI was looking for and what they took if he really thought public knowledge was that important.

On Thursday afternoon, Garland said he'd do this himself. In a news conference — an almost unheard-of event for a sitting attorney general about an ongoing investigation, Garland said he would ask a federal judge in Florida to unseal the search warrant used in the Mar-a-Lago raid as well as the receipts for the materials that were taken. It's not exactly checkmate, since the release of the warrant won't also reveal the affidavit filed with a judge to establish probable cause for the search, but it should effectively negate Trump's and his minions' complaints about a lack of transparency around the investigation itself.

Garland also said he personally approved the decision to ask for a search warrant and that he'd do so on the belief there was probable cause. Under normal circumstances, he said, he wouldn't comment on such a case but Trump himself had made the warrant and raid public knowledge by confirming it on Monday to media outlets and by making public complaints about it in the days since.

Garland also refuted Trump's suggestions that the FBI agents who carried out the raid had targeted him for political reasons.

"We will not stand by silently when the integrity is attacked," he said in his televised remarks.

Trump's residence was searched by the FBI Monday afternoon, with agents reportedly looking for classified documents that Trump may have had in his possession illegally since leaving the White House in January 2021.

Above the Law: [Right About Now Donald Trump Really Wishes Merrick Garland Was On The Supreme Court](#), by Joe Patrice

Attorney General Merrick Garland just concluded a press conference informing the country that the Department of Justice has filed a motion to unseal the warrant that resulted in the FBI search at Mar-a-Lago this week. While the DOJ originally requested that the warrant be sealed — to protect Trump's rights, according to Garland — now that Trump and his team have started ranting about it to the media, the DOJ is asking the court to unseal it.

In a nutshell, Republicans spent the last few days complaining that the DOJ refused to tell the world what was in the warrant — something Trump could have publicly disclosed at any point if he so wished — banking on the DOJ to remain silent while the conspirators amples took over. Merrick Garland politely decided to allow Trump to reap what he's sown.

In fact, it's likely to get even more embarrassing for Trump. The motion concludes by inviting Trump to contest the effort to unseal the warrant, forcing a reckoning where the former president — who howled for several days about the DOJ's secrecy — to go to court himself to keep it secret. Which he presumably will since the only imaginable reason why he hasn't released this himself is a deep concern over its contents. [UPDATE: The judge has set a deadline of August 25 for Trump's team to respond. UPDATE 2: Though they have until tomorrow to confer and decide if they're going to oppose.]

The moral of this story is that whatever issues one may have with Merrick Garland and his administration of the Department of Justice — and we've had some of them in these pages — the man is not going to let the DOJ get bullied.

Black Wall Street Times: [AG Merrick Garland Discusses Fbi Raid On Mar A Lago](#), by Mike Creef

Attorney General Merrick Garland gave new information about the FBI raid on Mar-a-Lago at a Department of Justice press conference Thursday afternoon.

Garland revealed that the Justice Department has filed a motion Thursday afternoon to unseal the search warrant of Trump's Mar-a-Lago home.

"American citizens are entitled to the even application of the law, to due process of the law, and to the presumption of innocence," Garland said.

Trump posted on his social media website, Truth Social, that the FBI would not let anyone, "including my lawyers, be anywhere near the areas that were rummaged."

"Copies of both the warrant, and the FBI property receipt were provided on the day of the search to the former President's council, who was on site during the search. The search warrant was authorized by a federal court upon the required finding of probable cause," Garland said.

Many senior Republicans took to Twitter Monday evening with the message "defund the FBI," including Florida Senator Marco Rubio and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, claiming that the Biden administration was using the Justice Department to go after a future political opponent.

White House Correspondent, Kelly O'Donoghue, for NBC News said that a senior White House official told her that Biden was not informed ahead of time of Garland's press conference.

It's unclear how long the motion was taken to unseal the search warrant, however Trump has possessed a copy for the last three days and is able to reveal its contents at any time.

Washington Times: [Justice Department moves to unseal Trump search warrant; AG Gar and personally approved search](#), by Jeff Mordock

The Justice Department on Thursday filed a motion to unseal the search warrant and property receipt used in the FBI raid at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate this week, Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

In brief remarks from the Justice Department, Mr. Garland said he personally approved the search warrant. He added that he didn't make the decision overnight, suggesting that he would have taken a less intrusive step if it were available.

"Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and of our democracy," Mr. Garland said. "Upholding the rule of law means applying the law even without fear or favor. Under my watch, that's precisely what the Justice Department is doing."

Mr. Garland's remarks are his first public statements since the FBI searched Mr. Trump's home in Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday. Pressure has been growing, especially from Republicans, for Mr. Garland to address the search.

"It's been 72 hours since the Justice Department took the unprecedented step of raiding a former president's home. Reports that relate to a dispute over president's records are either a thinly veiled excuse or an abuse of power, if true," Sen. John Cornyn, Texas Republican, said Thursday morning before Mr. Garland's remarks. "Given the Democrats' history of weaponizing the Department of Justice, including the FBI, for political purposes, the American people deserve an honest explanation."

More than 30 FBI agents swarmed Mr. Trump's residence Monday morning, rifling through his office and Melania Trump's closet. The former president has accused FBI agents of breaking a safe.

FBI Director Christopher Wray on Wednesday declined to publicly speak about the Trump raid, citing bureau policy against talking about ongoing investigations.

Mr. Garland defended the Justice Department employees who have been heavily criticized and threatened in the wake of the Trump search.

"The men and women of the FBI and Justice Department are dedicated protectors of public servants," he said. "Every day they protect the American people from violent crime, terrorism and other threats to their safety while safeguarding our civil rights. They do so at great personal sacrifice and risk to themselves."

Since the raid at Mr. Trump's residence, FBI agents as well as Mr. Wray and Mr. Garland have reported an uptick in death threats. Authorities are monitoring social media posts and seeing threatening posts on far-right websites, including calls for Mr. Garland to be assassinated.

The search of Mr. Trump's residence is said to be linked to an investigation into whether he took classified documents and other materials from the White House to his home in Florida. Under federal law, presidents are required to send top secret materials to the National Archives and Records Administration.

The National Archives asked the Justice Department to probe the potential mishandling of classified information contained in 15 boxes sent to Mar-a-Lago.

Earlier this year, the National Archives received those 15 boxes of White House records.

Salon: ["personally approved the decision": Merrick Garland and breaks silence after FBI raid of Mar-a-Lago](#), by Sophia Tesfaye

With a brief statement on Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Garland broke the Department of Justice's (DOJ) silence following Monday's search of former president Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida. The nation's top prosecutor confirmed that he personally signed off on the decision to send agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to Trump's Palm Beach resort. Garland then announced that the Justice Department had applied to unseal the search warrant.

"The public's concern and powerful interest in understanding what occurred under these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing," the DOJ's motion reads.

Acknowledging that he "personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant," Garland said the department first pursued "less intrusive" means to retrieve the materials. According to NBC News, Trump received a federal grand jury subpoena for documents that Trump's legal team discussed with the Justice Department months before the FBI searched his Mar-a-Lago home.

Trump has until August 12 to respond to the government's motion.

Less than five minutes in length, Garland's statement set off a barrage of rage from right-wing pundits, many of whom have clamored for the Justice Department to speak and release the search warrant.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: [Gerson: Garland's no gambler. My bet is he's acting on more than a hunch.](#), by Michael Gerson

The FBI's search of Mar-a-Lago has created a fog of confusion at the center of American politics. An attorney general known for prudence and the restoration of norms has acted in bold and unprecedented fashion. If the FBI has been used as an instrument of political harassment — as some Republican leaders allege, without evidence — then former judge Merrick Garland has become Mr. Hyde. Or, in the typical restrained Republican tradition, a Nazi.

Some Republicans have gone even further. Further, one might ask, than accusations of reviling the Third Reich? Yes, at least in practical effect. The key next speaker of the House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy, Republican, has promised to use his office to persecute Garland, no matter what the justification for the search may turn out to be.

"We've seen enough," said McCarthy, who has actually seen nothing of the reasoning behind an FBI action approved by a federal judge. "The Department of Justice has reached an intolerable state of weaponized politicization," he continued, in the process of peddling the weaponized politicization of congressional oversight. He then threatened, with a ferocity that a craven, weaselly Trump lackspitter can muster: "Attorney General Garland, preserve your documents and clear your conscience."

While other Republicans have accused the Biden administration of making the United States a banana republic, McCarthy has peddled his fealty to a disgraced authoritarian wannabe, who actually attempted a coup and now rages against his fate in god-pated, palm-tree-shaded grandeur, when not giving Castro-length speeches to worshipful crowds that have a history of engaging in political violence at his command.

But while McCarthy's behavior is typically smarmy, Garland's untypical behavior requires explanation.

It's possible that a stickler for the rules such as Garland is offended by Trump's complete indifference to the rules of presidential document preservation. When he was a White House staffer, careful document retention was standard operating procedure, under the control of the staff secretary. (One of the staff secretaries worked with was Brett Kavanaugh, who was a ways thorough and meticulous.)

The material covered by the Presidential Records Act included documents that went to or came from the president, but also documents that passed between staffers. This website was designed to preserve an accurate historical record. It also had the effect of helping ensure an orderly, deliberate process.

But enforcement depended, in part, on the norms he'd implemented by the president and his senior staff. We know Trump's view of this process by the fact that a small staff was charged with reconstructing — with clear adhesive tape — documents that the president had "preserved" by ripping them up and throwing them on the floor.

We should hardly expect a president who openly defied constitutional norms to carefully respect document preservation norms. Which means that the body of documents thrown into boxes, kept in Trump's basement and gathered by the FBI, could contain anything.

What they contain, however, matters greatly. The protection of former presidents from unjustified legal harassment is a norm, and an important one. If the material obtained by the FBI contained the third draft of the annual turkey pardon remarks, or even classified material on a coup in Ruritania, Trump would be in the wrong, but Gar and would not necessarily be in the right. The key violations of laws related to the preservation of presidential documents and the handling of classified material would not be sufficient to order a search on a former president's home. More important, it would be hard to imagine Gar and thinking they would be sufficient.

It's also possible that a search formally justified by the protection of presidential documents could have other legal purposes — including feeding into other FBI investigations. This would be legally permissible. But the stakes would still be high. If this were a fishing expedition, in hopes of finding evidence related to, say, the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol, the absence of fishing would show the expedition to be reckless. A pure bet is a bad basis for an unprecedented act.

No, the justification for the search — not as a matter of law, but as a matter of prudence — would depend on the key presence of material that is legally damaging to Trump, not just legally in his possession.

How could the FBI know that the material it was key to find in a search would be relevant to some ongoing criminal investigation? From document handling processes at the Trump White House that indicated gaps? From an informant within the Trump White House when the material was taken? From someone at Mar-a-Lago with knowledge of the boxes' contents?

I would bet, based on everything we know about Gar and, that his action was based on the high likelihood of finding legally damaging material. It's also possible he's more of a gambler than we understood.

AZ Central: [How cable news covered Merrick Garland's press appearance: think this was brilliant](#), by B. Goodykoontz

Your move, Donald Trump.

That was the gist of cable news network coverage of U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland's brief statement Thursday, in which he addressed the FBI search of the former president's Florida home on Monday.

Garland said during his appearance before media that he moved to unseal the search warrant used in the search of Mar-a-Lago.

Game on.

"Think this was a brilliant press conference and the right thing to do in this extraordinary circumstance," Nea Katya, a legal analyst on MSNBC, said.

Joe Concha, media and political columnist for The Hill and a guest on Fox News, disagreed, and quickly moved to pull the White House into the fray.

"Think the appearance actually just made things worse for the White House," Concha said, after adding, "It was a nothing burger because you wish no bun."

That's absurd, of course — moving to unseal the search warrant is a big deal indeed. And Katya, like others, pointed out that Garland's action puts the onus on Trump and his attorneys and supporters.

"This was a bit of a put up or shut up for the Donald Trump team," Evan Perez, CNN's senior justice correspondent, said.

"They've had the feed for a couple of days, making accusations. And now it's up to them if they want to go to a judge and try to get the judge to say no, your honor, you can't release these documents that the justice department says it's in the public interest for us to see."

Kat An Conns, CNN's chief White House correspondent, echoed Perez.

"For about 72 hours now Trump and his attorneys and his aides have driven the narrative around this search warrant," she said, "framing it in the right way and in the manner and casting it unfairly and politically motivated. And now the justice department is basically daring them to explain why they don't want these documents released."

Katya went even further down that road.

"It's the right thing to do but it's a key chess move," Katya said, "because for the last 48 hours Donald Trump has been bathering on a long with the Republican party saying this search is abusive and so on, and we've all been saying look, you've got the warrant, release it to us. And now Garland has figured out a separate way to have that released."

The press conference caught media off guard — it was announced about an hour before it was scheduled to happen, and then delayed more than a half hour. This opened up an ocean of speculation about what Garland might say.

"It better be good," Martha MacCallum said on Fox News.

"Every word will count," Bret Baer said, also on Fox News. "And every word that is said will make a difference in how this is covered going forward."

It certainly advances the story, as the wait for whether Trump will attempt to block the unsealing of the warrant begins. If Lara Trump's appearance on Fox News was any indication, the Trump team will continue with the tactics, even as the decisions are made, hyperbolically portraying the former president as a political martyr.

And Fox News will continue to be Fox News.

"We've had so many people reach out to me over the past several days saying we can't sleep, our stomachs are in knots, because this is not something ... that you suppose is going to ever happen in America," Lara Trump said, "and yet here we are and we're just supposed to just accept what the A.G. came out and said. We got no info."

Later she told MacCallum that the search is "something we expect to see in a third world country."

"Well, you're not a one in that feeling, that's for sure," MacCallum said.

Noted.

Of course, Garland's brief appearance would do nothing to quell rampant speculation, at least until a judge rules on unsealing the warrant. Where the leads are an ongoing story, and a big one.

"We're in uncharted territory here," Barber said at one point.

I'm not sure about that. With Lara Trump's reaction, it seems like we've been here before plenty of times, and still can't escape.

Breitbart: [Attorney General Merrick Garland and Breaks Silence: Approved Search Warrant on Donald Trump's Home](#), by Charles Sperling

Attorney General Merrick Garland broke his silence on Thursday, three days after FBI agents raided former President Donald Trump's home at Mar-a-Lago.

"I personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter," Garland said in his short statement at the Justice Department in reaction to criticism of Monday's FBI raid of the former president.

He defended the search warrant as authorized by a federal court, citing probable cause.

"Faithful adherence to the rule of law is the bedrock principle of the Justice Department and our democracy," he said. "Upholding the rule of law means applying the law even without fear or favor."

Garland added the Department of Justice had funded the motion to unseal parts of the warrant, citing "substantial public interest" in the details.

He also defended the search warrant claiming the Justice Department tried to resolve issues they had with Trump through "less intrusive means."

Garland also lectured critics of his department for the raid.

"I will not stand by silently when the integrity of our country is unfairly attacked," calling FBI and DOJ officials "dedicated protectors of public servants."

The attorney general did not take questions after finishing his four-minute statement.

"This is a time when we can say right now," he said, exiting the stage.

The attorney general's address indicates the Justice Department is aware the narrative surrounding the raids is spiraling out of control, calling into question the impartiality.

Elected Republicans demanded the Department of Justice and the FBI explain the reason for the raid on a former president of the United States, who is very likely to challenge Biden again in the 2024 presidential election.

Sen. John Cornyn issued a strongly worded statement on Thursday, demanding the Department of Justice explain its unprecedented actions.

"The American people deserve an honest explanation," he wrote. "The longer the AG remains silent, the more they look like a brazen abuse of power."

President Joe Biden and the White House continue refusing to address the alarming incident, defending the independence of the Justice Department and repeatedly insisting they had no prior knowledge of the raid.

The president is currently on a week-long vacation at Kawahis and, which is off the coast of South Carolina.

Anonymous White House describes a media report to reporters prior to Garland's remarks that the White House had no prior notice of his decision to address the raid.

"We have had no notice that he was giving remarks and no briefing on the content of them," a senior official said.

From: Petranton Kelsey (PAO)
Subject: FW: Mar a Lago Announcement Cl ps
To: Gamble Nathaniel (ODAG)
Sent: August 11 2022 7:01 PM (UTC 04:00)
Attached: Mar a Lago Announcement Cl ps.docx

From: Jan, Katherine (PAO) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:10 PM

Duplicative Records

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Subject: Motion
To: Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Sent: August 11, 2022 8:38 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Scan_2 (002).pdf

See attached.

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

August 15, 2022

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

Dear Attorney General Garland:

The FBI's unprecedented raid of President Trump's residence is a shocking escalation of the Biden Administration's weaponization of law-enforcement resources against its political opponents. The American people deserve transparency and accountability from our most senior law-enforcement officials in the executive branch. We will settle for nothing but your complete cooperation with our inquiry.

Under your tenure, the Justice Department continues to shatter public confidence in the equal application of justice. The Department has filed politically motivated lawsuits against Republican-led states on policies disfavored by the Biden Administration, artificially inflated domestic violent extremism statistics to advance the Biden Administration's political narrative, used counterterrorism resources to target parents at school board meetings opposed to policies supported by the Biden Administration, and selectively prosecuted and investigated political opponents of the Biden Administration. These actions not only undermine the stated mission of the Department, they violate the most fundamental tenets of our country.

The American people deserve answers for the Biden Administration's continued misuse of law-enforcement resources against its political opponents. Accordingly, please produce the following material:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the execution of a search warrant on President Trump's residence;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the decision to seek a search warrant for President Trump's residence;
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to the use of confidential human source(s) in connection with the search of President Trump's residence;

4. All documents and communications between or among the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the Executive Office of the President about a search of President Trump's residence;
5. All documents and communications between or among the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the United States Secret Service about a search of President Trump's residence; and
6. All documents and communications between or among the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the National Archives and Records Administration about a potential search of President Trump's residence.

Please provide this material as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2022. In addition, please preserve all responsive documents in your possession, custody, or control. You should construe this communication as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that are or may be potentially responsive to this inquiry. This instruction includes all electronic messages sent using official and personal accounts or devices, including records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software. For purposes of this request, "preserve" includes taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. These steps include preserving all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to other government or litigation requests, even if copies of individual documents or materials may still exist elsewhere in the organization.

The Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to oversee the activities of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906 if you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



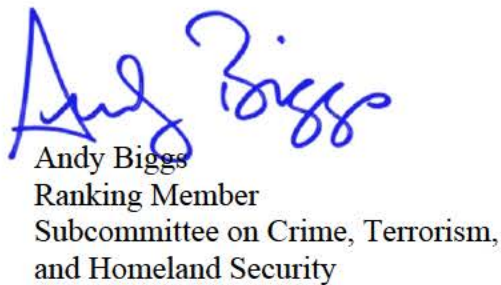
Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property, and the Internet



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



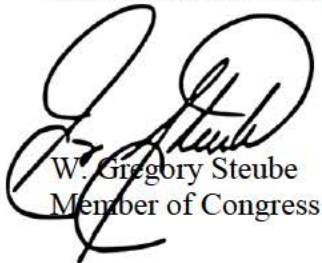
Mike Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution,
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties



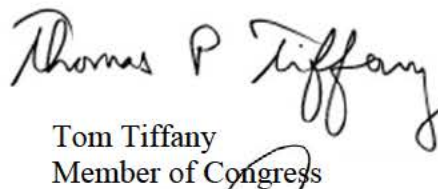
Andy Biggs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
and Homeland Security



Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration
and Citizenship



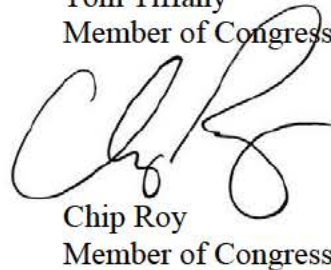
W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



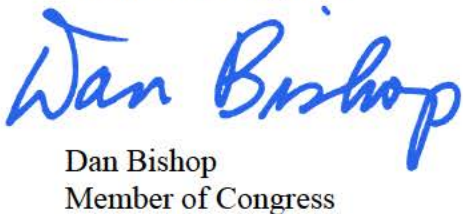
Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



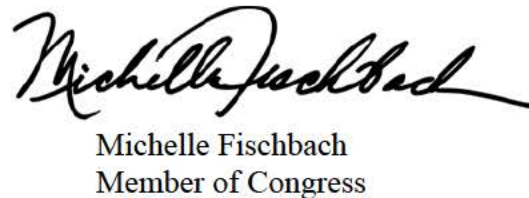
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



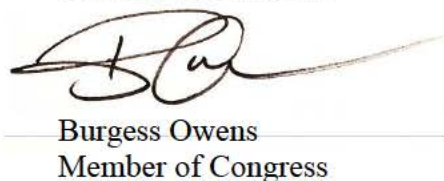
Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland

August 15, 2022

Page 4

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] WSJ: "FBI Recovered Eleven Sets of Classified Documents in Trump Search, Inventory Shows"
To: (b)(6) Lisa Monaco email
Cc: Miller, Marsha (ODAG); Bruck, Andrew (ODAG)
Sent: August 12, 2022 1:48 PM (UTC-04:00)

FYI, flagged for Rush and Newman.

From: DoJ Real Time News Clips <alert-doj@rendon.com>
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WSJ: "FBI Recovered Eleven Sets of Classified Documents in Trump Search, Inventory Shows"

WSJ: "FBI Recovered Eleven Sets of Classified Documents in Trump Search, Inventory Shows," Alex Leary, Aruna Viswanatha and Sadie Gurman, August 12, 2022
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/fbi-recovered-eleven-sets-of-classified-documents-in-trump-search-inventory-shows-11660324501>

FBI agents who searched former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home Monday removed 11 sets of classified documents, including some marked as top secret and meant to be only available in special government facilities, according to documents reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation agents took around 20 boxes of items, binders of photos, a handwritten note and the executive grant of clemency for Mr. Trump's ally Roger Stone, a list of items removed from the property shows. Also included in the list was information about the "President of France," according to the three-page list. The list is contained in a seven-page document that also includes the warrant to search the premises which was granted by a federal magistrate judge in Florida.

The list includes references to one set of documents marked as "Various classified/TS/SCI documents," an abbreviation that refers to top-secret/sensitive compartmented information. It also says agents collected four sets of top secret documents, three sets of secret documents, and three sets of confidential documents. The list didn't provide any more details about the substance of the documents.

Mr. Trump's lawyers argue that the president used his authority to declassify the material before he left office. While a president has the power to declassify documents, there are federal regulations that lay out a process for doing so.

The search and seizure warrant, signed by U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart, shows that FBI agents sought to search "the 45 Office," as well as "all storage rooms and all other rooms or areas within the premises used or available to be used by [the former president] and his staff and in which boxes or documents could be stored, including all structures or buildings on the estate."

They didn't seek access to search private guest rooms, such as those of Mar-a-Lago members, according to the document.

The former president and his team don't have the affidavit, which would provide more detail about the FBI's investigation, according to people familiar with the process. His lawyers have asked for a more specific account of what was removed from Mar-a-Lago.

Mr. Trump, in a post on his social-media platform Thursday, said his representatives had been "cooperating fully" and added, "The government could have had whatever they wanted, if we had it."

END

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From: (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Today's filing attached
To: (b) (6) (ODAG)
Sent: August 12, 2022 3:27 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: 8.12.22_Fina Notice of Filing - Certificate of Conferral .pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Toscas, George (NSD)" <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Date: August 12, 2022 at 3:20:38 PM EDT
To: "Olsen, Matthew (NSD)" <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> "Miller, Marshall (ODAG)"
<(b) (6)> "Newman, David A. (ODAG)" <(b) (6)>
Subject: Today's filing attached

From: (b)(6) David Newman email
Subject: Fwd: Today's filing attached
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Sent: August 12, 2022 3:28 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: 8.12.22_Fina Notice of Filing - Certificate of Conferral .pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Toscas, George (NSD)" <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Date: August 12, 2022 at 3:20:38 PM EDT
To: "Olsen, Matthew (NSD)" <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> "Miller, Marshall (ODAG)"
<(b)(6)> "Newman, David A. (ODAG)" <(b)(6)>
Subject: Today's filing attached

From: Brockman, Audrey (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Mar-a-Lago 8.15.22 5pm
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO); Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG)
Cc: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG); Chandler, Adam (ODAG); Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG); Bruck, Andrew (ODAG)
Sent: August 15, 2022 5:55 PM (UTC-04:00)

Will do. Thanks!

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 5:49 PM
To: Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Brockman, Audrey (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Chandler, Adam (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Bruck, Andrew (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: FW: Mar-a-Lago 8.15.22 5pm

Are you able to pls print the attached, **double sided?** It is quite long. I have separate radio clips coming. Thank you!!

From: Jain, Katherine (PAO) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 5:43 PM
To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <(b) (6)> Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>;
Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov>; Shevlin, Shannon (OPA) <Shannon.Shevlin@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Delgado, Paloma (PAO) <Paloma.Delgado@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Mar-a-Lago 8.15.22 5pm

Hi!
Here are clips about Mar-a-Lago as of 5:30pm today. It seems like coverage is still coming out about the latest update from the DOJ, so anything we missed we will send tomorrow morning.
Have a great evening.

Best,
Paloma and Katie

Mar-a-Lago Clips 5:30pm

Press Inquiries

Reporter	Query	Response
Zach Schonfeld The Hill	Seeking confirmation that Trump reached out to DOJ asking how he can help bring down the violent rhetoric following the raid.	
Mia Jankowicz Insider	Comment on Trump claims on whether DOJ took privileged material; his request via social media to have the docs returned; reports of Trump's request for a special master.	
David Marino, Bangor Daily	Does DOJ plan to comply with request to return documents?	
Perry Stain WAPO	Seeking confirmation that DOJ received the requests from Rubio/Warner for documents relating to the raid.	DTC
Herb Scribner Axios	Seeking comment on Rep. Taylor Green drafting articles of impeachment for AG	

Aila Slisco Newsweek.	Seeking comment on Rep. Taylor Green drafting articles of impeachment for AG.	
Alia Shoaib	DOJ comment regarding concerns arising out of Breitbart's doxing of federal agents.	
Ted Hesson Reuters	Comment on NYT reporting that Trump's lawyers signed a statement saying all classified material had been returned to the government.	
Brooke Singman, Fox	Comment on claims documents seized had privileged information and on reports Trump's legal team has requested a special master be appointed.	
Rob Lagare CBS	Seeking guidance on whether Jay Bratt has received threats following a former Trump official posting Jay's email address and LinkedIn account.	

Print

Reuters: [U.S. Justice Dept opposes unsealing affidavit used to search Trump's home](#), by Sarah Lynch

Bloomberg: [DOJ Opposes Release of Affidavit in Trump Search, Citing Probe](#), by Chris Strohm and Zoe Tillman

Washington Post: [Justice Dept. opposes release of Mar-a-Lago affidavit](#), by Perry Stein

Washington Post: [The curious timing of Trump naming two allies to access his records](#), by Phillip Bump

CNN: [DOJ opposes making public details in Mar-a-Lago search warrant's probable cause affidavit](#), by Katelyn Polatz and Hannah Rabinowitz

CNN: [Opinion: Trump is worried after FBI search -- and he should be](#), by Norman Eisen, Asha Rangappa, and Dennis Aftergut

NBC: [Pennsylvania man arrested for threats against FBI after Mar-a-Lago search](#), by Ryan J. Reilly

MSNBC: [Yet another person has died in defense of Trump's lies. When will it end?](#), by Frank Figliuzzi

Fox: [Compagno rips mainstream media for 'toxic celebration' of FBI's raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago](#), by Staff

ABC: [Senate Intelligence Committee leaders request classified documents taken from Mar-a-Lago](#), by Trish Turner and Tal Axelrod

ABC: [Former federal prosecutor reveals 'powder keg' in FBI raid on Trump](#), by Staff

BBC: [Mar-a-Lago: FBI warns of increased threats after Trump search](#), by Max matza & Tara McKelvey

Politico: [Trump world's shifting narrative on the Mar-a-Lago docs](#), by Myah Ward

Guardian: [Trump demands return of seized documents by order of social media](#), by Martin Pengelly

Guardian: [Trump should announce run for 2024 soon to avoid indictment](#), source says, by Martin Pengelly

Forbes: [Trump Claims FBI Took His Passports In Mar-A-Lago Raid](#), by Madeline Halpert

Axios: [Bolton: Trump's defense of Mar-a-Lago materials "almost certainly a lie"](#), by Shawna Chen

Axios: [House GOP intensify scrutiny of DOJ, FBI following Trump search](#), by Erin Doherty, Andrew Solender

People: [Ark. Gov. Hutchinson Defends FBI, Says Fellow Republicans Should 'Pull Back' on Judging Mar-a-Lago Search](#), by Aaron Parsley

New York Post: [Trump claims FBI 'stole' his passports during Mar-a-Lago raid](#), by Steven Nelson

Huffington Post: [Trump Says The FBI Took His Passports In Its Mar-A-Lago Search](#), by Jennifer Bendery

Esquire: [Marco Rubio Wants Senate Committee to See Trump Secret Docs, But Dems Shouldn't Play Along](#), by Charles P. Pierce

Newsweek: [Donald Trump Labeled a 'Flight' Risk After Saying FBI Took His Passports](#), by Zoe Strozewski

Daily Mail: [Trump claims FBI agents seized THREE of his passports during 'sneak attack' raid at Mar-a-Lago](#), by Emily Goodin

Washington Examiner: [Trump says he wants to lower 'temperature' after Mar-a-Lago raided by FBI](#), by Asher Notheis

Daily Caller: ['Third World': Trump Claims FBI Seized Passports In Mar-A-Lago Raid](#), by Nicole Silverio

Broadcast

TV

CNN: [The Lead With Jake Tapper](#)



CNN 8/15/2022 5:02:01 PM: ...more transparency around this investigation. we will see if the court agrees with that. and of course, there is still on the table these requests from both democrats and republicans on capitol hill to have classified briefings about what was found at mar-a-lago. jake. >> katelyn polantz, thank you so much. joining us to discuss is elie honig, former u.s. assistant attorney. do you think the justice department is doing the right thing, trying to block release of this affidavit? >> well, jake, i'm not at all surprised doj is resisting this. this affidavit, so people understand, is the single most important document in this whole case. this is the document where prosecutors have to lay out in detail in narrative fashion what their probable cause is to believe that the crimes we have seen in the prior documents were committed and that there would be evidence at mar-a-lago. and then they bring this document over to a judge who has to review it, and we know in this case did agree it made out probable cause. just for a sense of context, the documents that were unsealed on friday, they total seven pages. this affidavit typically will be dozens of pages, 50 pages, i have seen 100-plus page affidavits. there's only two groups of people who have this document. prosecutors and the judge. donald trump does not have it, we don't have it in the public. i'm not surprised doj is resisting because to reveal this document would simply reveal the entire ongoing investigation. >> there was speculation that perhaps doj was just going to -- this was just about document retrieval. they issued a subpoena, tried to get these documents. they went in there, got the documents. they had been attempting to do so in a friendly fashion, but that didn't work. now they have them back. but this refusal to disclose the affidavit and the language the justice department uses talking about continued investigation, witnesses, grand jury, this suggests there are criminal charges being brought and it's not just a question of trying to get these documents back. >> yeah, this filing does confirm that there's an ongoing criminal investigation, and really, we knew that from the start because you cannot get a search warrant by just saying to a judge, hey, judge, there's classified information. we really want to get it back. in order to get a search warrant, as a matter of law, you have to establish probable cause that at least one specific federal crime was committed. we now know what the federal crimes were, espionage act, destruction of documents, and obstruction, but yes, this has been and remains an ongoing criminal investigation. >> is there a risk that the justice department, which a lot of democrats and republicans are saying needs to be more transparent about this

MSNBC: [Deadline: White House](#)



MSNBC 8/15/2022 4:53:20 PM: ...we know that the classification on some of them does not either prove or -- either confirm or deny that there were nuclear -- that nuclear weapons were part of the documents that were mentioned, retrieved from mar-a-lago. is it reasonable to ask the question, or is it just crazy conspiracy theorizing to think about and start investigating the questions related to whether donald trump had those kinds of documents and what potential either political or profit motive he might be pursuing. what would be the reason for having those, and what might he stand to gain in a world where that kind of information is very valuable to a lot of people? >> it's one of the most concerning aspects of this. "the washington post" reporting that came out indicating that there were some nuclear-related material in these documents that were being held at mar-a-lago. and they're all different types of nuclear information. and i must point out, though, that some of the information related to u.s. nuclear weapons and force posture is covered under the atomic energy act, and it's not subject to the declassification rules and procedures, and it is some of the most tightly held and most closely compartmented information in the u.s. government, and the president of the united states has access to that information. i remember when i worked at the white house, it was something i had access to while there, but i didn't have access to it while i was director of cia, given the supreme sensitivity of it and the very limited need to know on the part of u.s. senior officials. so, i do think it's critically important to understand exactly what might have been within that trove of documents that has been retrieved, whether or not there's nuclear material in there, and again, getting back to what might have happened over the last 20 months. i do think foreign intelligence services, the russians and the chinese, could have easily tried to get people in to mar-a-lago to gain access to what was an unsecured facility, and the availability of these documents that were kept in the files there. and so, therefore, i do think it may have been part of the urgency that the department of justice, the fbi, and the intelligence community really felt, that maybe they became aware of some things that were missing in the white house or some files that was critically important to get back as soon as possible because of the damage it could do to national security if, in fact, it was subject to unauthorized disclosure.

Fox Business: [Kudlow](#)

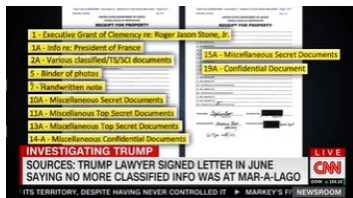
FBN 8/15/2022 4:20:43 PM: larry: so we go back to the outrageous invasion of donald trump's mar-a-lago, the raid on mar-a-lago and now the question is why is the justice department desperately trying to criminalize the presidential records act, all right? joining me to talk about it andy mccarthy, former assistant u.s. attorney, "national review" contributing editor, to fox news contributor. welcome back as always. your column on nationalreview.online was a blockbuster. we talked about it on radio but we need to do more. this investigation is far broader than mishandling of classified information. karn you tell us about that. >> well, larry, people asked what the thing that changed from the time president trump and his representatives met with justice department people and fbi people in june? i think the thing obviously changed is the justice department ratcheted up the january 6th investigation. so in late june you have these two search warrants that are done on two of the lawyers who were connected to january 6th. then there is some grand jury subpoenas served on vice president pence's people. grand jury subpoenas ised on president trump's white house counsel and deputy white house counsel pat cipollone and pat philbin. the day after they do the mar-a-lago raid a member of congress walking with his family in pennsylvania is given a search warrant and has to surrender his phone. so it seems to me that you know, it is very clear that they have, garland got a lot of criticism he didn't seem to be moving aggressively enough on january 6th. they have stepped up their activity since then and it's inconceivable to me that the guy they're mainly looking at on january 6th is president trump. they search his place in the middle of all of this activity and we're supposed to be believe the search doesn't have anything to do with january 6th? i don't think that is possible. larry: that scott perry hit was a tipoff. that is like the leading indicator if you ask me. that is not a coincidence. that is the day after the mar-a-lago raid.

MSNBC: [Hallie Jackson Reports](#)



MSNBC 8/15/2022 3:23:18 PM: ...oversight if, in fact, they took the passports. >> good point, andrew. you talk about the accountability factor for former president trump, as it relates to why these documents were at mar-a-lago in the first place. our team here suggests that for years, and i cover the white house at the time, there was a concern about what one former adviser described as carelessness with the way that then president trump handled some of this sensitive material. whatever he did, right, now it's back this the hands of the justice department, and there is probably some expectation setting to be done for sort of the wider viewing public on how quickly we may hear about the next step or the next development from the fbi, no? >> yeah, absolutely. so first, the point about this sloppiness, there's no question that the trump white house was not known for being rule followers. and that may come back to haunt them. but here, one of the things that's going to be i think probably damning for donald trump is the repeated quest by the justice department to get these documents back, and what appears to be on few skagsu on few -- joulou outright lying. f's a lot to do. first and a lot to do. first an >> first and foremost, the fbi and justice department will be looking to see where these documents went, who has handled them. they're going to look at this from a national security perspective. and then from a criminal perspective, there are lots of witnesses they'll want to put in the grand jury, witnesses who may be at mar-a-lago and these bogus empbs bogus defenses that we have heard, like there was some kind of standing order to declassify things when they were moved from one location to another, which of course everyone thinks is preposterous. but cash patel could find himself with a grand jury subpoena, because i would want to know everything i could about that potential defense if i was in the justice department. i would want to assess it, and if i thought it was not true, i would want to know how to defeat it so i wasn't surprised at trial. so i don't think there will be an indictment any time soon. but i think it's going to be on the list of things that merrick garland will want to pursue quickly.

CNN: [Newsroom With Alisyn Camerota and Victor Blackwell](#)



CNN 8/15/2022 3:03:43 PM: ...marco rubio, the leaders of the senate intelligence committee sent a private letter to the director of national intelligence and the attorney general. they want to see on a classified basis here, the specific documents removed from mar-a-lago and no word yet on a response from the justice department. >> and we're learning more about what investigators were facing before the search of mar-a-lago. sources say one of donald trump's lawyers signed a letter sometime in june. this is more than a month before the search saying there was no more classified information stored at mar-a-lago, and yet, as we now know from the release of the search warrant, the fbi removed 11 sets of classified documents from the trump estate, including some marked top secret, and sci, which is one of the highest levels of classification. so let's turn now to cnn justice correspondent jessica schneider, you're learning that law enforcement, including the fbi are under a high alert for threats in the wake of all of this. so tell us about that. >> they absolutely are. the threats against fbi employees, fbi buildings, they have really intensified in the past week of course since that search warrant was executed. that's prompted the fbi security division right here in washington to notify the nearly 40,000 fbi employees. they want to alert them to remain vigilant. on top of that, there was a joint bulletin from fbi dhs that was also released that lays out the threat landscape here, and this bulletin is saying in part it includes a threat to places so called dirty bomb in front of fbi headquarters and issuing general calls for civil war and armed rebellion, and probably because of that, barricades are now up surrounding fbi's headquarters right here in washington, and our team is told that the fbi is, in fact, investigating an unprecedented number of threats against fbi employees. and those threats include two against special agents who were listed on those court records that were released on friday. the agents were involved in the mar-a-lago search, and they were blacked out in the official copy released by the court, but their names actually were listed in the leaked copies that was put out by conservative media outlets earlier on friday. on top of that, we learned that the fbi has noticed an up tick in what's called doxing, people online publicly post personal information of fbi employees that can then be used by people across the country if they want to target those employees.

Fox News: [America Reports with John Roberts & Sandra Smith](#)



FNC 8/15/2022 2:53:11 PM: ...we all hoped he could be that moderating force and he has not been, every opportunity he's had to recognize the concerns of millions of citizens he's really been absent without leave. a good example of mar-a-lago. many of us are saying we need to see the affidavit before we decide whether this raid was abusive or not, see what was the basis they gave the court. but he has refused to release that affidavit. but on top of that, the trump team asked for attorney/client material to be returned, or for a special master to be appointed to sort through this material to protect privileged material. that seemed to me a reasonable request, and something that the attorney general could say all right, this will assure people this was not a pretext, that we were not after other material. but once again, he refused. and this is a record that has repeated itself over and over again over the last two years. >> aishah: jonathan, in this case, don't you think he's following the white house lead here? they don't want to touch it with a ten-foot stick and him by himself out in the ocean to handle this on his own. what would you have wanted to see from him? >> jonathan: what i wanted to see was leadership in the real sense, that is he was a figure, i thought, who could bring the country together, at least when it comes to the justice department. but other examples are i think troubling. in the hunter biden investigation, the case for a special counsel is absolutely unimpeachable. you cannot investigate the hunter biden influence deals without running over the name of the president. he's referenced as potentially receiving some of these profits. how on earth could you not appoint a special counsel. but garland went further, the department is investigating january 6th and issuing search warrants on gop members of congress, taking phones, very aggressive. that's looking at the past opponent of the president and the likely future opponent of the president. how could you not appoint a special counsel to assure the public? in watergate we had archibald cox. where is our archibald cox? the real question, where is merrick garland? where is he at this moment when he could take steps to assure the american people i am not following the guidance of the

Radio

[NPR](#)

NPR 8/15/2022 5:11:26 PM: ...we invite you to take a step back with me and consider legally is, it is. Is it even relevant whether Trump declassified these papers or didn't and I'm asking because the search warrant from Mar-a-Lago reference 3 potential crimes that the FBI is investigating 3 statutes, not one of which depends on whether these documents were classified. Does it matter actually it doesn't. And I think what's listed in the search warrant is fascinating both for what it includes and what it doesn't include what it doesn't include Interestingly and the search warrant is limited to 3 specific statutes and the one that it didn't cover is a statute that makes it a crime to knowingly remove or retain classified documents that statute wasn't listed why I suspect that's because the Department of Justice, wanted to be on extremely solid ground when they undertook this search warrant. And of course there were also aware that maybe the President claimed you D classify this stuff so they didn't List that section there because they wanted to list 3 other statutes that have nothing to do with whether a document is declassified. one is a provision of the espionage act that relates to the mishandling of something called national defense information, not quite the same as classified document similar and the other two statutes relate generally to mishandling of official Government documents, nothing to do with whether they've been declassified, they could be declassified as possible and you might still be guilty of a crime under these other two statutes which relate to just mishandling of Government records and storing them improperly. So someone who has handled a lot of classified documents what question is foremost in your mind now what where does this go I think the key thing that we need to recognize is that we should try to step back and divorce this case from the politics and the emotion for a second and simply say that if the Department of Justice was faced with a situation in which someone some former Government employee, whether high-ranking or low ranking was known to be in possession of Government documents, including ones that are apparently top secret. What would the Government do and in this case, the Government would in every case say Let's try to get them back. We can't run the risk that they're in an insecure place that perhaps Chinese spies or some other adversary would try to get them they would they would ask for them back in.

<p>Bloomberg Radio</p>	<p>WBRR 8/15/2022 5:04:47 PM: ...to. And what they're saying and as we know, for instance, you know, one of the things that have been speculated within Trump organization selfies you know do we have a mall who's the mole who's been telling them what's going on inside of Mar-a-Lago. And so there might be information cooperated in those documents that would lead the the Trump people to maybe potentially identify someone who they worry is cooperating with authorities and it also portends to the larger investigation right now. We don't know. Actually, if there is a potential charge against the President may be that the DOJ was satisfied to get the documents back and under lock and key by the federal Government, but it may be that this is part of a larger investigation into other issues. The affidavit may actually indicate that which would then potentially impact the investigation self so Jean. Walk us through here as rick just touched on the possibility that this may speak to the breadth of the investigation what we had heard about the Mar-a-Lago raid was that this was part of an attempt to find possible violations of the espionage act, among other allegations. We had heard according to the documents that came out some of some of those documents were marked with the highest level of secrecy. The top secret sensitive compartmented information classification if they are concerned about showing their hand the Justice Department. What does this tell us about the breath of the investigation that they are continuing Jeannie, you know, I don't think it's a surprise that the Department opposes releasing this after David, you know, the release of the search warrant in the receipt. Those were things that Donald Trump and his lawyers had access to, and they do give us important information as we saw a late last week, but one Re unleash or on, you know, release rather the at the David that accompany these were things that Trump and his lawyers do not have access to, and they would be highly unusual for a federal judge to sign off on something like that because it would show us information that that may reveal things like sources it may reveal the extent of an ongoing investigation. It may reveal you know top-secret security information. These are things again that a judge had to sign off on but to release them to the Press and released them publicly. Highly unusual in a case like this.</p>
<p>NPR</p>	<p>NPR 8/15/2022 4:32:26 PM: ...prevent countries O care to it and they are being told that they can't do that. That's ahead after These news headlines live from NPR news. In Culver city, California, and Duane Brown the FBI search warrant for Mar-a-Lago shows that former President Donald Trump is under investigation for possible violations of the espionage act. That law makes it illegal to obtain or disclose sensitive Government information. But, as NPR's Greg Myre he tells us the challenge with a 1917 law is it's too vague. The law dating to World war one and it's very broad. So we don't know exactly how it's being used in this case it can mean spying or providing secret information to an adversary that was certainly part of it, but it can also refer to just mishandling information about national defense. Republican leaders now want the Justice Department to release the full afrd David the justify the search warrant after days of heated rhetoric. The fbi and Homeland security of Warren law enforcement around the country of an increase in violent threats against them.</p>

Tweets

Congress

[Sen. John Cornyn, \(R-TX\)](#)



Senator John Cornyn
@JohnCornyn



DOJ moves to unseal - some but not all - of the search warrant.

DOJ says release of Mar-a-Lago affidavit would harm ongoing criminal probe politi.co/3dx6mGL via @politico



politico.com

DOJ says release of Mar-a-Lago affidavit would harm ongoing criminal probe
Feds are worried about witnesses and threats to the FBI if more details are released from the search warrant.

5:25 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPad

[Rep. Greg Steube, \(R-FL 17th District\)](#)



Congressman Greg Steube
@RepGregSteube



I'm joining my @JudiciaryGOP colleagues in demanding answers from AG Garland, Director Wray, and COS Klain regarding the unprecedented raid at Mar-a-Lago.

We shouldn't have to wait for next Congress – the American people want answers NOW.



cbsnews.com

Trump allies on House Judiciary Committee ask Biden officials to save records ...
They've written to the attorney general, FBI director, White House chief of staff and others.

3:31 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, \(R-FL 27th District\)](#)

 **María Elvira Salazar** 
@MaElviraSalazar

Pursuing political opponents through government institutions is a practice of dictatorships, not the United States. What happened at Mar-a-Lago is an aggression against all the citizens of this country.



From **María Elvira Salazar** 
3:29 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Rep. Ashley Hinson](#), (R-IA 1st District)

 **Ashley Hinson** 
@RepAshleyHinson

It has been nearly a week since the FBI raided Mar-a-Lago and we are still left with more questions than answers. The American people deserve full and immediate transparency.



3:14 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Sen. Lindsey Graham](#), (R-SC)

Lindsey Graham 
@LindseyGrahamSC

I couldn't agree more with President Trump that everyone needs to turn down the heat regarding the FBI raid of his home.



foxnews.com

Trump 'will do whatever' he can to 'help the country' after FBI raid: 'Temperatu...
EXCLUSIVE: Former President Trump said he "will do whatever" he can "to help the country," after the FBI's raid of his Mar-a-Lago home last week.

2:56 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

51 Retweets 85 Quote Tweets 317 Likes



Tweet your reply

Reply



Lindsey Graham 
@LindseyGrahamSC · 1h

Replying to @LindseyGrahamSC

It is imperative the Justice Department release the affidavit justifying the raid. After Crossfire Hurricane and the Mueller investigation there is no benefit of the doubt.



286



51



266



Lindsey Graham 
@LindseyGrahamSC · 1h

However, those who advocate for violence and engage in violent activity — for whatever reason — should face severe consequences.

Those who advocate for and engage in violence do so at their own legal peril.



333



48




162



[Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney](#), (D-NY 12th District)



Carolyn B. Maloney 
@RepMaloney

We cannot let Trump's reckless and potentially criminal behavior jeopardize our national security.

I sent a letter w/ [@RepAdamSchiff](#) to the Director of Natl. Intelligence asking for an immediate review & damage assessment of classified docs. President Trump held at Mar-a-Lago.



Oversight Committee 
@OversightDems · Aug 14

"Former President Trump's conduct has potentially put our national security at grave risk. This issue demands a full review, in addition to the ongoing law enforcement inquiry." - Chairs [@RepMaloney](#) & [@RepAdamSchiff](#)

[bloomberg.com/news/articles/...](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/...)

2:26 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Reporters

[Elie Honig](#), CNN

Elie Honig @eliehonig

DOJ is opposing release of the affidavit in the Mar-A-Lago search. Here's what that does, and does not, mean. (THREAD)



cnn.com
DOJ opposes making public details in Mar-a-Lago search warrant's probable ca...
The Justice Department is opposing the release of details in an affidavit that lays out the argument that investigators made to a federal magistrate judge ...

5:25 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

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Tweet your reply

Reply



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m
Replying to @eliehonig

1. The affidavit is the big one. This is the long, narrative document where prosecutors write out, in detail, their probable cause to believe that crime(s) were committed. The judge then reviews this document and, in this case, we know he signed off and agreed on probable cause.

1 11 89



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

2. The affidavit would be far longer and more detailed than the documents that have been released already. For comparison, the documents unsealed on Friday run a total of 7 pages, much of it forms and checklists. Affidavits commonly run dozens of pages, sometimes hundreds.

1 7 43



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

3. At this point, only two groups of people have the affidavit: DOJ and the judge (who has it under seal, or in secret). Trump and his team do not have it. We in the public do not have it.

1 11 46



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

4. Typically, the affidavit would come out only if and when a person is indicted. At that point, prosecutors turn it over to the defendant, who can then challenge it in court. We are, of course, not there yet.

1 10 43



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

5. It is not at all surprising that DOJ is opposing the release here. To make this document public would essentially reveal the entirety of the ongoing investigation.

1 8 51



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

6. That would, first, be a strategic nightmare for DOJ. Witnesses and targets would be tipped off, informants could be exposed, people could alter their stories or flee or tamper with evidence, etc.

1 7 49



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

7. Second, disclosure of the affidavit is typically damaging to the person who is under investigation. DOJ as a standing principle aims to protect the rights of the accused, and the not-yet accused.

1 9 46



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

8. To make public a document that says, essentially, "We think this person probably committed crimes, and here's why, in detail, but we haven't charged him yet" would be potentially devastating to the subject's reputation and the presumption of innocence.

1 13 66



Elie Honig @eliehonig · 8m

9. Hope this helps explain the situation. Post questions below, I'll do my best to clarify as needed. Thanks. (END)

5 6 97

Richard Hall, The Independent



Richard Hall
@RichardHall

An example of Trump turning down the heat in an email from his Save America PAC, sent 30 minutes ago:

"an army of agents broke into Mar-a-Lago..."

"Our Country is going to HELL at the hand of the Democrats"

"We cannot stand for this [...] THEY BROKE INTO MY HOME"

In early June, the Department of Justice and the FBI asked my legal representatives to put an extra lock on the door leading to the place where boxes were stored in Mar-a-Lago - we agreed.

They were shown the secured area and the boxes themselves. **Then on Monday**, without notification or warning, **an army of agents broke into Mar-a-Lago**, went to the same storage area, and ripped open the lock that they had asked to be installed.

A surprise RAID, POLITICS, and all the while, our Country is going to HELL at the hands of the Democrats.

We cannot stand for this, Richard. THEY BROKE INTO MY HOME - the home of the 45th President of the United States.



Lindsey Graham
@LindseyGrahamSC · 1h

I couldn't agree more with President Trump that everyone needs to turn down the heat regarding the FBI raid of his home.

[foxnews.com/politics/trump...](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump...)

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3:03 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[2]



Richard Hall
@RichardHall

The DOJ cites the huge number of threats to law enforcement in the days following the Mar-a-Lago search as justification for not releasing the affidavit.



Kyle Cheney
@kyledcheney · 14m

NEW: DOJ is also worried the release of the FBI affidavit underlying the Mar-a-Lago search would "chill future cooperation" by witnesses — particularly when threats related to Trump probe are "not merely a hypothetical concern." [politico.com/news/2022/08/15...](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/08/15...)

[Show this thread](#)

Procedure 6(e). If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps. In addition, information about witnesses is particularly sensitive given the high-profile nature of this matter and the risk that the revelation of witness identities would impact their willingness to cooperate with the investigation.³ Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations. The fact that this investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the integrity of the investigation and exacerbates the potential for harm if information is disclosed to the public prematurely or improperly.⁴

³ This is not merely a hypothetical concern, given the widely reported threats made against law enforcement personnel in the wake of the August 8 search. See, e.g., Alan Feuer et al., "Armed Man Is Killed After Trying to Breach FBI's Cincinnati Office," *N.Y. Times* (Aug. 11, 2022), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/08/11/us/fbi-cincinnati-shooting-news>; Josh Margolin, "Authorities Monitoring Online Threats Following FBI's Mar-a-Lago Raid," *ABC News* (Aug. 11, 2022), available at <https://abcnews.go.com/US/authorities-monitoring-online-threats-fbi-mar-lago-raid/story?id=88199587>.

5:17 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Katherine Faulders, ABC



Katherine Faulders
@KFaulders

DOJ says it opposes an effort by multiple media organizations, including ABC News, to unseal the supporting affidavit behind the now-public search warrant for former President Donald Trump's Mar a Lago estate.

4:50 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Carol Leonnig, Washington Post](#)



Carol Leonnig
@CarolLeonnig

What else should we be finding out about Mar a Lago raid?

Katy Tur Reports @KatyOnMSNBC · 2h

Joining us today:

- @carolelee
- @ryanjreilly
- @CarolLeonnig
- @CynthiaAlksne
- @VaughnHillyard
- @elivitali
- @jonswaine
- @mmurraypolitics
- @CraigMWhitlock
- @RonAllenNBC

On @MSNBC

2:00 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[2]



Carol Leonnig
@CarolLeonnig

DOJ opposes revealing its justification for search at Mar-a-Lago, saying it would harm criminal probe and cooperators:

"The affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course."

4:48 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Tom Winter, NBC](#)



Tom Winter
@Tom_Winter

BREAKING Federal prosecutors urge the judge not to unseal Trump Mar-A-Lago search warrant saying: "Disclosure at this juncture of the affidavit supporting probable cause would, by contrast, cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation."

4:47 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

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Reply



Tom Winter
@Tom_Winter · 33m

Replying to @Tom_Winter

If unsealed, it would disclose "highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government; specific investigative techniques; and information required by law to be kept under seal pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e)."



9



78



301



[Rob Legare, CBS](#)



Rob Legare
@RobLegare

Breaking: DOJ says the Trump Mar-a-Lago search warrant should remain SEALED "to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security."

DOJ is ok w/ unsealing other docs like the motion to seal warrant.

Judge has not ruled.

4:48 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[2]



Rob Legare
@RobLegare

DOJ says the Trump/Mar-a-Lago investigation "implicates highly classified materials" and again confirms that items marked as "classified" were seized.

storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.usco...

Rob Legare @RobLegare · 40m
Breaking: DOJ says the Trump Mar-a-Lago search warrant should remain SEALED "to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security."
DOJ is ok w/ unsealing other docs like the motion to seal warrant.
Judge has not ruled.

4:48 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Shannon Vavra](#), Daily Beast



Shannon Vavra
@sharvav

NEW: DOJ doesn't object to unsealing some documents related to the Mar-a-Lago search (with redactions), DOJ says in a new filing. DOJ also notes there are "compelling reasons" to keep the affidavit sealed to protect the ongoing law enforcement probe vis a vis national security:

been made public. The filing would not jeopardize the integrity of the ongoing law enforcement search warrant application, DOJ says in its filing, D.E. 2; and the Court's sealing the affidavit sealed. DOJ notes that those documents have been subject to unsealing other than the Court to unseal the material

4:42 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Shannon Vavra @sharvav · 36m
Replying to @sharvav

DOJ argues that disclosure of the affidavit right now—which Republicans have been rallying for—would reveal "highly sensitive information" about witnesses, a "roadmap" to the United States' investigation, and ultimately compromise future investigative steps.

Disclosure at this juncture of the affidavit supporting probable cause would, by contrast, cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation. As the Court is aware from its review of the affidavit, it contains, among other critically important and detailed investigative facts: highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government; specific investigative techniques; and information required by law to be kept under seal pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e). If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps. In addition, information about witnesses is particularly sensitive given the high-profile nature of this matter and the risk that the revelation of witness identities would impact their willingness to cooperate with the investigation.¹ Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage

1 5 3



Shannon Vavra @sharvav · 31m

Unsealing the affidavit could also chill witness cooperation, DOJ says, citing threats against law enforcement in recent days—and the fact that the investigation covers classified info "exacerbates the potential for harm if information is disclosed...prematurely or improperly"

th the investigation.⁵ Disclosure of the government's affidavit could chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be necessary to the investigation's progress, as well as in other high-profile investigations. The fact that the investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to keep the affidavit sealed. DOJ's investigation and exacerbates the potential for harm if information is disclosed...prematurely or improperly.⁶

1 2

[Andrew Goudsward](#), National Law Journal



Andrew Goudsward  @AGoudsward

DOJ opposes motion by media orgs to unseal affidavit laying out evidence supporting search of Mar-a-Lago, citing the need to "protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security."

Full filing here:

premise located at 1100 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Florida 33480, a property of former President Donald J. Trump. Given the circumstances presented in this matter and the public interest in transparency, and in the wake of the former President's public confirmation of the search and his representative's public characterizations of the materials sought, the government moved to unseal the search warrant, its attachments, and the Property Receipt summarizing materials seized, which motion this Court granted. Those disclosed items, which had already been provided to the former President's counsel upon execution of the warrant, have now appropriately been made public. The affidavit supporting the search warrant presents a very different set of considerations. There remain compelling reasons, including to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security, that support keeping the affidavit sealed.'

courtlistener.com
#59 in United States v. Sealed Search Warrant (S.D. Fla., 9:22-mj-08332) - C...
RESPONSE to Motion by USA as to Sealed Search Warrant re 54 MOTION to Open Search Warrant Affidavit(s) and Other Documents Replies due by ...

4:40 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

4 Retweets 4 Likes



Tweet your reply

Reply



Andrew Goudsward  @AGoudsward · 30m

Replying to @AGoudsward

The affidavit contains "highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government; specific investigative techniques; and information required by law to be kept under seal," DOJ says in filing.

Jacqueline Thomsen, Reuters



Jacqueline Thomsen  @jacq_thomsen

DOJ will allow some items tied to Mar-a-Lago search warrant to be released but cites "compelling reasons, including to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security" to keep affidavit sealed

Doc: fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/legaldocs/...

4:40 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Scott MacFarlane, CBS



Scott MacFarlane  @MacFarlaneNews

ALERT: Justice Dept asks court to keep Mar-a-lago search warrant affidavit UNDER SEAL. "Disclosure at this juncture of the affidavit supporting probable cause would, by contrast, cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation"

4:39 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

1,239 Retweets 78 Quote Tweets 5,096 Likes



Tweet your reply

Reply



Scott MacFarlane  @MacFarlaneNews · 39m

Replying to @MacFarlaneNews

Justice Dept (more): "If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps"

15 301 1,548



Scott MacFarlane  @MacFarlaneNews · 39m

Here's the Justice Dept court filing in Florida:

previous located at 1100 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Florida 33480, a property of former President Donald J. Trump. Given the circumstances presented in this matter and the public interest in transparency, and in the wake of the former President's public confirmation of the search and his representatives' public characterizations of the materials sought, the government moved to unseal the search warrant, its attachments, and the Property Receipt summarizing materials seized, which motion this Court granted. Those disclosed items, which had already been provided to the former President's counsel upon execution of the warrant, have now appropriately been made public. The affidavit supporting the search warrant presents a very different set of considerations. There remain compelling reasons, including to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security, that support keeping the affidavit sealed."

courtlistener.com
#59 in United States v. Sealed Search Warrant (S.D. Fla., 9:22-mj-08...
RESPONSE to Motion by USA as to Sealed Search Warrant re 54
MOTION to Open Search Warrant Affidavit(s) and Other Documents ...

9 195 969



Scott MacFarlane  @MacFarlaneNews · 37m

Feds (more): "Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations"

22 206 1,238

[Sarah D. Wire](#), LA Times



Sarah D. Wire  @sarahdwire

In court filing, DOJ opposes unsealing the affidavit used to get a warrant for the Mar-A-Lago search

"...revealing the specific contents of a search warrant affidavit could alter the investigation's trajectory..."

storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.usco...

4:39 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Andrew Prokop](#), Vox



Andrew Prokop @awprokop

DOJ says disclosing the Mar-a-Lago search warrant affidavit would "irreparably harm" their "ongoing criminal investigation," it contains "highly sensitive information about witnesses" and would be "a roadmap" to the investigation's "likely course"

politico.com/f/?id=00000182...

Argument

Disclosure at this juncture of the affidavit supporting probable cause would cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation.

Farrant Affidavit Would Irreparably Harm Ongoing Criminal Investigation

Public enjoy a qualified right of access to judicial materials pursuant to the common law. See, e.g., *Romero v. Drummond Co., Inc.*, 263 Ill. App. 3d 100, 107 (1992). However, this right is not absolute. *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.*, 263 Ill. App. 3d 100, 107 (1992). Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this juncture is highly likely to compromise future investigation steps. In addition, disclosure of the affidavit would reveal the government's likely course of action in this case, as well as other high-profile investigations. The fact that the affidavit contains highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the investigation and reduce the potential for harm if information is disclosed prematurely or improperly.

4:38 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Andrew Prokop @awprokop · 39m

Replying to @awprokop

Understandable but make me want to see that affidavit even more, of course...

1



20



Steve Reilly, Grid News



Steve Reilly @BySteveReilly

New filing in Mar-a-Lago docket: DOJ asks court to deny motions by media and others to unseal the search warrant affidavit. But DOJ does not object to unsealing cover sheets, government's motion to seal, and court's sealing order.

including to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security. But request briefing the affidavit sealed.

The government does not object to unsealing other materials filed in connection with this case.

The government has carefully considered whether the affidavit can be released subject to redaction. For the reasons discussed herein, the redaction necessary to mitigate damage to the integrity of the investigation would be so extensive as to render the remaining material substantially meaningless. Therefore, and for the reasons set forth herein, the government respectfully requests the Court to deny the request for unsealing the affidavit.

Relevant Background

In several filings, following the execution of the search warrant, several news outlets requested that the Court unseal the affidavit. The government has previously stated that the affidavit contains information that is highly sensitive and that its disclosure would be likely to compromise future investigation steps. In addition, disclosure of the affidavit would reveal the government's likely course of action in this case, as well as other high-profile investigations. The fact that the affidavit contains highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the investigation and reduce the potential for harm if information is disclosed prematurely or improperly.

Conclusion

The Court should deny motions by third parties to the extent they seek to unseal the affidavit. The government does not object to unsealing other materials filed in connection with this case.

Case 2:22-cv-00001-AM Document 55 Filed 08/15/22 Page 11 of 11

4:35 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Steve Reilly @BySteveReilly · 38m

Replying to @BySteveReilly

DOJ says of affidavit: "the redactions necessary to mitigate harms to the integrity of the investigation would be so extensive as to render the remaining unsealed text devoid of meaningful content, and the release of such a redacted version would not serve any public interest"

warrant presents a very different set of considerations. There remain compelling reasons, including to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security, that support keeping the affidavit sealed.¹

The government does not object to unsealing other materials filed in connection with

¹ The government has carefully considered whether the affidavit can be released subject to redactions. For the reasons discussed below, the redactions necessary to mitigate harms to the integrity of the investigation would be so extensive as to render the remaining unsealed text devoid of meaningful content, and the release of such a redacted version would not serve any public interest. Nevertheless, should the Court order partial unsealing of the affidavit, the government respectfully requests an opportunity to provide the Court with proposed redactions.

2 27 64



Steve Reilly @BySteveReilly · 36m

Full document here:

... premises located at 1100 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Florida 33480, a property of former President Donald J. Trump. Given the circumstances presented in this matter and the public interest in transparency, and in the wake of the former President's public confirmation of the search and his representative's public characterizations of the materials sought, the government moved to unseal the search warrant, its attachments, and the Property Receipt summarizing materials seized, which remain this Court's grant. These declared items, which had already been provided to the former President's counsel upon execution of the warrant, have now appropriately been made public. The affidavit supporting the search warrant presents a very different set of considerations. There remain compelling reasons, including to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security, that support keeping the affidavit sealed.¹

courtlistener.com
#59 in United States v. Sealed Search Warrant (S.D. Fla., 9:22-mj-08...
RESPONSE to Motion by USA as to Sealed Search Warrant re 54
MOTION to Open Search Warrant Affidavit(s) and Other Documents ...

1 9 12



Steve Reilly @BySteveReilly · 32m

Among the material in the search warrant affidavit that DOJ wishes to remain under seal:

"highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government"

President through counsel.

Disclosure at this juncture of the affidavit supporting probable cause would, by contrast, cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation. As the Court is aware from its review of the affidavit, it contains, among other critically important and detailed investigative facts: highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government; specific investigative techniques; and information required by law to be kept under seal pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure (e). If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps. In addition, information about witnesses is particularly sensitive given the high-profile nature of this matter and the risk that the revelation of witness identities would impact their willingness to cooperate with the investigation.¹ Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this

7 57 101



Steve Reilly @BySteveReilly · 26m

In a footnote, DOJ notes that concern about disclosure of information about witnesses "is not merely a hypothetical concern, given the widely reported threats made against law enforcement personnel in the wake of the August 8 search."

... manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps. In addition, information about witnesses is particularly sensitive given the high-profile nature of this matter and the risk that the revelation of witness identities would impact their willingness to cooperate with the investigation.¹ Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations. The fact that this investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the integrity of the investigation and exacerbates the potential for harm if information is disclosed to the public prematurely or improperly.²

¹ This is not merely a hypothetical concern, given the widely reported threats made against law enforcement personnel in the wake of the August 8 search. See, e.g., Alan Foner et al., "Armed Man is Killed After Trying to Reach FBI's Cincinnati Office," N.Y. Times (Aug. 11, 2022), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/11/us/fbi-cincinnati-shooting.html>; Seth Margolin, "Ambushes Mounting Online Threats Following FBI's Mar-a-Lago Raid," ABC News (Aug. 11, 2022), available at <https://abcnews.go.com/US/ambushes-mounting-online-threats-the-mar-lago-raid/story?id=89199387>.
² Given that the Court is considering motions to unseal this affidavit merely days after reviewing these materials and approving the warrant application, the government is mindful

2 48 71

Steve Reilly @BySteveReilly · 13m
 DOJ's filing confirms the Mar-a-Lago search was in connection with "an ongoing criminal investigation."

Case 9:22-nj-08332-BER Document 59 Entered on FLSD Docket 06/15/2022 Page 7 of 13

of the Government's investigation," and concluding that "unsealing even a portion of [an] affidavit would reveal, either explicitly or by inference, the scope and direction of the Government's investigation"; *United States v. Corcoran*, No. 92-28-CR-T-17B, 1997 WL 447979, at *3 (M.D. Fla. July 28, 1997) ("redaction may be impracticable or insufficient to protect the compelling interests" in protecting law enforcement investigations).

Here, the government has a compelling, overriding interest in preserving the integrity of an ongoing criminal investigation. As the government has readily acknowledged, the circumstances here—involving a search of the premises for a former President—involve matters of significant public concern. As a result, in an effort to ensure public access to materials that no longer needed to be sealed to protect the investigation, the government sought to unseal the search warrant, its attachments describing the premises to be searched and the property to be seized, and the Property Receipt provided to the former President's

[Carrie Johnson, NPR](#)

Carrie Johnson @johnson_carrie · 4:35 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

256 Retweets 26 Quote Tweets 713 Likes

Just in: The Justice Department asks a judge in Florida to keep the Mar a Lago affidavit under seal, cites need to "protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security."

Tweet your reply Reply

Carrie Johnson @johnson_carrie · 37m
 Replying to @johnson_carrie
 More from DOJ - "the redactions necessary to mitigate harms to the integrity of the investigation would be so extensive as to render the remaining unsealed text devoid of meaningful content, and the release of such a redacted version would not serve any public interest."

Carrie Johnson @johnson_carrie · 34m
 "If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps."

Carrie Johnson @johnson_carrie · 27m
 DOJ cites recent threats vs law enforcement. "Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations."

Carrie Johnson @johnson_carrie · 25m
 DOJ also says there's no way to redact all the sensitive info. "There is simply no alternative to sealing that could ensure the integrity of the government's investigation & that would prevent the inevitable efforts to read between the lines" & identify people, dates, other info.

Carrie Johnson @johnson_carrie · 21m
 The Justice Department says it's fine if the judge wants to unseal a cover sheet and DOJ's original request to file under seal, as well as the court's sealing order, if there are a few redactions first. But not the affidavit.

Carrie Johnson @johnson_carrie · 2m
 More DOJ "The fact that this investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the integrity of the investigation and exacerbates the potential for harm if information is disclosed to the public prematurely or improperly."

[Hugo Lowell, The Guardian](#)

Hugo Lowell  @hugolowell

New: Justice Dept objects to unsealing the affidavit for the Trump Mar-a-Lago search warrant: "Disclosure of the warrant affidavit would irreparably harm the government ongoing criminal investigation."
storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.usco...

4:33 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.

1,159 Retweets 84 Quote Tweets 4,694 Likes

 Tweet your reply 

Hugo Lowell  @hugolowell · 32m
 Replying to @hugolowell

DOJ says it does not object to unsealing other things that would not jeopardise the integrity of the NatSec investigation subject to redactions, like cover sheets (Docket Entry 1), motion to seal (DE 2) and Court's sealing order (DE 3) — and asks to unseal prpsd redactions (DE57)

 5  147  581 

Kyle Cheney, Politico

Kyle Cheney  @kyledcheney · 2h

CONFIRMED: Rudy Giuliani's attorneys were informed by the Fulton County DA's office that it now considers Giuliani a formal target of its investigation. Matching @nytimes et al

Story TK

 34  524  2,939 

Kyle Cheney  @kyledcheney · 2h

Rudy's GA attorney has a helpful video on his website for precisely this scenario:

"Target is a designation give by the govt to individuals it believes have criminal culpability and for whom they have indicated an intent to bring formal charges."



youtube.com
 What is a Target Letter? Former Federal Prosecuto...
 Contact us http://www.whthomasfirm.com/ or 404-897-3523(TRANSCRIPT) "Target" is a designation ...

 17  121  539 

Kyle Cheney  @kyledcheney

NEW: Giuliani's designation as a "target" of the Fulton County DA probe is a reminder that the Mar-a-Lago search is just one of several acute legal threats to Trump world.



politico.com
 Giuliani now a target of Atlanta-area Trump probe, attorney says
 DA is strongly considering bringing charges against Giuliani.

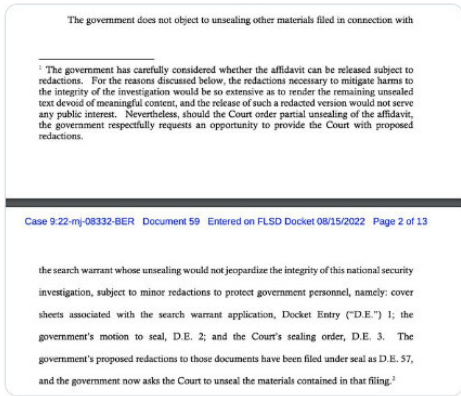
3:02 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

[2]



Kyle Cheney
@kyledcheney

JUST IN: DOJ says it intends to unseal additional documents related to the Mar-a-Lago search.
[politico.com/f/?id=00000182...](https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000182...)



4:31 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

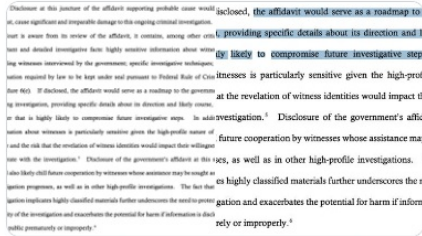
1,417 Retweets 183 Quote Tweets 3,998 Likes



Tweet your reply Reply

Kyle Cheney @kyledcheney · 36m
Replying to @kyledcheney
DOJ "opposes" the release of the underlying FBI affidavit because "it would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps."

Kyle Cheney @kyledcheney · 34m
MORE: "The fact that this investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the integrity of the investigation"



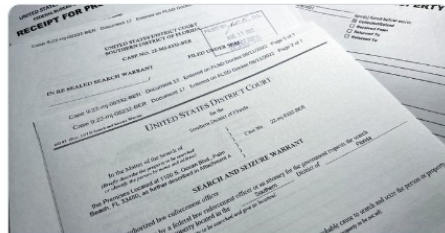
60 353 1,311

Philip Bump, Washington Post



Philip Bump
@pbump

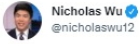
Is it a coincidence that, soon after the feds asked that the Mar-a-Lago storage room be locked and right before they asked for surveillance footage, Trump named two allies as authorized reviewers of his records?



washingtonpost.com
Analysis | The curious timing of Trump naming two allies to access his records
In late June, as tensions with the Justice Department were roiling, Trump named two allies as representatives able to access his records.

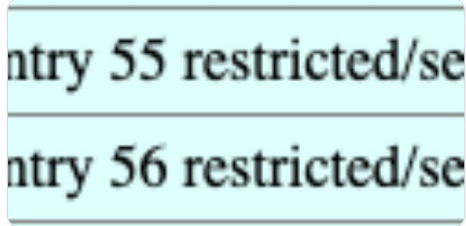
4:21 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

Nicholas Wu, Politico



Nicholas Wu
@nicholaswu12

New sealed entries on the Mar-a-Lago search docket



2:57 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

08/15/2022	SYSTEM ENTRY - Docket Entry 55 restricted/sealed until further notice. (jmd) (Entered: 08/15/2022)
08/15/2022	SYSTEM ENTRY - Docket Entry 56 restricted/sealed until further notice. (jmd) (Entered: 08/15/2022)

[2]



Nicholas Wu
@nicholaswu12

House Homeland Security (and 1/6) chair Bennie Thompson puts out a statement condemning threats against law enforcement in the aftermath of the Mar-a-Lago search and urges law enforcement (including USCP) to prepare

condemn the recent violence and continued threats and rhetoric, including against the judicial branch and leaders of the FBI. These threats of violence and even civil war – coming from right-wing extremists online – are not only un-American, but they threaten the very foundations of our democracy and the rule of law. Unfortunately, these threats are similar to those we saw in the run-up to the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. I urge law enforcement entities, including the U.S. Capitol Police, to be prepared for the extremist threats facing our country.”

4:16 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

54 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 104 Likes



Tweet your reply

Reply



Nicholas Wu
@nicholaswu12 · 52m

Replying to @nicholaswu12
"Unfortunately, these threats are frighteningly similar to those we saw in the run-up to the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol..."

3 18 53

[Hugo Lowell, Guardian](#)



Hugo Lowell
@hugolowell

New: Three restricted/sealed entries have been added to the Trump Mar-a-Lago docket in the past hour —

Aug 15, 2022	SYSTEM ENTRY - Docket Entry 57 restricted/sealed until further notice. (jmd)
Aug 15, 2022	SYSTEM ENTRY - Docket Entry 56 restricted/sealed until further notice. (jmd)
Aug 15, 2022	SYSTEM ENTRY - Docket Entry 55 restricted/sealed until further notice. (jmd)

4:03 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.

[Sara Mimms, NBC](#)



Sarah Mimms
@mimms

Pennsylvania man arrested for threats against FBI after Mar-a-Lago search [nbcnews.com/politics/justi...](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justi...)

My only goal is to kill more of them before I drop. I will not spend one second of my life in their custody."

via [@ryanjreilly](#)



nbcnews.com
Pennsylvania man arrested for threats against FBI after Mar-a-Lago search
The arrest comes after a man attacked a FBI field office in Ohio last week, part of an uptick in threats against law enforcement following the search of Trump's...

4:01 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Glenn Kirschner](#), NBC



Glenn Kirschner
@glennkirschner2

It looks like we now may know what that 2nd, apparently related, search warrant was about (IF Trump is to be believed about the FBI seizing his passports from Mar-a-Lago). They may have evidence (satisfying the probable cause standard) that Trump might flee to avoid prosecution.



Trump Says The FBI Took His Passports In Its Mar-A-Lago Search

[huffpost.com](https://www.huffpost.com)

3:59 PM · Aug 15, 2022 from Leesburg, VA · Twitter for iPhone

[Vera Bergengruen](#), TIME



Vera Bergengruen
@VeraMBergen


A Pennsylvania man has been charged with threatening to murder FBI agents and "a variety of threats on Gab" after the search of Mar-a-Lago last week




post-gazette.com
Mercer County man charged with threats to kill FBI agents after Mar-a-Lago se...
A Mercer County man threatened to murder FBI agents last week after the bureau's search of Donald Trump's Florida estate, saying

3:44 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[2]

Vera Bergengruen 
 @VeraMBergen

Both the man charged in PA and the armed man who attempted to attack the FBI office in OH echoed the often apocalyptic, violent rhetoric ("civil war," tyranny, etc) that has dominated right-wing media after the Mar-a-Lago search (including from a few GOP lawmakers and candidates)

Ricky Shiffer 
 @rickywsnifferjr

le, this is it. I hope a call to arms comes f
one better qualified, but if not, this is yo
o arms from me. Leave work tomorrow as
as the gun shop/Army-Navy store/pawn
opens, get whatever you need to be read
ombat. We must not tolerate this one. The
been conditioning us to accept tyranny a
we can't do anything for 2 years. This tin
ust respond with force. If you know of an
ists or attacks, please post here.

Very important question
Do I get prisoners war: be ready to kill the enemy, not
mass shootings where leftists go, not fighting buses on fire
with movement to them, not finding people with leftid
signs in their yards and beating them up. Violence is not
and terrorism. If that's the right, and be ready to take
officer in the head just as quick as I'd shoot a KGB
plenty of other letters in the alphabet.
n are police state scum. Period.

Genneth Campbell @BlankFocus
Edited

ME
MILITARY

4:09 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Michael Scott Moore, Journalist and novelist

Michael Scott Moore 
 @MichaelSctMoore

Trump excuses for top-secret documents at Mar-a-Lago are "almost certainly a lie," according to John Bolton, not that I enjoy quoting him



nytimes.com
Trump's Shifting Explanations Follow a Familiar Playbook
The former president and his allies have given often conflicting defenses of his retention of classified documents, without addressing why he had kept them.

3:30 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Quinta Jurecic, Lawfare Blog

Quinta Jurecic 
 @qjurecic

Former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson writes @lawfareblog on Trump, Mar-a-Lago, and classification: "the defense asserted by Trump's team ... is nothing short of laughable."



lawfareblog.com
Thoughts on the Mar-a-Lago Search and the President's Cl...
Here's why the defense asserted by Trump's team—that while in office Trump issued "standing orders" that any ...

3:14 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

Justin Hendrix, Tech Policy Press



Justin Hendrix
@justinhendrix

Mercer County man charged with threats to kill FBI agents after Mar-a-Lago search, per complaint filed in federal court in Pittsburgh:



post-gazette.com
Mercer County man charged with threats to kill FBI agents after Mar-a-Lago se...
A Mercer County man threatened to murder FBI agents last week after the bureau's search of Donald Trump's Florida estate, saying

2:54 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Ronald Brownstein, The Atlantic



Ronald Brownstein
@RonBrownstein

Trump's America: "Florida judge who approved FBI search of Mar-a-Lago faces barrage of antisemitic online attacks" politi.co/3QEB4f9 via @politico



politico.com
Florida judge who approved FBI search of Mar-a-Lago faces barrage of anti-Se...
The magistrate, who is Jewish, is facing attacks that are antisemitic in nature.

2:51 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Seth Hettena, Rolling Stone



Seth Hettena
@seth_hettena

Trump claims the FBI seized three of his passports during the August 8 raid at Mar-a-Lago.



2:47 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Jennifer Bendery, Huffington Post

Jennifer Bendery
@jbendery

Trump says the FBI took his passports when it raided Mar-a-Lago



huffpost.com
Trump Says The FBI Took His Passports In Its Mar-A-Lago Search
"They stole my three Passports (one expired)," said the former president, who is under investigation for keeping classified documents.

2:36 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Gina Barton](#), USA Today

Gina Barton
@writerbarton

Ex-CIA analyst says fallout over raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago resembles the lead-up to the Capitol attack and predicts another 'catastrophic event' buff.ly/3A0xOUV



2:36 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Buffer

[Alex Salvi](#), Newsmax

Alex Salvi
@alexsalvinews

Former Pres. Trump claims the FBI seized two of his active passports, and one expired, during the search on his Mar-a-Lago home.



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

17m

Wow! In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!

2:35 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Jenna Ellis](#), Newsmax



Jenna Ellis
@JennaEllisEsq

BREAKING: Trump says FBI took his passport in Mar-a-Lago raid



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump 24m

Wow! In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump 31m

Republicans could win many additional seats, both in the House & Senate, because of the strong backlash over the raid at Mar-a-Lago. Polls are showing that some lost Republican territory over the last number of weeks has been more than made up with the unannounced Break in by the FBI, which should never have happened!

thepostmillennial.com

BREAKING: Trump says FBI took his passport in Mar-a-Lago raid

"In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent ...

2:31 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Zachary Petrizzo, Daily Beast



Zachary Petrizzo
@ZTPetrizzo

This afternoon, Trump claimed on Truth Social that the FBI "stole" three of his passports. "In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else," he said.

1:51 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Aaron Blake, Washington Post



Aaron Blake
@AaronBlake

A very worthwhile read for everyone dissecting the prudence of the Mar-a-Lago search, via @jackgoldsmith



lawfareblog.com
Thoughts on the Mar-a-Lago Search
How to assess Attorney General Garland's decision

1:49 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

Peter Grier, Christian Science Monitor



Peter Grier
@petergrier

Excellent, sober piece from @jackgoldsmith on the clashing factors AG Garland faces on the Mar-a-Lago case going forward:



lawfareblog.com
Thoughts on the Mar-a-Lago Search
How to assess Attorney General Garland's decision

1:26 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Andrea Mitchell, MSNBC

 **Andrea Mitchell** ✓
@mitchellreports

Donell Harvin: FBI facing 'unprecedented levels of threats' following Mar-a-Lago search @donell_harvin @KenDilanianNBC @carolelee @brhodes @MSNBC



msnbc.com
Donell Harvin: FBI facing 'unprecedented levels of threats' following Mar-a-Lago search... NBC News & MSNBC Homeland Security Analyst Donell Harvin, former Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes, and NBC's Ken Dilanian and Carol Lee ...

1:16 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Other

[Conrad Black](#), Historian and Columnist

 **Conrad Black** ✓
@ConradMBlack

Replying to @GrandChat65 and @nationalpost

Amazed that I didn't waste ink legitimizing their fig leaf probable cause? The FBI spun the concern of some Presidential archivists about missing artifacts into the asinine tall tale about state secrets and nuclear codes sitting in a Mar-a-Lago storage room. Get a grip.

5:25 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Kevin Gosztola](#), Shadowproof

 **Kevin Gosztola** ✓
@kgosztola

I don't currently believe that FBI raid against Trump is gift to Trump & Republicans. Nor do I think this is like Russiagate all over again.

Why were these documents at Mar-a-Lago in boxes & not turned over to National Archives? This information belongs to us, not Trump.

1:34 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[2]

 **Kevin Gosztola** ✓
@kgosztola

The affidavit is the DOJ/FBI case for going forward with the raid and essentially ending the months of negotiations with Trump representatives for the return of documents. The public should get to see what they believed was so serious that agents had to enter Mar-a-Lago estate.

5:21 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Matthew Segal](#), Attorney



Matthew Segal @segalmr

Govt request to maintain sealing of affidavit supporting Mar-a-Lago warrant cites "widely reported threats made against law enforcement personnel" after 8/8 search. storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.usco...

hypothetical concern, given the widely reported threats made against law enforcement personnel in the wake of the August 8 search. See, e.g., Alan Fener et al., *After Trying to Breach FBI's Cincinnati Office, Authorities Monitoring Online Threats Followed* (Aug. 11, 2022), available at <https://abcnews.com/2022/08/11/fbi-mar-lago-raid/story?id=88199587>.

5:19 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Matthew Segal @segalmr · 2m

Replying to @segalmr

To be clear, the DOJ seems to be saying that if the affidavit is unsealed potential witnesses may stop cooperating due to fear that fans of "the former president of the United States" might try to kill them.

Pretty remarkable set of circumstances.

manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps. In addition, information about witnesses is particularly sensitive given the high-profile nature of this matter and the risk that the revelation of witness identities would impact their willingness to cooperate with the investigation.² Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations. The fact that this investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the integrity of the investigation and exacerbates the potential for harm if information is disclosed to the public prematurely or improperly.³

² This is not merely a hypothetical concern, given the widely reported threats made against law enforcement personnel in the wake of the August 8 search. See, e.g., Alan Fener et al.,

1 1 1 1

Neal Katyal, Supreme Court lawyers



Neal Katyal @neal_katyal

DOJ is appropriately resisting disclosure of the Mar A Lago search affidavit because it will compromise their ongoing investigation. This is very standard and right. That said, what they said -- especially about witnesses -- will invariably drive Trump to be even more worried

Disclosure at this juncture of the affidavit supporting probable cause would, by contrast, cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation. As the Court is aware from its review of the affidavit, it contains, among other critically important and detailed investigative facts: highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government; specific investigative techniques; and information required by law to be kept under seal pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e). If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps. In addition, information about witnesses is particularly sensitive given the high-profile nature of this matter and the risk that the revelation of witness identities would impact their willingness to cooperate with the investigation.² Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations. The fact that this

4:48 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Jay Sekulow, Lawyer and talk show host



Jay Sekulow
@JaySekulow

...

AG Garland says that the raid on President Trump's Mar-a-Lago home was about recovering documents.

But we know the truth – as Mike Pompeo writes, this was an example of weaponizing government agencies against “political opponents & the American people.”



3:29 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Brandwatch

Frank Figliuzzi, retired FBI Assistant Director



Frank Figliuzzi
@FrankFigliuzzi1

...

Join us in the 4pET hour on @DeadlineWH: FBI and DHS warn threats to federal law enforcement have spiked since Mar-a-Lago search



nbcnews.com
FBI and DHS warn threats to federal law enforcement has spiked in the wake o...
In an unclassified joint intelligence bulletin, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security advised officials that the threats are coming from online an...

2:01 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[2]



Frank Figliuzzi
@FrankFigliuzzi1

...

If Trump is accurate here (big if), this is ominous: Trump now claims FBI agents seized three of his PASSPORTS during the Mar-a-Lago raid



dailymail.co.uk
Trump claims FBI seized three of his passports during Mar-a-Lago raid
Donald Trump on Monday claimed his passports were 'stolen' in the FBI raid at Mar-a-Lago last week.

2:19 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[3]



Frank Figliuzzi
@FrankFigliuzzi1

My latest column: The Trump death toll rose last week: Trump's lies about FBI Mar-a-Lago search lead to deadly consequences @MSNBCDaily @MSNBC



msnbc.com
Opinion | Trump's lies have deadly consequences for his own supporters
Disinformation, lies and conspiracy theories are airborne and spread by contact.

3:20 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Shannon Watts, Founder of Moms Demand Action



Shannon Watts
@shannonwatts

AGAIN: Law enforcement arrested a 46-year-old Pennsylvania man for posting threats on Gab to shoot and kill FBI agents after the Mar-a-Lago search saying, "come and get me you piece of shit feds" and "I am going to fucking slaughter you."



post-gazette.com
Mercer County man charged with threats to kill FBI agents after Mar-a-Lago se...
A Mercer County man threatened to murder FBI agents last week after the bureau's search of Donald Trump's Florida estate, saying

2:55 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Teri Kanefield, Former appellate attorney



Teri Kanefield
@Teri_Kanefield · 1h
In the craziness that was last week, the fact that the FBI seized Rep. Scott Perry's phone may have gotten lost.

And those subpoenas to Pennsylvania lawmakers. Important stuff.

I updated my DOJ FAQs with the latest: terikanefield.com/all-new-doj-in-

s seized Rep. Scott Perry's phone.
ssued subpoenas to Pennsylvania lawmakers.
that a federal grand jury investigating the Jan. 6
White House lawyer Eric Herschmann for docum

14 190 576



Teri Kanefield
@Teri_Kanefield

I also started a page for the stolen documents / Mar-a-Lago search matter.

[terikanefield.com/documents-at-m...](http://terikanefield.com/documents-at-m-)

When I studied for tests, I always assembled my own notes 📝 and well it's a habit.

terikanefield.com
Documents at Mar-a-Lago Informational Page - Teri Kanefie...
The thing to remember about this case is that it is a relatively simple documents theft and possession case. The issue is: ...

2:51 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

August 9: FBI agents seized Rep. Scott Perry's phone.

August 10: The FBI issued subpoenas to Pennsylvania lawmakers.

August 15: We learn that a federal grand jury investigating the Jan. 6 attack has subpoenaed Trump White House lawyer Eric Herschmann for documents and testimony.

[Jon Cooper](#), Chair at Democratic Coalition Against Trump



Jon Cooper 
@joncoopertweets

...

Who else thinks Trump is FURIOUS that the FBI confiscated his passports during their search of Mar-a-Lago last week? 🙄

2:49 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[2]



Jon Cooper 
@joncoopertweets

...

I assume the reason FBI agents seized three of Trump's passports during the Mar-a-Lago search was to prevent him from fleeing the country.

Retweet if you agree that was a SMART move!

2:55 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone


[Morning Consult](#), Business intelligence company



Morning Consult 
@MorningConsult

...

Following the FBI's Mar-a-Lago raid, 58% of Republican voters would support former President Donald Trump if the 2024 Republican presidential primary were today, the highest on record since his 2020 loss. morningconsult.biz/3BZkOSO

— **Politics Insider** 
@PoliticsInsider · Aug 14
Mar-a-Lago raid gave Trump a 10-point boost over DeSantis with Republican primary voters, poll shows businessinsider.com/donald-trump-m...

2:39 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Jarrett Bellini](#), Writer and journalist



Jarrett Bellini 
@JarrettBellini

...

In a new social message, Donald Trump says during the raid of Mar-a-Lago, the FBI "stole" all three of his passports, one of which he noted was expired. So, we can only assume that the second was his current US-issued document, and the third was a McRib.



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump

1m

Wow! In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!

🗨️ 25 ↻ 113 ❤️ 260 📤 ⋮

2:35 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

[Laurence Haim](#), Global correspondent

LAURENCE HAIM @lauhaim

Civil war ?
 A man threatened to murder FBI agents last week after the bureau's search of Mar-A-Lago, saying "come and get me you piece of shit feds" and "I am going to fucking slaughter you," according to a federal complaint filed Monday in Pittsburgh. He has been arrested.

2:30 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Shukri Abdirahman, Candidate for Congress

Shukri Abdirahman @ShuForCongress

Clinton lost the nuclear codes and didnt tell anybody for months.

And we're supposed to be excited about Trump having boxes of stuff he declassified stashed in a basement at Mar-a-Lago?

That's worthy of citing the #EspionageAct?

2:16 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for Android

PolitiFact, Fact-checking website

PolitiFact @PolitiFact

Former President Donald Trump compared the search of his Mar-a-Lago home to the Watergate break-in. But the search was legal and approved by a judge, while the Watergate break-in was an illegal burglary.



politifact.com
 PolitiFact - Trump says Watergate burglary and search of M...
 Former President Donald Trump compared the search of his Mar-a-Lago home to the Watergate break-in. But there's a ...

2:16 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Echobox

Occupy Democrats, Grassroots organization

Occupy Democrats @OccupyDemocrats

BREAKING: Donald Trump freaks out, claims that the FBI "stole" his three passports when they raided Mar-a-Lago, making some experts suggest that he wants to flee the country to escape his crimes. RT IF YOU THINK TRUMP MUST BE BANNED FROM LEAVING AMERICA!

2:14 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

1,664 Retweets 93 Quote Tweets 4,774 Likes

Tweet your reply Reply

Occupy Democrats @OccupyDemocrats · 2h
 Replying to @OccupyDemocrats
 If you think that Donald Trump must be banned from traveling overseas after he just claimed that the FBI "stole" his three passports when they raided Mar-a-Lago, making some experts suggest that he wants to flee the country to escape his crimes, retweet and follow us!

25 143 443

Dinesh D'Souza, Author and filmmaker



Dinesh D'Souza
@DineshDSouza

BREAKING: Trump says FBI took his passport in Mar-a-Lago raid



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump 24m

Wow! In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump 31m

Republicans could win many additional seats, both in the House & Senate, because of the strong backlash over the raid at Mar-a-Lago. Polls are showing that some lost Republican territory over the last number of weeks has been more than made up with the unannounced Break in by the FBI, which should never have happened!

thepostmillennial.com

BREAKING: Trump says FBI took his passport in Mar-a-Lago raid

"In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent ...

2:13 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.

[Steve Clemons](#), Semafor



Steve Clemons
@SCClemons

So if the Mar-a-Lago documents were declassified by Trump, which Presidents seem to be able to do directly, then that means his file on #Macron should be available to the public, in addition to the nuclear files. Has @POTUS @JoeBiden 'Re-Classified' those documents?

2:08 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Tristan Snell](#), Lawyer and founder of Main Street Law



Tristan Snell
@TristanSnell

BREAKING: FBI took Trump's passports during search of Mar-a-Lago last week.

Unclear why Trump has multiple passports.

2:05 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Nate Silver](#), FiveThirtyEight



Nate Silver
@NateSilver538

Be one thing if folks said "the FBI search at Mar-a-Lago could have unpredictable political consequences, and in some scenarios could help Trump" but instead people are like "OMG NOW HE'S GETTING RE-ELECTED FOR SURE!!!!". I don't see how you can be that confident about it.

2:03 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Newt Gingrich](#), Former Speaker of the House

Newt Gingrich 
@newtingrich

The FBI raid on Donald Trump's home at Mar-a-Lago is the latest evidence of the Democrats' war on the rule of law.



foxnews.com
FBI raid on Trump latest proof of Democrat war on rule of law
FBI raid on former President Donald Trump is more proof Democrats can't be trusted to obey the rule of law and FBI can't be trusted to even tell the truth.

1:42 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · TweetDeck

[Richard N. Ojeda, II](#), Former WV State Senator

Richard N. Ojeda, II 
@Ojeda4America

Where was the materials kept? Were they under constant camera security? Who had access to the materials at Mar-a-Lago? Was the items left unguarded at any point? Who authorized the materials to leave D.C? How were they transpired to Mar-a-Lago? Bus? Moving Truck? Airplane??

1:37 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[2]

Richard N. Ojeda, II 
@Ojeda4America

If you are not outraged at the materials found at Mar-a-Lago then you are just not smart enough to understand the situation. Everyone in the chain of custody should go to prison for this. Some items found broke the law by just being outside of a SCIF.

2:42 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[R.A. Salvatore](#), Author

R.A. Salvatore 
@r_a_salvatore

Replying to @RSMwriter and @ArmandoNDK

There's a million HUGE differences. Compare Clinton to her predecessors (Yahoo) and to the Trump WH, which ran a ton out of Trump tower's private servers and used What's App and unsecured phones (to call an ambassador in Ukraine!).

Mar a lago is a massively different level.

1:16 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Larry Sabato](#), Political scientist



Full Articles

Reuters: [U.S. Justice Dept opposes unsealing affidavit used to search Trump's home](#), by Sarah Lynch

WASHINGTON, Aug 15 (Reuters) - The U.S. Justice Department on Monday said it opposes requests by the news media to unseal the affidavit that prosecutors used to obtain a federal judge's approval to search former President Donald Trump's Florida home.

In a court filing, prosecutors said they will not oppose the release of other sealed documents tied to the search, such as cover sheets and the government's motion to seal.

But releasing the affidavit itself could harm the ongoing investigation, the department said.

"If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps," prosecutors wrote in their filing.

Trump's Republican allies in recent days have ramped up their calls for Attorney General Merrick Garland to unseal the document, which would reveal the evidence that prosecutors showed to demonstrate they had probable cause to believe crimes were committed at Trump's home -- the standard they had to meet to secure the search warrant.

On Friday, at the Justice Department's request, a federal court in south Florida unsealed the search warrant and several accompanying legal documents that showed that FBI agents carted away 11 sets of classified records from Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort.

Some of the records seized were labeled as "top secret" - the highest level of classification reserved for the most closely held U.S. national security information.

Bloomberg: [DOJ Opposes Release of Affidavit in Trump Search, Citing Probe](#), by Chris Strohm and Zoe Tillman

The Justice Department said Monday it opposes the release of an FBI affidavit justifying a search warrant used to seize documents at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Florida last week.

While DOJ had asked the court to publicly release the search warrant last week, the department said in a filing Monday that the affidavit "presents a very different set of considerations."

"There remain compelling reasons, including to protect the integrity of an ongoing law enforcement investigation that implicates national security, that support keeping the affidavit sealed," the department said in a filing in a Florida court.

The department responded to a request filed by the conservative group Judicial Watch and some media organizations seeking the release of all materials related to the unprecedented search of the former president's residence, which resulted in the seizure of 11 sets of classified documents.

Last week, a Florida judge released the search warrant and list of material seized during the search after a request from the Justice Department that Trump didn't oppose. But the underlying affidavit would reveal the most extensive information used to justify the action, possibly including sources used by FBI agents and details about the documents and classified information.

Releasing an affidavit at this stage of an investigation would be highly unusual and require the approval of a federal judge. Unlike the warrant itself and the seizure receipt, which the FBI gave to Trump's lawyer during the Aug. 8 search and he was free to share after, Trump wouldn't have seen a copy of that document.

The FBI's seizure of classified material from Trump has thrown US politics into turmoil, and court filings revealed the former president may be under investigation for mishandling government records and potentially compromising national security information.

The list of information seized during the search includes documents that bore the US government's highest top-secret rating, and prosecutors indicated they are exploring possible violations of the federal Espionage Act among other allegations. The FBI seized "TS/SCI documents," which stands for top-secret and sensitive compartmented information, a government label for material gathered through sensitive intelligence sources or methods.

Washington Post: [Justice Dept. opposes release of Mar-a-Lago affidavit](#), by Perry Stein

The Justice Department asked a judge Monday to keep sealed the sworn affidavit underpinning last week's extraordinary FBI search of former president Donald Trump's Florida residence, a document believed to hold key details about the government's investigation into the potential mishandling of classified materials.

Monday's court filing was made in response to requests from multiple media outlets, including The Washington Post, seeking the affidavit's public release. Law enforcement officials submit such documents to a judge as part of their application for a search warrant. Affidavits typically contain information addressing why authorities believe there is evidence at a certain property and other details about an investigation, including sometimes the identities of witnesses.

The Justice Department argued that releasing the affidavit could hamper its investigation and potentially harm those involved.

"Even when the public is already aware of the general nature of the investigation, revealing the specific contents of a search warrant affidavit could alter the investigation's trajectory, reveal ongoing and future investigative efforts, and undermine agents' ability to collect evidence or obtain truthful testimony," the 13-page filing states. "In addition to the implications for the investigation, the release of this type of investigative material could have 'devastating consequences' for the reputations and rights of individuals whose actions and statements are described."

Trump and other Republicans have claimed the search was politically motivated. The former president has lashed out at law enforcement in response and suggested the FBI planted evidence, though he has not offered information to support those claims.

A judge on Friday agreed to unseal the court-approved search warrant and an inventory detailing the 11 sets of classified documents retrieved last week from Mar-a-Lago, Trump's private club and residence in Palm Beach. The documents also identify what federal laws officials suspect may have been violated.

The former president said before the judge's decision to unseal the warrant and inventory list that he favored releasing those documents. He and his legal team have not publicly taken a stance on unsealing the affidavit specifically.

Media outlets seeking its release have argued in court filings that documents related to the FBI's search should be made public due to the "historic importance of these events."

The Post noted in its filing that the Justice Department requested last week that parts of the search warrant filings be released because of the public's "clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred in these circumstances weighs heavily in favor of unsealing."

"Before the events of this week, not since the Nixon Administration had the federal government wielded its power to seize records from a f in such a public fashion," The Post argued in court documents. The newspaper is joined in its motion by CNN, NBC News and Scripps Company.

The Justice Department's filing on Monday arrives as federal law enforcement agents experience an uptick in threats following the Mar-a-Lago search. While the court released a redacted version of the warrant last week, at least one conservative news outlet published the names of the agents who executed the warrant. The risk of violence has prompted the FBI to erect barricades around its downtown D.C. headquarters.

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security on Friday issued a joint intelligence bulletin to its employees warning of "violent threats" against federal law enforcement, courts, government personnel and facilities in the wake of the Mar-a-Lago search, according to a copy of the document obtained by The Post.

The chatter observed on social media are said to include a threat to place a so-called dirty bomb outside FBI headquarters and general calls for "civil war" and "armed rebellion," the bulletin states

The Post reported last week that among the materials FBI agents were seeking to retrieve from Mar-a-Lago were classified documents about nuclear weapons. People familiar with the investigation did not offer additional details, such as whether the documents being sought involved weapons belonging to the United States or another nation.

Washington Post: [The curious timing of Trump naming two allies to access his records](#), by Phillip Bump

On June 19, former president Donald Trump sent a letter to the National Archives. The subject was not his ongoing dispute with the agency over material he'd removed from the White House and brought to his Mar-a-Lago resort.

Instead, he was naming two individuals — former Trump administration official Kash P. Patel and conservative writer John Solomon — as “representatives for access to Presidential records of my administration.”

In light of what we’ve learned in the week since FBI agents searched Mar-a-Lago and removed dozens of boxes of material, the timing of that appointment is interesting.

A full timeline of what unfolded before the FBI search is below, but June was a significant month for the government’s effort to retrieve the material.

By then, the Archives had already referred the issue to the Justice Department and a grand jury had issued a subpoena for the recovery of material. On June 3, a senior official from the department visited Mar-a-Lago along with several FBI agents, reviewing the storage room where much of the material seized last week would be recovered. They would soon ask that the room “be secured” — suggesting that it may not have been secured previously — and the material within it not be moved. A few days later, the New York Times reported over the weekend, a lawyer for Trump signed a document indicating that no further classified material remained at Mar-a-Lago.

On June 22, the Justice Department subpoenaed security footage from Mar-a-Lago, including near the storage room. Trump’s team turned it over.

“According to a person briefed on the matter, the footage showed that, after one instance in which Justice Department officials were in contact with Mr. Trump’s team, boxes were moved in and out of the room,” the Times reported.

In the midst of all of this and three days before that subpoena, Patel and Solomon were tapped as authorized consumers of Trump’s records. In explaining the decision to Politico, Solomon indicated that the intent was that he write a history of the Russia investigation — one that a Trump spokesperson justifiably expected to be favorable in a statement to the outlet.

After it was reported that the material Trump turned over in January included classified material, Patel spoke with Breitbart to offer a defense that’s cropped up a lot in the interim: Trump had actually declassified all of it in advance.

This could have been self-serving. As an administration official, Patel probably had a high level of security clearance though, as journalist Marcy Wheeler noted in an assessment of the Solomon-Patel appointment, that may have been rescinded as a part of an investigation into whether he leaked classified information. If he’d seen what Trump had in that storage room, Wheeler points out, Trump could be further criminally implicated. The same goes for Solomon: as a news writer, he would not have had clearance to view those documents.

Perhaps this is a coincidence. Perhaps Trump just got around to naming Patel and Solomon as he’d intended to do all along.

Or, perhaps, he and his team understood that the government’s interest in what he had in that storage room near the Mar-a-Lago pool hadn’t waned, and that it would be useful to loop his two allies into the community of people with some credible authorization for viewing what he’d taken from the White House. Perhaps he understood that he wouldn’t be able to retain the documents indefinitely and so wanted his defenders to have the legal authority to take a look.

One wonders if maybe they already had.

The Washington Post has requested comment from Patel and Solomon, and will update this story with any responses.

The timeline

Jan. 20, 2021. Watching Trump depart the White House, national archivist David S. Ferriero notices staff carrying boxes.

“I can remember watching the Trumps leaving the White House and getting off in the helicopter that day, and someone carrying a white banker box, and saying to myself, ‘What the hell’s in that box?’” he told The Post. This, he says, triggers a review of what the National Archives had received from the outgoing president.

May. The Archives realize high-profile documents from Trump’s presidency — like his communications with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — are in fact missing from its records.

At one point, The Post reported, “Archives officials threatened that if Trump’s team did not voluntarily produce the materials, they would send a letter to Congress or the Justice Department revealing the lack of cooperation.”

End of the year. Trump begins packing up material to be returned to Washington.

He was “noticeably secretive about the packing process,” The Post reported, “and top aides and longtime administrative staffers did not see the contents.”

Jan. 17. A contractor arrives at Mar-a-Lago to pick up 15 boxes of material removed by Trump at the end of his administration.

Feb. 9. The Post reports that the National Archives referred Trump's handling of records to the Justice Department.

Feb. 18. The Archives informs the Justice Department that some of the material turned over by Trump was marked as classified.

May. A grand jury issues a subpoena for material the government believed to be in Trump's possession even after he turned over the prior material. This was in conjunction with interviews being conducted by the Justice Department.

May 5. Patel speaks with Breitbart, claiming that Trump had already declassified material that had been turned back over to the government in January.

June 3. Jay I. Bratt, chief of the Justice Department's counterintelligence and export control section, visits Mar-a-Lago with three FBI agents. They are shown a storage area with boxes containing material taken from the White House, some of which they take with them upon departure.

At one point, Trump himself greets the officials. "Anything you need, let us know," he reportedly told them.

A few days later. One of Trump's attorneys signs a written statement claiming that all material marked as classified had been returned to the government.

June 8. Bratt sends Trump's team an email asking that a stronger lock be installed on the room.

"We ask that the room at Mar-a-Lago where the documents had been stored be secured and that all the boxes that were moved from the White House to Mar-a-Lago (along with any other items in that room) be preserved in that room in their current condition until further notice," it read.

June 19. Trump names Patel and Solomon as his "representatives for access to Presidential records of my administration."

A spokeswoman for the former president said that the two were selected so that they might "work to make available to the American people previously declassified documents that reveal a clear conspiracy to unlawfully spy on candidate and then President Donald J. Trump by the FBI, DOJ, and others the largest state-sponsored criminality in American history." This framing, it should go without saying, is unfounded.

June 22. The government subpoenas surveillance footage from Mar-a-Lago security cameras over a 60-day period, which is turned over. It includes footage from outside the storage room.

Aug. 5. Believing that Trump still had material in his possession that needed to be returned, the FBI obtains a search warrant from a federal magistrate judge in West Palm Beach.

Aug. 8. Mar-a-Lago is searched by the FBI. Among the material recovered are more than 20 boxes of material, two binders of photos, and a number of classified items identified as confidential, secret or top secret.

Aug. 11. Attorney General Merrick Garland announces that he will ask for the search warrant to be unsealed.

The warrant is released publicly. In an appearance on Fox News, Solomon claims that Trump had a blanket order to declassify material he took to the residence section of the White House.

CNN: [DOJ opposes making public details in Mar-a-Lago search warrant's probable cause affidavit](#), by Katelyn Polatz and Hannah Rabinowitz

(CNN)The Justice Department is opposing the release of details in an affidavit that lays out the argument that investigators made to a federal magistrate judge explaining the probable cause it had to search former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate last week.

In their new filing arguing for some continued secrecy, the Justice Department made clear the seriousness of the ongoing criminal investigation, saying it "implicates highly classified materials."

"Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations," the Justice Department wrote. "The fact that this investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the integrity of the investigation and exacerbates the potential harm if information is disclosed to the public prematurely or improperly."

Media organizations including CNN had asked for the affidavit to be unsealed after the search last week at Trump's Palm Beach, Florida, club and residence.

The Justice Department said in its filing that disclosing the affidavit details "at this juncture" would "cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation."

"The redactions necessary to mitigate harms to the integrity of the investigation would be so extensive as to render the remaining unsealed text devoid of meaningful content, and the release of such a redacted version would not serve any

public interest," the Justice Department stated.

CNN, joined by The Washington Post, NBC News and Scripps, asked the judge last week to unseal all documents -- including any probable cause affidavits -- connected to the FBI search.

"Not since the Nixon Administration has a President been the subject of such a dramatic and public criminal process," the outlets said in the filing, adding that the outlets are "attempting to shed light on the federal government's unprecedented actions and motivations."

"Here, there could not be a more 'historically significant event' than an FBI raid of a former President's home for the alleged removal of national security records after leaving office," the outlets said.

The New York Times, CBS, the Palm Beach Post, the Miami Herald, the Tampa Bay Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Associated Press and ABC also requested the judge unseal affidavits.

A magistrate judge unsealed the Mar-a-Lago search warrant and property receipt on Friday, after the Justice Department lawyers for the former President agreed they should be released. Other parts of the search warrant, including the probable cause affidavit, were not addressed at the time.

The search warrant identifies violations of the Espionage Act, obstruction of justice and criminal handling of government records as reasons for the search.

The receipt list, which shows what items agents recovered from Mar-a-Lago, shows that agents removed 11 sets of classified documents -- including some marked with the highest levels of classification -- from Trump's home.

CNN: Opinion: [Trump is worried after FBI search -- and he should be](#), by Norman Eisen, Asha Rangappa, and Dennis Aftergut

(CNN) A week of stunning developments for the possible criminal liability of former President Donald Trump and his circle was capped off with this weekend's news that a Trump lawyer had signed a statement this summer saying that all material marked as classified in the former President's possession had been returned. Together with earlier revelations, this latest piece of the puzzle points us to the direction in which the Department of Justice is headed -- and when.

First, with the search warrant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence now public, it shows the possibility of alleged crimes that are significant. The warrant is based upon probable cause to believe, first, that taking large quantities of materials to Mar-a-Lago violated the core federal criminal document preservation statute related to presidential records. It forbids the willful concealment, removal, or destruction of documents -- classified or not -- belonging to the government of the United States. The maximum penalty is three years' imprisonment.

More serious still is the possible violation of the federal Espionage Act, also listed on the warrant. Its violation carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Individuals are subject to conviction under the act if they willfully retain and fail to deliver information "relating to the national defense" upon the demand of a federal officer entitled to receive such information that has come into the individuals' possession.

This statute comes into play because the FBI retrieved 11 sets of classified documents from Mar-a-Lago last Monday. Information is marked "secret" if its unauthorized release would cause "serious damage to national security." Information that would cause "exceptionally grave damage to national security" is marked "top secret." If information is marked "TS/SCI," it is even more highly protected -- "top secret/sensitive compartmented information," meaning that it comes from sensitive sources or methods.

In short, while all the material recovered could be considered stolen government property, the classified documents that the FBI retrieved and that were marked "top secret" and "various classified/TS/SCI" are of special concern. Although the Espionage Act does not require that "information related to the national defense" be classified, these highly sensitive documents would likely fall under the definition of "information relating to the national defense" under the Espionage Act.

Finally, there is the offense of obstructing a pending federal investigation by concealing documents relating to that investigation. It carries the heaviest potential penalty: up to 20 years in prison. As grave as violations of the first two statutes are, interfering with a Justice Department investigation is especially serious.

Trump has denied all wrongdoing and claims the investigation is politically motivated.

Reporting has already detailed the concerning pattern of document turnover. It started with negotiations and voluntary requests from national archivists in 2021, resulting in the return of 15 boxes of materials in 2022. That was followed in the spring by a grand jury subpoena evidently compelling production of documents. Then investigators visited in June, taking still more documents with them and at some later point securing the recently reported, evidently false statement that all material marked as classified had been returned.

Neither that subpoena nor the lawyer's June delivery produced the 11 sets of classified information that the FBI said it took from Mar-a-Lago last week.

The warrant's release explains what Attorney General Merrick Garland was talking about on Thursday when he spoke of the "standard practice to seek less intrusive means" than a search warrant whenever possible. He was telling us that the Justice Department tried everything else (and then some) first.

Note that if Trump or others did not honestly comply with the subpoena, that's a separate possible crime. That might be why the department reportedly subpoenaed the surveillance footage of people going in and out of the document rooms. Government officials were also understandably concerned about who had access to classified documents.

Further, if Trump and those around him, including his lawyers, made intentionally inaccurate statements to the government, they may be criminally liable for making false statements.

While this new report on a lawyer's letter casts added light on the situation, gaps necessarily remain. As is standard operating procedure, the Justice Department has not released the FBI agent's sworn affidavit supporting the search warrant. Such affidavits, and the evidence they contain, are closely held until soon after the DOJ files any criminal charges.

Disclosing affidavits prematurely can give away the government's case and inform targets what investigatory routes they need to block, what evidence to destroy and what potential witnesses' cooperation they need to forestall. That is why Garland should hold firm despite demands from some of the former President's allies in Congress to see the affidavit.

The ordinary reasons apply with even greater force in a case involving exceptionally sensitive national security data and a highly confidential informant. In our current, hyper-charged political environment, when an armed follower of Trump's social media site enters a Cincinnati FBI office with an apparent intent to kill, any public information on a reported Mar-a-Lago informant could easily put that person's life in danger.

Still, Garland has adeptly brought the picture into focus with his properly terse statement and release of the warrant -- while complying with the DOJ's stringent rules on what can and cannot be said. We shouldn't take the attorney general's integrity and prosecutorial experience for granted. After all, we just had Bill Barr, whose distortions as attorney general of the Mueller report may have emboldened Trump's belief in complete personal impunity from legal consequences. In the Nixon era, we had enabling Attorney Generals John Mitchell and Richard Kleindienst, both of whom were convicted of crimes.

Given Garland's care to follow the rules, we are going to have to be satisfied with his disclosures for a while. We are now in the window Garland laid out in his recent memo about the DOJ avoiding any actions that could be perceived as affecting an election before it takes place. (Although the window is often referred to as a three-month one, the memo is silent as to the actual number of days.)

Trump remains one of the most polarizing characters in American politics, and any action taken could have an impact on the midterm elections. That is so even though Trump has not declared his candidacy for 2024 and is not on any ballot.

The accumulation of allegations adds to the chances that Trump might be charged. It's not just the possible removal of documents, or even the more serious national security ones. It's that documents appear to have been withheld again and again.

Moreover, Garland's moves last week were not necessarily just about potential document crimes. As an earlier overview explained, the DOJ can use anything found pursuant to the search warrant to prove other possible crimes.

There are three fronts on which federal criminal investigations are likely to proceed, quietly before November but perhaps more loudly afterward: alleged document crimes, conspiracy to defraud the United States by seeking to overturn the 2020 election before January 6, 2021, and obstruction of Congress on January 6.

On Sunday, Trump may have dropped a hint that the FBI seized information related to the latter two. He complained on his site, Truth Social, that the FBI "took boxes of 'attorney-client' material, and also 'executive' privilege material which they knowingly should not have taken." We know that attorney-client and executive privilege arguments have loomed large in the January 6 investigations. Time will tell whether the FBI also swept up information relating to additional matters separate from the removal of classified documents.

Trump's groundless caterwauling this past week proves he's concerned about possible prosecution. He should be. There are just too many ongoing investigations to think that he can dodge them all.

NBC: [Pennsylvania man arrested for threats against FBI after Mar-a-Lago search](#), by Ryan J. Reilly

WASHINGTON A Pennsylvania man was arrested for making threats against the FBI on the right-wing social media website Gab after special agents searched former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate last week.

Adam Bies was charged with influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a federal law enforcement official after the social media exploitation team in the FBI's National Threat Operations Section referred a tip about a Gab post by the user "BlankFocus." The user, according to a FBI affidavit, posted that employees of the bureau deserved to die.

"I'm ready for the inevitable. Once you accept reality for what it is instead of what you want or to be, you can move on with your life and get prepared for the inevitable outcome. I already know I'm going to die at the hands of these piece of shit child molesting law enforcement scumbags," Bies wrote, according to authorities. "My only goal is to kill more of them before I drop. I will not spend one second of my life in their custody."

Records show that Bies was taken into custody. Federal prosecutors are requesting that he be held until trial.

MSNBC: [Yet another person has died in defense of Trump's lies. When will it end?](#), by Frank Figliuzzi

The Trump death toll climbed last week. On Friday, a man armed with an assault-style rifle tried to breach security at the Cincinnati, Ohio, FBI field office. After fleeing that office, authorities say Ricky Shiffer exchanged shots with police and was eventually killed by law enforcement in a cornfield near Wilmington. The Ohio man, who was already under investigation as a potential threat, wasn't the first deluded victim of the deadly contagion of disinformation spewing from a depraved former president and his soulless sycophants, and it's not likely he'll be the last.

As Alyssa Rosenberg wrote for The Washington Post, at least four of Trump's supporters died at the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot: "Ashli Babbitt, who was shot while trying to climb through a broken window; Kevin Greeson, who suffered a fatal heart attack; Benjamin Phillips, who succumbed to a stroke; and Rosanne Boyland, whose official cause of death was "acute amphetamine intoxication," but who was caught up in a crush of bodies on the Capitol grounds. Christopher Stanton Georgia died by suicide later that month after he was arrested on unlawful entry charges stemming from Jan. 6. We also know that three police officers died following their defense of our Capitol.

Shiffer was already under investigation by the FBI for possible involvement in the attack on the U.S. Capitol. According to The New York Times, "Law enforcement officials separately said they were investigating whether Mr. Shiffer appeared in a video posted on Facebook on Jan. 5, 2021, showing him attending a pro-Trump rally at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington the night before the Capitol was stormed."

Shiffer's online posts indicate he supported former President Donald Trump and became incensed when the FBI executed a search warrant at Trump's Florida residence Aug. 8. The New York Times reports that on Aug. 9, "someone with an account bearing Mr. Shiffer's name posted messages on Mr. Trump's social media platform, Truth Social, recommending that "patriots" go to Florida and kill federal agents." According to that report, "When someone online asked Shiffer if he was proposing terrorism, the account responded: 'I am proposing war.'" Shiffer died before he likely would hear, if it would have mattered, that the government tried negotiating with Trump and his lawyers for the return of the sensitive documents, that Trump never complied with a subpoena, that Trump was able to view the search via security cameras, that a Trump lawyer had provided a written filing to the government claiming there wasn't any more classified material and that the search reportedly turned up multiple documents classified at the highest levels.

How does someone move so quickly from violent rhetoric to violent action even at the risk of losing their life? It happens when the viral load of dangerous disinformation they consume overwhelms their body's natural survival defense. Disinformation, lies and conspiracy theories are airborne and spread by contact. Contact with others who are similarly unable to think for themselves and exposure to airwaves filled with radicalizing rhetoric can kill. And last week, it appears to have killed Shiffer.

Shiffer's death didn't deter pro-Trump protesters in Arizona from showing up armed with assault-style rifles at the FBI Phoenix field office Saturday. That same day, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued a joint warning that federal law enforcement was facing an unprecedented volume of threats. Who is behind the volatile environment we're now living in?

Following the search of his residence, Trump quickly called the investigation a "hoax" and implied the FBI planted information. Following his lead, Trump's minions in media and in elected office didn't wait for the facts before rushing to rant against a law enforcement action they knew next to nothing about. "Tomorrow is war" said Steven Crowder, a conservative analyst with almost 2 million Twitter followers. "This means war," the Gateway Pundit, a pro-Trump platform, posted online. Joe Kent, a Trump-endorsed candidate for Congress said on Steve Bannon's podcast, "We're at war." Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., called the search "3rd world country stuff". Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis called the warrant a "weaponization of federal agencies against the regime's political opponents." And, an unredacted copy of the court-authorized search warrant, which contained the names of two FBI agents, was published by Breitbart News leading to widespread threats against FBI personnel. Even the federal magistrate who signed the search warrant is being targeted for violence.

Trump, and those who echo his violence-inducing vitriol, bear responsibility for radicalizing those who have killed because of the lie of white replacement theory. The 2019 El Paso Walmart shooter cited the same brown "invasion" language used by Trump before he targeted shoppers and killed 23 people in a store frequented by Mexicans. The Buffalo supermarket shooter, who killed 10 in a predominately Black neighborhood, cited white replacement theory in his postings a lie frequently pushed by Fox News entertainer Tucker Carlson.

Fox: [Compagno rips mainstream media for 'toxic celebration' of FBI's raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago](#), by Staff

"Outnumbered" co-host Emily Compagno ripped the media for a "toxic celebration" of the FBI's raid on Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home. Compagno highlighted the left's double standard when it comes to the former president as the

Justice Department faces mounting pressure to release additional information surrounding the incident.

EMILY COMPAGNO: I'm not sure why when it comes to Donald Trump, everything that should be clear and objective somehow goes out the window and there's a toxic celebration of what happens with him, with a beehive circling and a very toxic pointing out of threats of violence that don't seem to be present every other time that horrible situation unfolds.

ABC: [Senate Intelligence Committee leaders request classified documents taken from Mar-a-Lago](#), by Trish Turner and Tal Axelrod

Sens. Mark Warner, D-Va., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., the chair and vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, respectively, have sent a private letter to top intelligence officials and the Justice Department asking for more information from last week's unprecedented FBI search at Mar-a-Lago.

The letter, sent Sunday to Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines and Attorney General Merrick Garland, specifically seeks the classified documents that were seized and an analysis of any national security threat posed by the mishandling of the information.

The request comes after it was revealed that 11 sets of classified information were seized from former President Donald Trump's Florida resort, including confidential, secret and top-secret documents.

The letter, first reported by Axios, also is seeking to get to the heart of the rationale behind the search, which Garland said he personally approved.

"The Senate Intelligence Committee is charged with overseeing counterintelligence matters, including the handling and mishandling of classified information, which appears to be at the core of the search of Mar a Lago," said Rachel Cohen, a spokesperson for Warner who confirmed the letter and its contents but would not share it.

The letter from Warner and Rubio is the first bipartisan outreach from Congress asking for more information from the search. Other House committees have requested information on the fuel behind the search and what was found, though those appeals were spearheaded by Democrats.

Reps. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., and Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairs of the House Oversight and Intelligence Committees, respectively, sent a letter over the weekend asking Haines to conduct a damage assessment on the classified information recovered from Mar-a-Lago.

"In his remarks, Attorney General Garland claimed there was a substantial public interest in the execution of an unprecedented search warrant on President Trump. As such, the Intelligence Committee has asked the Department of Justice to share with us, on a classified basis, the specific intelligence documents seized from Mar-a-Lago," Rubio said through a spokesperson

Rubio also sent a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray requesting a meeting to discuss the search.

A spokesperson for DNI Haines declined to comment on both the request by Senate Intelligence Committee leaders and the separate joint request for a damage assessment made by Schiff and Maloney.

The search on Trump's Florida residence sparked both a backlash from Republican allies over claims that the investigation is a political effort and Democratic questions over the handling of the classified information found at Mar-a-Lago, which included top-secret, sensitive compartmented information (SCI) material, a classification of materials that sometimes involves nuclear secrets.

SCI material is also intended to only be handled in secured locations.

Trump has offered an array of explanations over the search, including saying that evidence was planted, that he had declassified the documents prior to leaving the White House and that the documents obtained by the FBI were protected under attorney-client and executive privileges.

ABC: [Former federal prosecutor reveals 'powder keg' in FBI raid on Trump](#), by Staff

Last Monday, FBI officials raided former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Fla., executing a court-ordered search warrant the Department of Justice later revealed was related to possible violations of three criminal statutes.

Officers seized a total of 27 boxes from Mar-a-Lago, with 11 containing classified documents -- including top secret information.

ABC News contributor and former federal prosecutor Kan Nawaday spoke with ABC News' Phil Lipof about what stands out to him in the search warrant, the top secret materials in the boxes and what officials are likely doing now.

PRIME: ABC News contributor and former federal prosecutor Kan Nawaday again with us tonight for some insight on all of this. Kan, thanks for being here. Let's take a look at the search warrant first. We both have a copy of it. What stands

out to you in the search warrant?

NAWADAY: First off, the huge big powder keg in this is the fact that the judge found probable cause to believe that there was a violation of the Espionage Act.

PRIME: And that's no small feat. We're talking about espionage here.

NAWADAY: Exactly. What that means is that they think that there was mishandling of top secret information that was transmitted to unauthorized persons. This is the exact same statute that [National Security Agency whistleblower Edward] Snowden was charged with.

PRIME: All right. So let's move on to the receipt here, the things that they say they took in this search of the former president's home. You can see at the top a grant of clemency for Roger Stone, information on the president of France, then we see as you move down secret documents, miscellaneous, then we have top secret documents, confidential documents, more top secret documents. Talk about top secret for a minute, because, you know, people can throw that term around, but what does that mean?

NAWADAY: And you're exactly right. Feel like people throw that term around. But it's actually very, very specific. What top secret means is a type of document or information that if it gets out there, it can cause exceptionally grave damage to our national security. So it's really important stuff, it's sensitive stuff. And the thing that sticks out to me is item "2A," various TS/SCI documents.

PRIME: That SCI.

NAWADAY: Right, SCI means this is top secret stuff that can only, and should only, be viewed within a certain facility that's basically protected from data leaks.

PRIME: They're called skiffs, right?

NAWADAY: Exactly.

PRIME: No phones allowed, nothing. This is where you view these documents exactly.

NAWADAY: Like you cannot take your phone in, you're not going to get any emails...that's how sensitive this material is, and they have it there.

PRIME: So then what do they have to do now? Are they concerned about people who may have seen this or where this material may have gone?

NAWADAY: Absolutely. My money's on what the FBI, and national security professionals are doing right now -- they're looking through everything they've gotten from the search and they're trying to figure out who else may have seen this highly sensitive material.

PRIME: That's a big task. Yes. Especially with everything that we see they took. OK. Former federal prosecutor and ABC News contributor Kan Nowaday, thanks so much for joining us again, we do appreciate it.

BBC: [Mar-a-Lago: FBI warns of increased threats after Trump search](#), by Max matza & Tara McKelvey

US officials have warned of an increase in violent threats to law enforcement following the search of Donald Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago.

The FBI and Department of Homeland Security issued a memo to law enforcement around the country.

It said there had been an "increase in violent threats posted on social media against federal officials".

The FBI search last Monday was the first time a former president's home had been searched in a criminal probe.

Eleven sets of classified files were recovered from the property in Palm Beach, according to the warrant which was later made public. Mr Trump denies wrongdoing.

"The FBI and DHS would like to ensure that law enforcement, court, and government personnel are aware of the range of threats and criminal and violent incidents," the memo - which was seen by US media including the BBC's partner CBS - read.

It added that some of the threats were "specific in identifying proposed targets, tactics, or weaponry" and also made mention of the judge who authorised the search.

The memo, which was circulated late on Friday, also noted that a man wearing body armour had been shot dead by police after attempting to breach the FBI field office in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Hours before the incident last week, the suspect posted on Truth Social - Mr Trump's social media platform - of his intent to kill federal agents.

Jeffrey Ringel, a former FBI agent in New York, told the BBC that, while many threats prove to be "bravado", they can still have a major impact on staff.

"You're always looking over your shoulder," he says. "A threat in itself causes you to stop what you're doing because you're afraid of what might happen. You're thinking: 'What if?'"

"You go and work for the FBI because it has a great reputation and you want to do good," said Marion Bowman, a former assistant general counsel who has worked for the FBI. "For the people who are there now - this must be very dispiriting."

The search of Mr Trump's estate was part of an investigation into whether he improperly handled government records by taking them from the White House to Mar-a-Lago after he left office.

It triggered an angry backlash from his allies as well as Republicans in Congress, with some now calling for the affidavit - the sworn evidence that led to the search - to also be publicly unveiled.

"I think a releasing the affidavit would help, at least that would confirm that there was justification for this raid," Republican Senator Mike Rounds told NBC on Sunday.

"The justice department should show that this was not just a fishing expedition, that they had due cause to go in and to do this, that they did exhaust all other means," he said.

The justice department is not seeking to release the affidavit used to convince the judge that a search was necessary. Those documents would provide much more detailed information about how agents came to suspect that Mr Trump had committed criminal offences.

The search warrant, however, was signed off by a judge after prosecutors successfully argued that they had probable cause to believe a crime had been committed.

It was made public on Friday - a highly unusual move as warrants are normally not unsealed during a pending criminal investigation.

But Attorney General Merrick Garland - who leads the justice department - declared that there was "substantial public interest in this matter" and cited Mr Trump's public comments on the search as a reason for the warrant to be unsealed.

It revealed the three crimes Mr Trump is suspected of committing and what property had been seized.

Mr Trump has said he declassified the recovered documents before they were taken to Mar-a-Lago, although it is unclear whether this is relevant in a legal sense because the three criminal laws in question do not depend on whether the files were declassified.

The former president has not been charged with wrongdoing, and it remains unclear whether charges will be brought as a result of the investigation.

Politico: [Trump world's shifting narrative on the Mar-a-Lago docs](#), by Myah Ward

From the moment Donald Trump announced the FBI had searched his Mar-a-Lago residence to the public release of the search warrant that unveiled the former president is under investigation for potential obstruction of justice and Espionage Act violations, Trump world has thrown out a series of shifting explanations. And they haven't all stuck.

Team Trump's approach to lean into the political firestorm comes even as the former president reportedly asked Attorney General Merrick Garland, privately via a Justice Department official, what he could do to "reduce the heat." Meanwhile, he continues to use the investigation as a fundraising tool, with an email out to supporters Monday morning declaring: "The Left will do anything to stop me from SAVING AMERICA."

As more information trickles out about the scope of the government's investigation into the former president, here's a timeline of Trump world's shifting defense.

It's a "witch hunt."

Right out of the gate on Aug. 8, with a lengthy statement confirming the FBI search, Trump used all the key words: "dark times," "under siege," "Radical Left Democrats," "weaponization of the Justice System," "prosecutorial misconduct," "political persecution" and "witch hunt."

Trump cast the search as a potential threat to Republican success in the midterm elections and his chance at a 2024 reelection bid. He called the law enforcement action corrupt, and posed this question: "What is the difference between this and Watergate, where operatives broke into the Democrat National Committee? Here, in reverse, Democrats broke into the home of the 45th President of the United States."

First Hillary Clinton, then Barack Obama.

It was no surprise Trump immediately brought up Hillary Clinton's handling of her emails while she was secretary of State, but in the days following the search, he invoked another name: former President Barack Obama.

As more information was published about the material Trump possessed, and Garland moved to unseal the search warrant, the former president released a statement accusing Obama of keeping 33 million pages of documents, "much of them classified."

"How many of them pertained to nuclear? Word is, lots!" he said.

The National Archives and Records Administration quickly responded with its own statement on Friday, noting it obtained "exclusive legal and physical custody" of Obama's records when he left the White House in 2017. Roughly 30 million pages of unclassified records were transferred to a NARA facility in the Chicago area, NARA said, and this material is maintained "exclusively" by the federal agency.

I did nothing wrong.

On the day the search warrant was unsealed, Trump put forth a new explanation about why he kept highly classified documents and it's likely to be at the center of his legal defense moving forward.

Trump's office provided a statement to John Solomon, the conservative journalist who is one of the former president's authorized representatives to the National Archives. The statement said Trump regularly took classified material to Mar-a-Lago, and that he had issued a never-before-revealed "standing order" that documents removed in this fashion "were deemed to be declassified."

"The power to classify and declassify documents rests solely with the President of the United States," the statement read. "The idea that some paper-pushing bureaucrat, with classification authority delegated BY THE PRESIDENT, needs to approve of declassification is absurd."

Trump kept his Saturday statement short. He proclaimed he has "TRUTH" on his side, and "when you have TRUTH, you will ultimately be victorious!"

Guardian: [Trump demands return of seized documents by order of social media](#), by Martin Pengelly

Donald Trump has demanded the return of some documents seized by the US justice department in an FBI search of his Mar-a-Lago property in Florida last week apparently under the impression that posts on his Truth Social platform carry legal weight.

In a post on Sunday, the former president wrote: "By copy of this Truth, I respectfully request that these documents be immediately returned to the location from which they were taken. Thank you!"

It is generally held that social media posts are not legal documents.

According to an actual legal document, a search warrant unsealed on Friday, records concerning top secret national security matters were among those seized by the FBI. It has been reported that some such documents concerned nuclear weapons.

Trump has called the nuclear weapons report a "hoax" and claimed to have had authority to declassify top secret records while in office. No evidence has been produced that he did declassify the records in question.

On Saturday, citing anonymous sources, Fox News reported that in the search at Mar-a-Lago last Monday, the FBI seized boxes "containing records covered by attorney-client privilege and potentially executive privilege".

Fox News also said anonymous sources said the justice department turned down Trump lawyers' request to have such records reviewed by an independent third party.

Trump's post on his Truth Social platform which he launched after being thrown off Twitter over the Capitol attack appeared to be in response to the Fox News report.

He also said: "Oh great! It has just been learned that the FBI, in its now famous raid of Mar-a-Lago, took boxes of privileged 'attorney-client' material, and also 'executive' privileged material, which they knowingly should not have taken."

The former president has used claims of mistreatment to boost fundraising and positioning for a potential presidential run in 2024, his complaints echoed by supporters in the Republican party and across the American right.

Among them, Senator Mike Rounds of South Dakota argued on Sunday on NBC's Meet the Press that releasing the affidavit that persuaded a judge to permit the FBI search "would confirm that there was justification for this raid".

"The justice department should show that this was not just a fishing expedition," Rounds said.

The Ohio congressman Mike Turner, the top Republican on the House intelligence committee, said: "We want to know what did the FBI tell them?"

On Monday afternoon the justice department said it objected to requests to unseal the affidavit, as doing so would “cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation”, possibly by “chill[ing] future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations”.

The DoJ also said: “The fact that this investigation implicates highly classified materials further underscores the need to protect the integrity of the investigation and exacerbates the potential for harm if information is disclosed to the public prematurely or improperly.”

Trump continued to rage on Truth Social, claiming both that “Republicans could win many additional seats, both in the House and Senate, because of the strong backlash over the raid at Mat-a-Lago” and that the FBI “stole my three passports (one expired), along with everything else”.

He added: “This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!”

John Dean knows a thing or two about assaults on political opponents, having been White House counsel under Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal 50 years ago.

He told CNN Trump and his allies “don’t seem to want to appreciate that the FBI and other federal law enforcement, as well as state and local, they enforce search warrants every day, against every kind of person”.

“And there’s a reason Trump provoked this,” Dean said. “He’s the one who didn’t cooperate. He’s the one who forced [US attorney general] Merrick Garland’s hand. We don’t know what it is [Trump] has or had.

“Garland isn’t a risk-taker. He isn’t a guy who’s bold and goes where no one else has ever gone. He’s somebody who does it by the book, so I think these people are going to have egg all over their face when this is over.”

Trump has claimed the Mar-a-Lago search is comparable to the 1972 break-in at the Washington offices of the Democratic National Committee which fueled and christened the Watergate scandal.

On Saturday, a Fox News host also went to the Nixonian well, citing a famous claim about presidential authority the disgraced 37th president made in an interview with David Frost in 1977.

Will Cain said: “You know, if I listen to alternative media today, and they’re telling me, ‘Oh, classified documents, no one is above the law, right? The rule of law applies to everyone.’

“I’m curious. When it comes to classified documents, famously, President Nixon said, if the president does it, then it is not illegal. Is that not truly the standard when it comes to classified documents? The president has the ability to at any time declassify anything.”

Experts agree that is not the standard when it comes to handling classified material. Furthermore, Nixon himself backed away from his infamous claim.

After the Frost interview, Nixon said: “I do not believe and would not argue that a president is above the law. Of course he is not.

“The question is what is the law and how is it to be applied with respect to the president in fulfilling the duties of his office.”

Guardian: [Trump should announce run for 2024 soon to avoid indictment](#), source says, by Martin Pengelly

Donald Trump “has to” announce a campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024 in the next two weeks, a senior Trumpworld source said, if the former president wants to head off being indicted under the Espionage Act after the FBI search at Mar-a-Lago last week.

In communications reviewed by the Guardian, the source indicated Trump needed to announce because politically it would be harder for the US Department of Justice (DoJ) to indict a candidate for office than a former president out of the electoral running.

A source also suggested Ron DeSantis, Trump’s only serious competitor in Republican polling, will not run in 2024 if Trump chooses to enter the race.

“He can wait,” the source said of the Florida governor.

In contrast, a former White House official said Trump could yet decide not to run, for fear of losing his grip on his party and role as a kingmaker should an indictment force him to drop out of the race.

A search warrant unsealed on Friday showed that the FBI seized from Mar-a-Lago five sets of top secret documents, three sets of secret documents and three sets of confidential documents, as well as other records.

It was reported that some seized documents concerned nuclear weapons. Trump called that report a “hoax”.

The warrant also revealed Trump to be under investigation for possible violations of the Espionage Act, which dates from 1917 and has been used to go after whistleblowers.

If charged and convicted, Trump could face up to 20 years in federal prison or be barred from running for office.

Trump denies wrongdoing, claiming he had the authority to declassify documents and that the FBI seized documents protected by attorney-client and executive privilege.

But his legal jeopardy extends further.

The House January 6 committee and the DoJ continue to investigate Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election and incitement of the deadly US Capitol attack.

Trump is also under investigation in New York, over his business and tax affairs, and in Georgia, regarding attempts to overturn his defeat by Joe Biden.

On Monday it was confirmed that Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York who became Trump's personal attorney, is the target of a criminal investigation in Georgia, over his role in the attempt to overturn the election.

Also on Monday, a judge ruled that Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally and Republican senator from South Carolina, could not avoid testifying in the Georgia investigation.

Having long teased a new White House run, Trump seized on the FBI search at Mar-a-Lago for fundraising purposes, portraying it as an unprecedented raid and claiming mistreatment by political opponents. Senior Republicans echoed his claims, seemingly demonstrating Trump's continuing hold on the party.

Last week, a Trump attorney, Alina Habba, said she thought Trump could end his legal troubles by announcing that he would not run for the presidency again.

Habba told Real America's Voice: "I've sat across from him, every time he gets frustrated, I say to him: 'Mr President, if you would like me to resolve all your litigation, you should announce that you are not running for office, and all of this will stop.' That's what they want."

But Habba also said: "I hope he runs. I told him, 'This is going to actually increase your support in your base because they just always take it a little too far.' The Democratic party, they can't get out of their own way sometimes."

Forbes: [Trump Claims FBI Took His Passports In Mar-A-Lago Raid](#), by Madeline Halpert

TOPLINE Former President Donald Trump on Monday claimed the Federal Bureau of Investigations took all three of his passports during the agency's raid of his Mar-a-Lago property, days after the Justice Department released a list of documents seized in the search.

KEY FACTS

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the agency "stole" his three passports, including one that was expired, as a part of the search.

He repeated allegations the raid amounted to political persecution, calling it an "assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country."

The allegations come days after the Justice Department released the search warrant and other documents related to the FBI's search, which made no mention of the passports.

It's not clear why Trump has three passports, though U.S. citizens are allowed to hold more than one valid U.S. passport at the same time, according to the National Passport Information Center.

KEY BACKGROUND

Federal agents searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago property last week where they recovered 20 boxes of materials, including "various" classified materials; miscellaneous secret, top secret and confidential documents; photos; a handwritten note; the executive grant of clemency for Trump ally Roger Stone and "info re: President of France," according to a list of documents released by the Justice Department. The agency also released a copy of the search warrant for the raid and two other attachments, one of which notes FBI investigators are looking into whether Trump violated the Espionage Act, which prohibits the mishandling of national security documents, among other conduct. The Washington Post also reported investigators carried out the raid in search of classified documents relating to nuclear material. The FBI raided Trump's property in connection to a broader probe into documents Trump brought to his Florida estate after his presidency ended, 15 boxes of which the National Archives took back in January. Before the search, federal agents had issued a grand subpoena and reportedly took more documents from Trump's property in June before being tipped off that more records may still be at Mar-a-Lago. Trump and his allies have framed the search as a political witch hunt.

Axios: [Bolton: Trump's defense of Mar-a-Lago materials "almost certainly a lie"](#), by Shawna Chen

Former national security adviser John Bolton told the New York Times that former President Trump, whom he served under for over 17 months, is "almost certainly" lying about why he had classified material at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Why it matters: After a search warrant unsealed Friday revealed FBI agents recovered classified documents from Mar-a-Lago, Trump and his team claimed he had a "standing order" dictating that documents taken from the Oval Office to his residence were "deemed to be declassified the moment he removed them."

What he's saying: Bolton told the Times he had never heard of any such standing order. It is "almost certainly a lie," he said.

"I was never briefed on any such order, procedure, policy when I came in," Bolton said. "If he were to say something like that, you would have to memorialize that, so that people would know it existed."

Trump's clubs in Florida and New Jersey had installed secure facilities for the purpose of viewing top secret documents, Bolton noted. Trump shouldn't have needed to declassify anything.

Moreover, declassified materials are subject to public record requests, Bolton pointed out.

"When somebody begins to concoct lies like this, it shows a real level of desperation."

The big picture: The unsealed warrant showed that the materials recovered from the estate were only meant to be kept in secure government facilities.

The revelations undercut Trump and his allies' claims that the warrant was baseless.

Worth noting: Trump's legal team said in a written declaration in June that all classified material stored at Mar-a-Lago had been returned to the government, the Times reports.

Axios: [House GOP intensify scrutiny of DOJ, FBI following Trump search](#), by Erin Doherty, Andrew Solender

House Republicans on Monday continued their steady stream of demands for information from the Justice Department and FBI in the wake of the search of former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence last week.

Why it matters: The deluge of letters and preservation requests signals that scrutinizing the conduct of the DOJ and FBI will be a top investigative priority for Republicans if they retake control of Congress next year.

Driving the news: 18 Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee sent letters Monday to Attorney General Merrick Garland, White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain and FBI director Christopher Wray seeking the preservation of documents related to the search—a signal of plans for future subpoenas.

Among the materials they requested are "all documents and communications between or among the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the Executive Office of the President about a search of President Trump's residence."

A senior Republican aide told Axios the letter "signals that everything is on the table" in a future Republican majority.

Also on Monday, House GOP Conference Chair Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), who leads GOP messaging, led a letter, which was also signed by Reps. Mike Turner (R-Ohio) and James Comer (R-Ky.), questioning Wray's use of a government plane. Turner and Comer are the top Republicans on the Intelligence and Oversight Committees.

The lawmakers ask Wray for "all documents and communications referring or relating to ... travel on government aircraft, including the dates of travel, the aircraft used, the purpose of the flights, and the names of all passengers on the flights."

"Although certain federal officials are permitted to use government aircraft for personal or political use, these expenses must be reimbursed," they wrote.

The FBI did not immediately respond to Axios' requests for comment.

The big picture: The letters build on several GOP demands for information sent out last week.

Turner sent a letter to Wray the night of the search requesting the evidence that was used to obtain the search warrant and a list of documents seized.

Comer sent a similar letter to the head of the National Archives the following day.

Both letters asked for information on contact between the two agencies in the lead-up to the search.

The other side: Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and Oversight Committee Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), meanwhile, began their own investigation on Saturday.

They sent a letter to Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines seeking a national security damage assessment on the documents seized from Mar-a-Lago.

People: [Ark. Gov. Hutchinson Defends FBI, Says Fellow Republicans Should 'Pull Back' on Judging Mar-a-Lago Search](#), by Aaron Parsley

The Republican governor of Arkansas is defending the FBI and urging members of his party to refrain from criticizing the federal law enforcement agency for conducting a lawful search of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago property last week.

"If the GOP is going to be the party of supporting law enforcement, law enforcement includes the FBI," Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who's not a Trump fan, said during an interview on CNN Sunday. "Those folks on the ground do extraordinarily heroic efforts to enforce our rule of law, which is fundamental to the Republican Party and to our democracy. The FBI is part of that."

FBI agents executed a search warrant at Trump's Palm Beach, Fla., home Aug. 8. When the warrant was unsealed Friday, it showed that the agents were investigating possible violations of the Espionage Act and other laws related to national security. A receipt from the search indicated that 11 sets of classified documents — some marked top secret — were taken from the property.

Trump defended himself in a statement, claiming the materials were "declassified." Some Republicans who support the former president quickly denounced the search, calling it "politically motivated," a "weaponization" of federal law enforcement and more like what one might see in a "banana republic" than in the U.S.

Hutchinson, a former U.S. attorney, is taking a different approach by defending the FBI. He said in the CNN interview that he hopes other Republicans will hold off on characterizing the search as anything but a lawful part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

"We need to pull back on casting judgment on them," Hutchinson, 71, said. He acknowledged, however, that as a U.S. attorney who's worked with various federal law enforcement agencies, he's seen instances when "higher-ups in the FBI" have "made mistakes."

Still, he defended the agents who conducted the search of Trump's home. "We cannot say that, whenever they went in and did that search, that they were not doing their job as law enforcement officers," Hutchinson said.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday he approved the decision to request the search warrant from a judge as a last resort in the investigation into alleged mishandling of White House documents — some of which were thought to be related to nuclear weapons, according to a report by The Washington Post.

"If you want to hold people accountable, it is the Department of Justice," Hutchinson told CNN. "It is the attorney general, who said he supervised that. The FBI is simply carrying out their responsibilities under the law, a lawful search warrant that a magistrate signed off on."

As threats against agents proliferated on extremist, far-right corners of the web since the FBI executed the warrant at Trump's home, the governor pushed for elected officials to reconsider public criticism of the agency.

"Let's support law enforcement. Let's stand with them. Whether it's the DEA, the FBI, or your local law enforcement," Hutchinson said. "That's critically important that we do that, because they're simply trying to do their job and to keep anarchy away from our country."

New York Post: [Trump claims FBI 'stole' his passports during Mar-a-Lago raid](#), by Steven Nelson

Former President Donald Trump said Monday that FBI agents "stole" his passports last week when they raided his residence at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla.

"Wow! In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.

"This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!" the 45th president added.

FBI agents searched Trump's residence within his ritzy Mar-a-Lago club Aug. 8 in connection to records that were removed from the White House when Trump left office in January 2021.

Documents unsealed Friday say the Justice Department is investigating whether Trump broke three laws pertaining to official records, including the Espionage Act of 1917 — a law used in recent years to justify harsh sanctions, including against whistleblowers.

An inventory of property that was taken from the resort made no mention of passports, though it did note that agents seized 27 boxes — some of which contained classified documents — two binders of photographs, and a handwritten note, among other items.

Trump and his allies slammed the FBI and said the raid is the latest phase of a long-running "witch hunt" that dates back to the bureau's investigation into whether he colluded with Russia's government during the 2016 campaign.

Attorney General Merrick Garland, whose 2016 Supreme Court nomination was nixed by Trump after his upset election win, said last week that he personally signed off on pursuing the search.

Garland and FBI Director Christopher Wray otherwise have said little publicly to defend the raid.

It's unclear what exactly prompted the unusual FBI operation, which reportedly followed months of talks between Trump reps and the government about the whereabouts and possible return of certain records.

A Washington Post report suggested that the raid may have been spurred by concern about nuclear-related documents, but Trump denied it Friday, saying in a statement: "Nuclear weapons is a hoax, just like Russia, Russia, Russia was a hoax."

After the search warrant and inventory were unsealed Friday, Trump claimed that the documents in question had already been declassified and that the FBI search was unnecessary.

"They could have had it anytime they wanted without playing politics and breaking into Mar-a-Lago," he wrote on Truth Social. "It was in secured storage, with an additional lock put on as per their request. They could have had it anytime they wanted and that includes LONG ago. ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS ASK."

The Russia probe failed to find evidence that Trump worked with the Kremlin to win the 2016 election. The investigation was marred by FBI misconduct, including the falsification of court documents by FBI attorney Kevin Clinesmith and revelations that FBI employees leading the probe including Peter Stzrok, who opened the investigation trashed Trump in private messages.

Huffington Post: [Trump Says The FBI Took His Passports In Its Mar-A-Lago Search](#), by Jennifer Bendery

Former President Donald Trump said Monday that FBI investigators took his passports when they raided his Florida home last week in search of classified documents that he may have held onto illegally after leaving office.

"In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else," Trump wrote on his social media platform, Truth Social. "This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!"

It's not clear why the FBI may have taken his passports or why he apparently has three of them. Trump said one was expired; it's possible that he has a regular non-expired passport in addition to a second special issuance passport as a former U.S. president.

Trump has loudly condemned the FBI ever since the bureau executed a search warrant to comb his Mar-a-Lago property last Monday. His criticisms incited his extremist base of supporters to threaten and attack FBI officials and resulted in top Republicans in Congress instigating violence and mocking the Justice Department.

The FBI can't reveal many details about its search since it is part of an ongoing investigation, but agents were reportedly searching for highly sensitive documents related to nuclear weapons. A warrant released Friday showed that Trump is under investigation for possibly violating the Espionage Act, among other potential crimes. Their probe is also entirely legal, as a federal judge signed off on a search warrant before the raid took place.

For all his accusations of the FBI investigating him for political reasons, Trump has not mentioned that FBI director Christopher Wray is a Republican, that he appointed Wray to his post and that Senate Republicans unanimously voted to confirm him.

An FBI spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment as to whether Trump's passports were taken, and if so, why.

Esquire: [Marco Rubio Wants Senate Committee to See Trump Secret Docs, But Dems Shouldn't Play Along](#), by Charles P. Pierce

It's a measure of where we're at as a country that my first reaction to news that Sens. Marco Rubio and Mark Warner have requested the Senate Intelligence Committee have access to the classified material taken at Mar-a-Lago is that this is a terrible idea simply because it involves a Republican, albeit an incredible shrinking one.

From Axios:

The letter asks for all information regarding the rationale behind the search. "In his remarks, Attorney General Garland claimed there was a substantial public interest in the execution of an unprecedented search warrant on President Trump," Rubio said in a statement. "As such, the Intelligence Committee has asked the Department of Justice to share with us, on a classified basis, the specific intelligence documents seized from Mar-a-Lago," he added.

My wariness toward this sudden outburst of senatorial bonhomie has many sources: First, I think senatorial bonhomie is largely the fentanyl of democracy. Second, Rubio should worry more about fending off spiders with sewing needles at this point. Third and more in keeping with the current situation the request seems part of an effort to advance the current campaign to turn the investigation back on the people who launched it. And for any Democrat to cooperate,

even accidentally, in that exercise is both bad policy and bad politics.

I understand that the motivations of the two parties are different here. The Democrats want an assessment of exactly how much the former president* damaged national security. The Republicans want the raw material out of which they can concoct bullshit alibis for El Caudillo del Mar-A-Lago. The problem is that the Democrats can't get what they want without the Republicans' getting what they want, too. And I'm not sure I make that swap.

Plus, I really think it's time for everyone to stop telling Merrick Garland and the Department of Justice what they absolutely have to do. Let them do their jobs. (And that's not even to mention that FBI field offices now seem to be targets of small-scale war.) So far, they seem to know what they're doing, and those who've advocated patience for the past several months seem pretty fully vindicated.

I remember an anecdote from Jimmy Breslin's Watergate book in which House Majority Leader Tip O'Neill gets in the face of House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino because members of O'Neill's caucus were complaining that Rodino's committee was moving too slowly in its work toward possible articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon. Rodino goes back to his staff and tries to explain to them O'Neill's impatience, and his staff, including his committee's formidable chief counsel John Doar, remind him that he, not O'Neill, is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and that the latter has fck all to do with how Rodino runs his business. Rodino goes back to O'Neill, tells him to get stuffed, and sets a timetable to which the committee stuck like glue.

Garland doesn't owe anyone in the peanut gallery anything except his best work, fairly done. And nobody in the Democratic Party should do business with Rubio because he is a Republican and his name is Marco Rubio.

Both of these things can be true.

Newsweek: [Donald Trump Labeled a 'Flight' Risk After Saying FBI Took His Passports](#), by Zoe Strozewski

Social media users began labeling former President Donald Trump a "flight risk" after he said Monday that the FBI seized three of his passports during their raid at his Mar-a-Lago home last week.

Trump wrote in a post on his Truth Social platform that the FBI "stole" the passports, one of which he said was expired, during the search on August 8. "This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country. Third World!" he wrote.

While Trump did not offer any details on why the FBI may have wanted the passports, some Twitter users suggested that it was because the ex-president was viewed as a flight risk. Attorney Seth Abramson wrote in a Twitter thread on Monday that if the news was true, "the FBI is acknowledging what I've long said, which is that as a factual matter Trump is a flight risk."

When the warrant authorizing the FBI's raid became public days after the search, it listed three potential violations of federal law, including one part of the Espionage Act. Collectively, those violations could result in Trump seeing fines and decades of prison time if he was ever indicted, prosecuted and convicted.

The warrant showed that agents were authorized to search Trump's residence and seize any governmental and presidential records created during his presidency, physical documents with classification markings, and information related to the "retrieval, storage, or transmission of national defense information or classified material." It also allowed for the seizure of any evidence that government or presidential records and documents marked as classified were altered, destroyed or concealed.

The property receipt describes the various items seized during the raid as secret documents, top secret documents, a potential presidential record, various boxes, and something referred to as "Info re: President of France." The receipt did not list any passports, though it was not immediately clear if they could have been included in the various boxes whose contents were not described.

U.S. Legal defines a "flight risk" as a term used by courts to describe someone likely to flee the country, state or area to avoid criminal prosecution.

Social media users began labeling former President Donald Trump a "flight risk" after he said Monday that the FBI seized three of his passports during their raid at his Mar-a-Lago home last week. Above, Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) on August 6 in Dallas.

While no charges have been announced against the former president and there have been no official indications yet that Trump has been designated a flight risk by a court, the news that the FBI allegedly seized the passports left some wondering why.

Independent journalist Aaron Rugar tweeted a picture of Trump's Truth Social post and asked: "Is the former president a flight risk?"

Mike Singleton, a former senior executive at NBCUniversal, also responded to Trump's post by tweeting: "FBI just doing their job, you're a flight risk."

Last Thursday, days before Trump said that his passports had been seized, human-rights activist and attorney Qasim Rashid had already labeled Trump with the term.

"Frankly speaking, Trump is a flight risk," he tweeted. "The judge should require he surrender his passport and his jet should be grounded."

Newsweek reached out to the FBI for comment and confirmation that Trump's passports were seized in the raid. A Trump spokesperson was contacted for comment as well.

Daily Mail: [Trump claims FBI agents seized THREE of his passports during 'sneak attack' raid at Mar-a-Lago](#), by Emily Goodin

Donald Trump on Monday claimed his passports were 'stolen' in the FBI raid at Mar-a-Lago last week, which would mean he could not leave the country.

He called it an 'assault on a political opponent.'

'Wow. In the raid by the FBI or Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never before seen in our country. Third World,' he wrote on his Truth Social social media account.

He likely has a regular blue tourist passport issued to U.S. citizens, a red passport issued for official government travel and a black 'diplomatic' passport. He could have received the black and red passports as president.

Also, U.S. citizens are allowed more than one blue passport book if they are frequent flyers, such as if they need to apply for more than one visa at a time.

But, without a legal passport, Trump would not be able to travel outside of the United States.

It's unclear what passports were seized, and, if it was done because the former president is considered a flight risk. It's also unclear if Trump currently has a valid passport in his possession.

Trump's office did not immediately respond to DailyMail.com's inquiry.

The former president has been battling back since he announced his Palm Beach residence was raided by federal agents, including warning the FBI and Department of Justice that 'terrible things' will happen in the United States if the 'temperature' doesn't come down.

Trump told Fox News Digital that he has offered to do 'whatever he can' to fix the simmering tensions because people are 'so angry at what is taking place'.

Federal law enforcement agencies are warning of 'an increase in threats and acts of violence' directed at FBI personnel after agents executed a search warrant on Trump's Florida home.

Days after the raid, a man who posted regularly on Trump's Truth Social site tried to breach the FBI's Cincinnati field office in Ohio, armed with an AR-15 style rifle and a nail gun. He fled the scene and was later killed in a standoff.

On social media, there has been increased chatter about a civil war and threats of violence against FBI agents.

Trump also told Fox News Digital that he had his representatives reach out to the DOJ to offer assistance as outrage in his base ensues over the FBI's raid on his private residence.

'People are so angry at what is taking place,' Trump told Fox when asked about reaching out. 'Whatever we can do to help because the temperature has to be brought down in the country. If it isn't, terrible things are going to happen.'

He added: 'The people of this country are not going to stand for another scam.'

Trump's comment on Monday that it is an 'assault on a political opponent' reflects a strategy adopted by him and his family, as they have gone on the defense, where they have accused President Joe Biden of having ordered the raid.

The White House said the president found out about the raid from public reports.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said he 'personally approved' the raid, which was part of a federal investigation into documents Trump took with him after he left the White House. According to federal law, any presidential records are the property of the federal government.

Garland did not give any additional details about the investigation but said the Justice Department requested the warrant and inventory list be made public due to the high level of public interest in the investigation.

And the White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Sunday that President Biden hasn't been briefed on it at all.

'Not been briefed. We have not interfered,' she said on ABC's This Week.

During Monday's raid of Trump's Florida home, FBI agents took 11 sets of classified documents, photographs and other files marked 'top secret' among boxes of items.

In all, FBI agents took 27 boxes of documents, according to the federal warrant.

The inventory of items taken by the agents includes some specific items, including an 'Executive Grant of Clemency: Re Roger Jason Stone Jr' - a former Trump adviser who was pardoned in the last days of Trump's presidency - and 'info re: President of France.'

The list also includes more generic labels like 'Various classified/TS/SCI documents.' In the national security world, the 'TS/SCI' abbreviation generally refers to Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information - available only to those with the highest level of clearance.

Also listed are four sets of 'top secret' documents, three of 'secret' documents and three sets of 'confidential' documents, but the receipt offers no further information about what they contained.

Lawyers for Trump insist that as president he had the power to declassify the documents before leaving office.

Trump also has accused the FBI of taking documents that fall under attorney-client privilege and demanding their return.

'Oh great! It has just been learned that the FBI, in its now famous raid of Mar-a-Lago, took boxes of privileged 'attorney-client' material, and also 'executive' privileged material, which they knowingly should not have taken,' Trump said Sunday on Truth Social.

He said that the FBI should consider his post on the alternative social media site his formal request that the documents be returned to his Palm Beach estate.

'By copy of this TRUTH,' Trump wrote on Sunday, 'I respectfully request that these documents be immediately returned to the location from which they were taken. Thank you!'

Monday's raid was part of a longer-running investigation into documents Trump took with him when he left the White House.

Under the Presidential Records Act, all such documents must be turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration at the end of each presidential administration.

The law declared all presidential and vice presidential records property of the federal government, with 'custody, control and preservation' of the records delegated to the National Archives when a president leaves office.

Trump returned 15 boxes to the Archives earlier this year. But, on Monday, in a day-long search, agents went through storage space at Mar-a-Lago and areas in Trump's personal residence, removing more material.

Washington Examiner: [Trump says he wants to lower 'temperature' after Mar-a-Lago raided by FBI](#), by Asher Notheis

Former President Donald Trump said the "temperature" needs to be brought down following the FBI's raid on his Mar-a-Lago residence, claiming the United States is in "a very dangerous position."

In an interview with Fox News, published on Monday, Trump appeared to own up to what has been reported that he had his representatives reach out to the Justice Department to offer assistance after the search of his Florida property one week ago.

The unprecedented raid has created public anger throughout the U.S. "at a level that has never been seen before, other than during very perilous times," Trump told the outlet.

"People are so angry at what is taking place," Trump said. "Whatever we can do to help because the temperature has to be brought down in the country. If it isn't, terrible things are going to happen."

Trump said his team "has not heard yet" from the Justice Department.

A report published over the weekend said a person close to Trump contacted a Justice Department official to give a message to Attorney General Merrick Garland telling him that "the country is on fire. What can I do to reduce the heat?" according to the New York Times. The message was given to Garland shortly before he announced that he had personally authorized the decision to seek the search warrant for Mar-a-Lago, per the report.

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security have sent out a joint bulletin to local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies warning of increased threats to law enforcement following the Mar-a-Lago raid. The internal memo, dated Friday, did not reference Trump or his private residence by name and instead referenced an increase in threats "following the FBI's recent execution of a search warrant in Palm Beach, Florida," according to multiple reports.

A man attempted to breach an FBI building in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Thursday. He was killed by law enforcement during an hourslong standoff later in the day, according to authorities.

The Washington Examiner has contacted the Justice Department for comment.

Daily Caller: [‘Third World’: Trump Claims FBI Seized Passports In Mar-A-Lago Raid](#), by Nicole Silverio

Former President Donald Trump announced Monday that agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) allegedly seized three of his passports in the Mar-a-Lago raid.

In a Truth Social post, Trump alleged that the FBI took one expired and two current passports in the raid. He accused the agency of imposing an “assault on a political opponent.”

“Wow! In the raid by the FBI of Mar-a-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never seen before in our Country,” the former president said. “Third World!”

Two documents released Friday found 11 sets of classified documents were seized by the FBI in the Aug. 8 raid. The agents retrieved four sets of top secret documents, three sets of secret documents and three more of confidential material, according to the receipt for property signed by Trump’s attorney, Christina Bobb. Among the materials taken by the FBI were 20 boxes filled with binders of photographs, a handwritten note, an executive grant of clemency for Roger Stone and information about the President of France.

The search warrant, signed by U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart, allowed the agents to search “the 45 office” and “all storage rooms and all other rooms and or areas within the premises used or available to be used by FPOTUS and his staff.”

Trump said Friday that all of the materials seized by the FBI were declassified and in “secured storage.” He previously accused the FBI of engaging in “prosecutorial misconduct” for political purposes. “Number one, it was all declassified. Number two, they didn’t need to ‘seize’ anything,” Trump said. “They could have had it anytime they wanted without playing politics and breaking into Mar-a-Lago. It was in secured storage, with an additional lock put on as per their request.”

The agency discovered that the obtained boxes labeled A-14, A-26, A-43, A-13 and A-33 contained material under attorney-client privilege, which guarantees that all communication between an attorney and their client remains confidential, Fox News reported Saturday.

The Justice Department denied a request by Trump’s legal counsel to have a third party review the documents, the outlet noted.

The former president and his attorneys claim to have cooperated fully with the FBI and the Department of Justice (DOJ) in their requests for specific documents held at Mar-a-Lago. In a statement Thursday, the former president said he would have handed them any document they had asked for.

The FBI did not immediately respond to the Daily Caller’s request for comment.

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Subject: FW: 8.16.22 5pm Mar-a-Lago Clips
To: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
Cc: Bruck, Andrew (ODAG)
Sent: August 16, 2022 6:41 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: 8.16.22 5pm Mar-a-Lago Clips.docx

Mind printing (double-sided pls!)? Thanks!

From: Jain, Katherine (PAO) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:00 PM
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>; Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov>; Shevlin, Shannon (OPA) <Shannon.Shevlin@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Delgado, Paloma (PAO) <Paloma.Delgado@usdoj.gov>
Subject: 8.16.22 5pm Mar-a-Lago Clips

8/16/22 Mar-a-Lago Clips as of 5pm

Print

New York Times: [F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents](#), by Maggie Haberman

ABC: [FBI interviews former White House counsel Pat Cipollone and his deputy about Mar-a-Lago documents](#), by Katherine Faulders and John Santucci

Guardian: [Judge to consider unsealing Trump search affidavit as legal worries mount](#), by Lauren Gambino

Daily Beast: [Feds Interview 2 Ex-Trump Lawyers on Mar-a-Lago Docs: NYT](#), by AJ McDougall

KFox 14: [Some question why probable cause affidavit in Mar-a-Lago search was not made public](#), by Jillian Smith

Raw Story: [Trump lawyer blows off witness protection concerns and demands to know who spilled beans on documents](#), by Brad Reed

One America News: [Judge To Hold Hearing On Unsealing Warrant Affidavit Used On Mar-A-Lago](#), by Staff

Broadcast

TV

MSNBC: [Deadline](#)



MSNBC 08/16/2022 04:23:12 PM: >>> and now back to our regularly scheduled programming, we are following new developments in the investigation into the disgraced twice impeached coup staging, pathologically duplicitous ex-president's handling of classified materials. "the new york times" reporting today that pat cipollone and patrick philbin were interviewed by the fbi in connection with the sensitive documents that were stored at mar-a-lago after trump left office and all the way up until they were seized a week ago. sources told "the new york times" that at least one of the former white house lawyers patrick philbin was interviewed back in the spring as investigators attempted to answer how 15 boxes of material, some of them containing top secret information found their way to florida from the white house. according to the times, quote, mr. philbin tried to help the national archives retrieve the material, but the former president repeatedly resists entreaties from his advisers. quote, it's not theirs. it's mine, several advisers say mr. trump told them. that sounds wholly realistic. joinings us now kneel cat yawl, the former acting solicitor general and a law professor at georgetown university. neal, i want to start by asking you what you think the significance is in terms of the law and the way in which the investigation is unfolding

that we now know that these two top white house lawyers have already been under the scrutiny of the fbi in this matter. >> yeah, i think that the interviews here is significant, but it's not unexpected, john. i mean, cipollone and philbin were the two top white house lawyers, and afterwards trump put them in charge of dealing with the archives on classified information, and they did that, and then at some point it looks like they were replaced by kash patel who's the guy who has the same relationship to the truth as donald trump does. and so it's not surprising that the justice department went asknd tried to interview these two white house lawyers. they had a bird's eye view about what was going on, that snippet you just showed, which sounds exactly like trump sounding like a toddler, it's mine, it's mine. all of that is, you know, i think to be expected, and it's very hard for these two lawyers to claim any sort of attorney/client privilege or executive privilege, this just goes to the way in which documents were being handled and what trump said about ownership of these documents. >> so neal, you mentioned kash patel and his theory, his claims of the blanket order to declassify basically if trump took the document from the white house into the residence, it immediately became declassified. people laugh at that. it's the idea of i can turn water to wine by taking it from my kitchen to the living room. would that not have been a question that in a normal white house, any attempt to declassify documents would have started, presumably with pat cipollone right? he would have been aware of any actual formal, normal effort to declassify anything. >> exactly. look, maybe if it's like a media national security crisis, and you don't have time to go and get the white house counsel's approval or something like, that i could imagine in the most emergency of circumstances, the president could do it on their own, but otherwise presidents like everyone else are bound by the procedures, the court of appeals in new york just a couple of years ago said exactly that, and i think the biggest problem for trump is, even if this is so, even if you could declassify these documents, the three statutes that those search warrants identified don't require classified information, and at the end of this, trump has flowed out every possible, you know, excuse hoping one sticks and they make no sense. but at the bottom line, it's been now eight days since the search. he's never explained what in the world he was doing with these documents, classified or not classified, you know, the french government, the information on the french president may not be classified but it's certainly not yours, donald trump to take. you know, and that's -- the thing that gets missed in this, i was before i was in the solicitor general's office, i was national security adviser at the justice department, and i handled this kind of information, and when you have it, john, you take it so seriously. it's so sacred. it's like, you know, you know what went into producing that type of information. you know, human lives, human intelligence, spies, certain electronic capabilities and the like. and you know, the idea that you'd treat it cavalierly, leave it in your golf club or something like that, i mean, that is unfathomable. >> so i want to go to the question of the affidavit here and this is one of the things we're waiting for. we learned yesterday that the government had said that they do not want to have the affidavit that's attached to the search warrant made public after last week agreeing to have the search warrant made public and the inventory made public. i want to read to you, neal, waiting for the

judge now to rule in that case, donald trump ask and his said have said they want the affidavit to come out in the public. here's part of the filing the government put in to explain why they didn't the affidavit to be made public. they say this, if disclosed the affidavit would serve as a road map to the ongoing investigation providing specific details about its direction and course in a matter that is highly likely will to compromise future investigative steps. in addition, information act witnesses is particularly sensitive given the high profile nature of the matter and the risk that the revelation of witness identities would impact their willingness to cooperate with the investigation. so that's, you know, that's the government's position. i'm curious about what you think given what the trump side, everybody in the republican world wants this thing to be revealed. there are a lot of journalists that would like to see it too. tell me about how you think the judge will evaluate the competing claims over this. >> i don't think the republicans actually want it revealed. i think they want to say that because they know the justice department is going to resist. what's going to happen procedurally, the judge is going to have oral argument thursday 1:00 p.m., i think you and i will be on set at 4:00. what the justice the president has said about keeping this affidavit secret is absolutely standard operating procedure for the justice department. we would always, at the point i was at the department resist this kind of stuff in an active investigation. so that's not surprising. what is a little bit surprising is the level of detail they gave in that paragraph that you read and other information on that page, on page 8 of the government's filing because they do talk about how witnesses would be compromised, and how investigative techniques would be compromised as well if the affidavit were made public. so that suggests there's a person on the inside that is giving information to the government, something we suspected already, and that there are certain, you know, technical law enforcement capabilities here that are at issue. all that together if you're donald trump, you have to be incredibly worried after reading that filing because, you know, he's like a mob boss. he's always been worried about people flipping on him and defecting, and the witness stuff is going to fuel that paranoia. also, he has such a -- such a bad relationship with the truth and honesty, you know, who knows what he has said to all these different people at mar-a-lago. any of that can come out, it's fair game for federal investigators. >> i want to stick with the affidavit just because you mentioned what are your assessment and interpretation and analysis of why republicans are saying what they're saying. i want to play this sound, we've had a lot of republicans who basically spent their time over the last week trashing law enforcement, calling them the gestapo and all that. lindsey graham has not done that. he's basically taken the position of being a little more circumspect circumspect, not attacking federal law enforcement again in the way of a marjorie taylor greene or a matt gates or a rand paul for that matter. here's what he says on fox news, lindsey graham, demanding to see the affidavit. this is what his explicit public argument is. >> every republican should be suspicious of what's happened in the past happening again, so we need the affidavit. show your cards, merrick garland can't have it both ways. he can't give us the inventory, the warrant without telling us why it was necessary to raid the former president's home. and there was no less intrusive method available. the affidavit should help us a

lot, understand what happened here, and without the affidavit, we're flying blind in the dark, and the american people are going through too much pain, too much heartache on this endless effort to destroy donald trump, it's time for the department of justice. they have no more benefit of the tout in my view to turn over the affidavit, so all of us can look at it, at a minimum, give it to the intel committee and judiciary committee so you have senators from both sides look at it. >> neal, you pointed out the republicans want to make this argument because they know the justice department will resist it. at the same time, it seems like lindsey fwram is praying a dangerous game here. if the judge does decide to put it out, they have no idea what's in that affidavit. that affidavit could be really devastating to republicans who defended or supported donald trump reflexively throughout this. >> 100%. give me a break, last week he and the others were saying, oh, you got to release a copy of the warrant. you got to release a copy of the warrant. so then garland goes on tv and says i'm going to seek the release of the warrant. now it's a moving goal post. now it's you've got to have the underlying affidavit. john, there are thousands of affidavits filed every year that justify searches. they do not get revealed, and certainly there's of course a strong public interest here in getting the contents of the affidavit. there's a stronger interest in carrying out an investigation first. there's no doubt that everything in this affidavit is ultimately going to come out over time. the question is do you want as trump's lawyers are calling for right now the release of the affidavit right now so they can see who those witnesses are and who knows what they will do to them.

CNN: [The Lead With Jake Tapper](#)



CNN 08/16/2022 04:05:09 PM: multiple investigations into former president trump's attempts to -- u.s. magistrate judge reinhardt will hold a hearing on thursday on whether to unseal the affidavit documenting why the investigators felt it necessary to take the unprecedented step for searching the home of the former u.s. president. -- they do not want potential defendants are witnesses to learn as of now. moments ago, cnn confirmed the new york times report he fbi has interviewed both former white house counsel pat cipollone and his deputy, patrick philbin, about those documents taken to mar-a-lago when trump left office. we're also learning today that former trump lawyer rudy giuliani will not have much to say when he testified in front of an atlanta grand jury tomorrow. giuliani claims the statements he meant aut throwing out georgia's election results -- those statements he clms are covered by attorney client privilege. two top house democrats are accusing the homeland -- of obstructing their investigation into the missing secret service text messages surrounding the capitol attack. let's bring in cnn justice correspondent jessica snider. what about this news that philippe pony and philbin have spoken to -- >> they could've had a lot of details to divulge jake. cipollone and philbin were trumps designated representatives to deal with the national archives. it was the archives that raise these issues of missing documents and referred to the doj for criminal investigation. cipollone and philbin are likely of interest to the fbi. they might have had some insight on what was taken to mar-a-lago. this latest revelations comes as the court fight for even more information about the search is looming. >> the legal fight to release more information on last week's mar-a-lago search is coming to a crossroads. the justice department is seeking to keep secret certain details possible say would

otherwise deal and it would serve as roadmap to the governments ongoing investigation. the judge announcing today that he will hear arguments thursday and announce whether to release those details, all part of enough ideation that lays out why investigations believe investigators had probable cause to release this search warrant -- cnn and other media outlets have asked the judge to say -- >> i think it says they're very significant problems here for president trump and many of his advisors post presidency.

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CNN 08/16/2022 04:09:53 PM: joining us to discuss, jim schultz and former assistant u.s. attorney kim wehle. let me start with you, kim. what kind of questions could pat sipcipollone and patrick philbin, former white house counsel and white house deputy counsel for kt donald trump, what questions could they help the fbi answer about the documents taken to mar-a-lago, the classified secrets, allegedly. >> two big things. one is chain of custody, what happened, what was the procedure in place, how did they get out of the white house, who else might have been involved in that transition transition? secondly, what if anything did donald trump know and say about keeping or releasing those classified documents. >> jim, according to maggie haberman of "the new york times" who broke the story, trump told advisers about the documents, quote, it's not theirs. it's mine, unquote. surely, someone around him, whether cipollone or philbin, would know that's not how classified material works at all, i would think. >> or presidential records act subject material generally speaking. no, they're the government's records. i would assume that if asked or given the opportunity to weigh in, that cipollone and philbin would have done so and done so appropriately, and they know the law on this. >> you worked with them. you have high regard for them? >> i do. i do. i never worked with cipollone. i worked under mcgahn, but i have high regard for him. i know him and know he's a solid lawyer and a very good adviser. >> and kim, we also learned today that a federal judge will hold a hearing on thursday about unsealing the affidavit that allowed this unprecedented measure at mar-a-lago, the search of the former president's home. how much does the justice department's opposition to releasing this affidavit matter? they say it would provide a road map for the defendants, potential defendants and any witnesses they dont want to reveal. how much does that matter? >> substantially. there's a weighing, a first amendment right to know to the public and on the other hand are the interest of the investigation, and not just the investigation, but individuals, both donald trump, people that could be ensnared in it, as well as potential witnesses, evidence, all of that. i think it's very unlikely at this early stage in this investigation that the judge would allow this kind of information to become public. >> jim, the fbi says that it has returned three passports, i think one of them was still operable, the other two were expired. three passports to donald trump's lawyers after they claim that those passports were inadvertently seized in the search. for those of us who don't understand how the searches work, how could passports get included in the box of material the fbi takes? it seems clear that passports are not classified documents? >> yeah, look, everybody makes errors throughout this process. but the problem is there's no real room for error in this case. and look, procedure for the fbi is that they return the documents or they make them available to be picked

up if they're not something that is part of the investigation, and that's what they did. nonetheless, this is a very tense situation, high-profile situation, the general public is -- a lot of people from the general public that are scratching their heads and questioning the doj and fbi and members of congress are doing the same. there's not a whole lot of room for error here, and it gives the detractors on this an opportunity to use their bully pulpit to continue to thump on the doj. that being said, on the issue of the subpoena, i really believe that the material piece there is the witness piece of it. and the fact that they're trying to protect witnesses because these witnesses are still useful in ongoing investigations and maybe not the particular investigation that was the subject of the subpoena. that's something to watch. >> and kim, the fbi said in a statement, quote, in executing search warrants, the fbi follows search and seizure procedures and returns items that do not need to be retained for law enforcement purposes. this has been used by trump supporters as jim was alluding to, and people who are skeptical of this raid, as evidence of overreach, that they were trying to make sure donald trump isn't a flight risk, et cetera, the fbi is claiming that's not true. this was just a standard procedure and things got swept up that shouldn't have. >> i understand that people want to make sure the fbi and doj are doing their jobs, but really, the question, the story here is what happened to the material that was in mar-a-lago that really should have been in secure facilities in washington, top secret information that could compromise not just national security but individuals who could be, you know, sort of secretly working for the government, et cetera. so i think it's important to have some light on what's happening at doj and the fbi, but remember, a federal judge signed off on this, and also as was indicated, there's a procedure in place if these kinds of things get inadvertently gathered. so we really should keep our eye on what are the -- what interests are at stake for the united states moving forward.

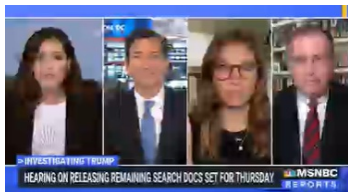
MSNBC: [Katy Tur Reports](#)



MSNBC 8/16/2022 2:46:53 PM: three people familiar with the matter of mar-a-lago tell that the white house counsel and his deputy under donald trump were interviewed by the fbi about the boxes of classified documents stored at mar-a-lago after he left office. back with me is andrew wiceman, former fbi general counsel, and nbc legal analyst. again, senior member of the mueller investigation. i got my wish to have you back. what does it say to you that pat cipollone and philbin were interviewed by the fbi? >> i think it is natural that they were. i think it is important for people to know that both those gentlemen were two of seven people who president trump designated on january 19th, 2021. two days before his presidency was over. as his representatives in terms of dealing with presidential records. so these two people would be the people the department of justice would naturally go to to find out everything they could about these records. and it is reported that one of the things patrick philbin said, he tried the on get these records back. but that the president, president trump, resisted. so this could be quite explosive. the other thing that's interesting, the slate of seven people appear to have been replaced in june of 2022. so quite reebtly by cash patel and john solomon as the representatives. so there is definitely a story here. we just don't know all of it yet. >> and john solomon is,, i don't know how to describe solomon. in some ways, ago journalist, acts as a journalist. he acts as a commentator. he's been i guess, break everything stories about the seven at mar-a-lago. clearly with somebody with close contact with donald trump and that orbit. you were talking about mr. philbin trying to get the documents back and the president resisting. it is not theirs, it's mine, several advisers say mr. trump told them. nbc news has not confirmed this yet with our own reporting. but this is from "the new york times." also in this reporting, there is a note i read last week and i want to linger on. this is about the one-trump lawyer who signed a statement saying the material with classified markings had all been returned and there was nothing left in mar-a-lago. he signed a statement to the fbi. official then used a subpoena to obtain surveillance footage of the hallway outside a storage room in mar-a-lago and saw something that alarmed them. they saw information from at least one witness who indicated more material might remain at the residence. people familiar with the investigation that. that's been lingering in my head. what they could have seen on that surveillance video. >> yeah. one of the things reported is boxes going in and out. so that's the kind of thing they could have seen. i think this is part of the reason that you saw in the search warrant the reference to section 1519 of the criminal statute. that is an obstruction statute. and that is the kind of thing that the department could have been very focused on false statements and false representations being made to them that everything had been returned. only to find, you know, in the search, that that was not true. and that kind of crime, i can tell you when i was in the department. that is the kind of crime that really gets people in the department up in arms. it goes to undermining the integrity of the criminal investigation. and that's the kind of thing that has to be deterred if you're in this case, in any case, if you're going to actually have a rule of law. >> you know a thing or two about investigating obstruction when it comes to donald trump.

MSNBC: [Hallie Jackson Reports](#)

MSNBC 08/16/2022 03:00:32 PM: ...>>> so some secrets still sealed for now with a judge setting argument this is week on whether to keep



the remaining search documents from the mar-a-lago warrant under wraps. team trump wants to make them public the doj wants to keep them not public. plus the new reporting dropping in the last few minutes on top lawyers in the trump white house. who we're learning the fbi has reportedly talked to about the missing documents including the guy on the screen. >> we begin this afternoon with nbc news justice and intelligence correspondent ken dilanian. "washington post" investigations reporter jacqueline aalamani and chuck rosenberg. good to see all of you. let me do something a little different. there's new reporting out from "the new york times" here in the last few minutes that two of the top trump white house lawyers have been interviewed by the fbi in relation to handling the documents that may have been taken from the white house. pat cipollone, we have not confirmed this here at nbc news, but explain and help us understand how big a deal this would be considering how high ranking the two former officials are and the roles they had as it relates to the national archives. >> sure. so they are high ranking white house counsel officials. pat cipollone, the white house counsel, one of his deputies, they were named to be sort of the interface between the white house and the national archives in the waning days of the trump administration, which means it would have been responsible to get the documents to the right people in the right way. so big important job. and they were senior white house officials. i will this. i work with pat philbin a number of years ago at the department of justice. and three observations about pat philbin. he's brilliant. he's honest and on the matter that we worked together involving highly classified matters, matters. >> we're learning this new information reported by the times. just 48 hours or so before we expect to hear from the government on thursday or at least to hear arguments in front of the government thursday on why this affidavit overall should not be released. how is that going to look? how is that going to go down? >> lawyers for nbc news and other news organizations are going to argue why we believe the document should be unsealed. but the justice department made a forceful case yesterday for why they say that unsealing this document in unredacted form would compromise the investigation. in doing that, they really made some revelations about the nature of this investigation. they made it pretty clear that this isn't just about getting the classified documents back. they said there's an ongoing grand jury information involving multiple witnesses, some of whose identities they do not want to disclose. and so the idea that they were interviewing your white house officials is consistent with that. they are saying that this is an ongoing criminal matter and that the disclosure of this search warrant would compromise their investigation. >> from a legal perspective, how might the judge react now to the arguments that not just the department of justice, but those on the other side of the issue, including nbc news will be making. >> right, so if the department of justice can make a compelling, good faith showing that they have legitimate law enforcement reasons to keep it sealed, the judge should keep it sealed. it's really rather simple in that respect. now the judge will have three options. to keep it sealed fully, to unseal it fully, and then ken referred to an important middle ground or hybrid option, which is to unseal it but with redactions. as long as there's a legitimate law enforcement purpose to keeping it sealed, it makes sense for the judge to keep it sealed. you can see why logically the

trump folks want it unsealed. the department of justice said making it public at this point would undermine their investigation. what would the trump folks like to do. undermine the investigation. how do they do that? by getting the document unsealed at this point. so the judge ought to be very careful. my two cents as a former prosecutor is he ought to defer to the department of justice on the sensitivity of the case. and by the way, at some point i'm sure we'll see it. if the government loses before the magistrate judge, they can take an appeal to the district court judge. so even if nbc and the trump folks get a favorable ruling, a ruling to unseal it, we may not see it immediately. >> there are trump allies, republicans in congress who want to see this affidavit. it's the only way to understand the justification for the search. i want to play what lindsey graham said on fox news not too long ago. watch. >> we need the after the. show your cards. merrick garland can't give us the warrant without telling us why it was necessary to raid the former president's home when there's no less intrusive method available. the affidavit should help us understand what happened here and without the affidavit, we're flying blind in the dark. >> it seems like there could be some baked in political risk here and that whatever is in this affidavit could end up looking more damaging against former president trump than perhaps his allies like senator graham would like. >> that's right. >> we have heard some republicans advising those in the former president's orbit to tone down the rhetoric on this. as you just noted, what could come out could be more damaging to the former president. it's a bit of a gamble, especially as it's quite unknown what the fbi ultimately took when they executed their search warrant last week. even within trump's inner orbit, the people who are working on his legal defense team, there is not a full understanding of what exactly might have been taken. so not only is trump's orbit flying blind at the moment, but also our republican lawmakers, some of whom know that it's better here to keep quiet until the facts of the highly classified materials becomes a little bit clearer. we know that ranking member mike turner and some other republicans have requested closed door classified briefings on the matter from odni and other intel outlets had, but that's not been granted. and damage assessment has been requested by congressman adam schiff and chairwoman maloney. we don't know when that's going to be coming, but lawmakers on capitol hill both democrats and republicans are keeping close tabs on this. >> ken, you have new reporting out today that the attorney general spent weeks weighing and thinking about and considering whether or not to move forward to allow the fbi to move forward with this search of mar la go. talk through that and ha that looks like moving forward. >> that's right. this was first reported by "the wall street journal" and a department of justice official confirmed this was a process that took time. this was a momentous decision by the attorney general. some are viewing it as evidence of his cautious approach to many things and to investigations, but think about it. the stakes do get higher for something like this. it doesn't just involve the justice department. it involved the fbi and senior officials all sort of working through the pros and cons and the potential impact. and look at the impact. it's been enormous. arguably there was an attack on an fbi office that can be attributed to the rhetoric that was produced in the wake of this search. so they properly took their time to think about

Fox News: [The Story With Martha MacCallum](#)



how to approach this and ultimately decided to go forward with it.

FNC 8/16/2022 3:00:43 PM: ...>> thank you. good afternoon. i'm shannon bream in for martha maccallum. right now on "the story," a new show down over the fbi's search of the mar-a-largo. former president trump demanding the feds release the underlying information that they used to get that search warrant. the justice department saying that could damage its investigation which involves highly classified material. both sides are set to face off in front of a judge. trey gowdy is here and former federal prosecutor. force to mark meredith live in washington. hi, mark. >> good to see you. thursday the justice department will tell a judge if the affidavit is released, it could compromise the ongoing investigation. it's been more than a week since the fbi searched trump's mar-a-largo estate. while a search warrant explains what was uncovered, many juicy details remain undisclosed. the government said why they want to keep this private. if disclosed, they say, the after day would be a road map to the government's on going investigation providing details about their direction in a manner that is highly to compromise future investigative steps. former president trump accuses the justice department of abusing their power. he announced he supports the unveiling of the affidavit. he said prior to leaving office, he had the power to declassify documents found at mar-a-largo. we're hearing from john bolton who calls that argument laughable. >> was not briefed on that. the president never said anything to me during 17 months there. i just think it's a complete fiction. >> a number of republicans up on capitol hill are calling for the justice department to be more forthcoming about what's going on. senator marco rubio is asking the government to brief his committee in private. we know the feds have received the request but it's unclear if it's granted. while the judge may decide thursday to keep the affidavit sealed here, given the arguments that the government is making clearly possible additional material could be published. it's anybody's guess at this point. ... trey, two different tracks here. there's this battle of public opinion. as long as the attorney general doesn't come forward and director wray doesn't come forward, it allows the former president and his team to spear the conversation about what is happening. >> yeah, nature of vacuums. you and i learned that in equity class. right now the vacuum is many of us recall a biased fbi agent leading the investigation in to alleged russia collusion. many of us recall that they gave the questions to secretary clinton before they interviewed her. they made up their mind they wouldn't charge her before they interviewed her. so look, in a perfect world, ambassador bolton is right. politics and the law never intersect. that world was turned upside-down about six years ago. remember james comey said i tried something with a republican white house that i never would have tried with barack obama and he laid back and soaked up the applause of the audience. so yeah, i would love for the anybody and department to not have been politicized. but i have to get in a time machine and go back six years for that to happen. >> yeah, quickly, because of your experience on capitol hill, we have a number of folks from both sides saying we have the relevant security clearances to see what you've got and why you went after this, the documents in question. they want a briefing or they wanted intel from the fbi. you think they'll get it? >> i do not. the fbi and doj never update members of congress about on going investigations. it's stunning to

me that reporters for the times and "the washington post" can get that information, but the chairs of the intel committee cannot. i don't think they're going to get it. >> somebody is talking. all right.

CNN International: [Isa Soares](#)
Tonight



CNNI 08/16/2022 02:38:09 PM: i want to return now to the state and federal investigations involving former u.s. president donald trump we. mentioned earlier. we're joined by cnn political commentator scott jennings. the prominent voice. he was a special assistant president george w. bush. is now a columnist for usa today. scott, always good to have you on the show. let me start with the u.s. justice department. not warning of course as we've been reporting to unseal that i'm david. some of the comments that i've been reading on twitter from republicans is that this has been sealed to show that this was not a fishing expedition, was one of the comments i read. what are you hearing? how much of the pushing for this to be unsealed here? >> i'm hearing much of the same actually. thanks for having me on the show by the way. republicans want to know, was it -- was this necessary? these documents have been at president trump's home for presumably a year and a half. they just now made a decision to go and get the mineral me 90 days for an election here. republicans are discussed ago that this was a necessary raid on a former presidents own home who by the way is for we are going to run for president again. i do think there have been a bipartisan calls in the u.s. congress from the intelligence committee for them to see the documents. i think it's a reasonable thing that could be done here for the doj to show the leaders of the intelligence committee and the senate. here is when we found. and then judgments have you made about whether this really was al security or not. >> what we heard the doj saying is that that would compromise the investigation. do you think scott if they redacted it would appease those republicans, politicians? >> i think that as long as there is opaqueness in this investigation, republicans a large were going to be skeptical. in my opinion, the way tough this for doj is to show the leaders of the intelligence committee and secure locatio they look at documents like this all the time. they can make their judgments about whether they think this investigation is valid or not. if you don't want to release that can publicly, if you think it's insensitive. one way to possibly compromises to show the people in congress of the clarence to see it. >> would that be enough, though, scott forward-looking voters for -- >> it won't be enough for trump supporters. they believe, this is what they believe. the biden ministraton, merrick garland and sort of the washington regime, the swamp as they would call it, have been constantly out to get donald trump since 2015. whether it's impeachment investigation, the russia investigation, you name it. so they see this as a continuation of all of that. for them to say we had these documents were not to look at them. it is driven just a massive amount of skepticism and actually think it's given that maybe temporarily but a short term boost donald trump's prospects to become the republican nominee once again in 2024. >> i was going to ask you that. the fact that he's in many ws rallying his base without actually to do much. for trump himself, how damaging do you think this could be politically for him. and those who have supported him? >> i think ironically, it will, what could help him among some republican voters might ultimately hurt him should he be a general election candidate again. remember, he's one for president twice. he's never won the national popular vote. i personally believe

he's the least likely republican to win the white house in 2024. but he's currently the most likely republican to win the republican nomination. so it's the republicans of the catch-22 here. we may nominate someone who has very little chance of recovering the white house. against the democrats next time around. >> what you clearly outlined there is that would this mar-a-lago fbi search has done is -- it's like a torrent of outrage from his supporters. how much has this change the political, the -- you talked about how you make galvanize from voters to turn out in the midterms. >> i think one thing that -- i'm hearing this anecdotally. i like to marry my political arm of data. i don't have data yet but my hunch is this is going to spike republican interest in the midterms particularly among the people who support donald trump the most. we have seen a lot of new republicans come into the party who voted for trump. and vote in the presidential elections. they don't have a long history of voting in midterms. we're coming up on a midterm here. i have a hunch that this new attack that's how they would see it on donald trump is going to cause perhaps a spike in his supporters who tried to vote for him. maybe don't participate another elections. this may moves into the polls in november. you could see enthusiasts him bump i guess would be the way to say it for republicans a large.

CNN: [Newsroom With Alisyn Camerota and Victor Blackwell](#)



CNN 8/16/2022 3:06:31 PM: okay. so now on to another investigation, as we now know, the doj's investigating why donald trump had classified and top secret documents inside his mar-a-lago home. the doj does not want to unseal the affidavit behind the search. but why were they willing to release in that case the search warrant and that receipt of property? >> yeah. they went that unusual step, they say, because the former president was out there publicizing that there had been this search and obviously there had been days and days of misinformation about what exactly this is about. in this document that they filed in court yesterday rejecting an effort by the members of the news media including cnn to have this affidavit released, they say that this would pose a great danger to the on going investigation. and they used specific words to call attention to the fact that this is about classified information, highly sensitive classified information. i'll read you a part of what they say in the court filing. "disclosure at this juncture of the affidavit would cause significant and irreparable damage to this on going criminal investigation. disclosure would also chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses as well as in other high profile investigations." two things jump out at me immediately when i saw this. one of them is, you know, the prospect of additional witnesses. people being brought before the grand jury for this criminal investigation. and then, there's a reference to the fact that there are possibly other investigations that these same witnesses could have information about. again, this is why the justice department says it's important to keep this stuff secret. victor and allison? >> all right. evan perez, thank you. >>

...

CNN 08/16/2022 03:29:23 PM: ...months, years, is certainly heavy for any child to accept. >> and that's just one family that had to deal with that. >>> cnn just learned that fbi interviewed former white house lawyers pat sipcipilone. >> we are joined now by evan perez again.

thank you for scrambling here with this new news. when did they speak to cipilone and philbin? >> we know there was a group of former white house aides interviewed by the fbi earlier this year in the spring to try to figure out what happened with these boxes, how they came -- these boxes of federal records, how they came to be taken to mar-a-lago at the end of the trump presidency. patrick philbin, the deputy white house counsel and pat cipilone were interviewed earlier this year. obviously, these are the two most senior former trump aides that would have been talked to by the fbi as they were trying to get this criminal investigation under way. of course, now we know that this is a criminal investigation that is looking into mishandling of possible -- possible mishandling of classified information and a federal investigation. there is a lot more of this investigation to go. the interesting thing from here being that these, again, are very senior, senior lawyers for the former trump white house. and they were interviewed by the fbi as this investigation was just getting started. >> yeah. it really is a remarkable development. we've discussed how the justice department ramping up to try to get some interviews as part of the january 6th investigation. but in this investigation, it seems that it didn't take much of a fight, does it? >> right. it looks like the men at least went in and at least answered some questions. the question is what limits, what limitations there were on this as you guys have talked about before. the justice department is anticipating that there are at least some questions when it comes to direct conversations with the former president that both. consider both of them would have questions to answer because of the presidential privilege. that we don't know. we don't know whether there were any limitations on those conversations. obviously, the january 6th investigation is a bit of a separate thing. but what it tells us, guys, is that this thing has been going on for a lot longer. it has been deep and they've been talking to a lot of people well before we saw the first signs of this which was a week ago in mar-a-lago. >> all right. evan perez with the news there.

Tweets

Congress

[Sen. John Cornyn](#), R-TX

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
We still don't have all the facts to decide who is right and who is wrong on the merits of Garland's search warrant of POTUS 45's home. What we do know is this is the first time in American history that such draconian measures have been employed against a former President.

18 7 16

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
Some obvious questions:

1) why did the Attorney General seek to unseal only part of the search warrant, withholding the affidavit that purportedly established probable cause for the search?

4 1 2

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
2) If these records include classified, national security matters, why did the Attorney General wait a year and a half after POTUS 45 left office to secure them?

1 2 3

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
3) Why didn't the Attorney General use less bombastic, alternative means, e.g., a motion to compel compliance with a subpoena with the potential invocation of the court's contempt powers?

3 1 2

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn
There were already reasons to question the independence of Attorney General Garland and the DOJ

Consider the following:

1) Attorney General Garland's refusal to enforce federal law pertaining to protecting Supreme Court justices.

4:05 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPad

2 Retweets 3 Likes

Reply Retweet Like Share

Tweet your reply [Reply](#)

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
Replying to @JohnCornyn
2) Merrick Garland's role in the infamous plot to treat parents as domestic terrorists for having the temerity to question what their children were being taught

2 2 3

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
3) And then there are Merrick Garland's frivolous, politically motivated lawsuits

Last June, Garland filed suit over Georgia's election integrity law, arguing that it violates Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Previously, the DOJ sued Texas on similar, baseless grounds.

1 1 1

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
The problem? The Wall Street Journal editorial board posited that Garland knew the case would fail, but he "succumbed to White House and progressive pressure to make a political statement to support Democratic efforts in Congress to federalize state election laws in H.R.1."

3 2 11

Senator John Cornyn @JohnCornyn · 7m
So, especially in light of previous, recent abuses of power and disparate treatment of similar cases by the FBI leadership and DOJ, is there any mystery why public trust has eroded to this point? Sadly, no.

13 4 13

[Sen. Hawley, Press Office, R-MO](#)



Senator Hawley Press Office
@SenHawleyPress

Senator Hawley says that “Biden has taken our republic into dangerous waters” after the FBI raid on Mar-A-Lago last week.



fox4kc.com

Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley slams FBI raid on Mar-a-Lago
Missouri Senator Josh Hawley criticized the FBI's raid on former president Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Florida.

2:17 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Reporters

[Darren Samuelsohn](#), Business Insider



Darren Samuelsohn
@dsamuelsohn

NEW: Former President Donald Trump could receive up to 33 years in prison if he is charged and convicted of violating three federal laws following the FBI's search at his Mar-a-Lago residence, legal experts say. by [@cdechalus](#) [@PoliticsInsider](#)



businessinsider.com

If Trump is convicted for violating the Espionage Act and two other federal laws...
Trump could be facing greater legal peril after the FBI searched his Mar-a-Lago residence.

4:43 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Dan Nowicki](#), AZ Central



Dan Nowicki
@dannowicki



"New Trump Mar-a-Lago details emerge: What we know (and don't) about these classified docs." (via @USATODAY)



azcentral.com

New Trump Mar-a-Lago details emerge: What we know (and don't) about these...
New details about the FBI search of Trump's Florida estate have prompted questions about the probe into his handling of classified information.

4:41 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[JM Rieger](#), Washington Post



JM Rieger
@RiegerReport



NYT - Former White House counsel Pat Cipollone and former deputy White House counsel Patrick Philbin were interviewed by the FBI in connection with boxes of documents that were stored at Mar-a-Lago after Trump left office.



nytimes.com

F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the investigation into...

3:40 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · TweetDeck

[Glenn Kessler](#), Washington Post



Glenn Kessler 
@GlennKesslerWP



worth reading, via Bill Leonard, who spent 30 years overseeing the handling of classified information --> Myths & Misunderstandings Relating to Mar-a-Lago Documents Investigation



justsecurity.org
Myths & Misunderstandings Relating to Mar-a-Lago Documents Investigation
Five myths - about MAL documents - broken down by author who was responsible for oversight of classified info for entire executive branch.

3:39 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Cristina Corujo](#), CBS



Cristina Corujo 
@cristina_corujo



Former President's Trump WH counsel Pat A. Cipollone and his deputy Patrick F. Philbin were interviewed by the FBI in connection to the documents found in Mar-A-Lago, @maggieNYT reports.

3:31 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Hugo Lowell](#), The Guardian



Hugo Lowell 
@hugolowell



New via NY Times: Pat Cipollone and Patrick Philbin, the Trump White House counsel and his deputy, were interviewed by the FBI in connection with boxes of sensitive documents stored at Mar-a-Lago

3:19 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.

[Julia Benbrook](#), Spectrum News



Julia Benbrook
@JuliaBenbrook

...

In a statement to me / @SpectrumNewsDC, @SenRandPaul elaborates on why he thinks the Espionage Act should be repealed.

His tweet linked here came after the search of Mar-a-Lago. The search warrant showed one reason Trump is being investigated is for possibly violating the Act.

"For much of its history, the Espionage Act has been used to arrest and jail anti-war advocates and socialists during World War I, and even though I'm no fan of socialism – in fact, I might be the biggest opponent of it – I am sympathetic to freedom of speech no matter what your point of view is," said Dr. Paul. "We've had whistleblowers like Edward Snowden, who showed people that the American government was breaking the law, that it was spying on Americans and retrieving all of our information. And while hyperventilated partisans continue to call for the death penalty for Snowden under the Espionage Act, I like most civil libertarians on the left and right argue that the Espionage Act criminalizes speech and is used to stifle dissent of information, and therefore, that's why I oppose it."

– Statement from Senator Rand Paul to Spectrum News

Rand Paul @RandPaul · Aug 13

US Senate candidate, KY

The espionage act was abused from the beginning to jail dissenters of WWI. It is long past time to repeal this egregious affront to the 1st Amendment.

Repeal the Espionage Act – The Future of Freedom Foundation
fff.org/2019/06/03/rep...

3:19 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Mary Anastasia O'Grady, WSJ](#)



MaryAnastasiaO'Grady
@MaryAnastasiaOG

...

Garland Goes Solo at Mar-a-Lago by @wjmcgurn



wsj.com
Opinion | Merrick Garland Goes Solo in Mar-a-Lago Search
Did Biden know about the Trump raid? If not, that's truly disturbing.

3:16 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Brooke Buford, KALB](#)



Brooke Buford
@brookebuford

The lawyer representing Tina Frey shared that a search was conducted at the K9 academy on Monday, adding that "the scene resembled the FBI at Mar-a-Lago."



kalb.com

Lawyer for Cypress Arrow's owner releases statement on dog abuse allegations
Bradley Drell of Gold Weems law firm claims Tina Frey is "innocent of any claim of animal cruelty" and that RPSO is going "overboard" in its investigation.

3:12 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Brett Baier](#), Fox News



Bret Baier
@BretBaier

In today for @johnrobertsFox alongside @GillianHTurner -- interview with @FitzpatrickRep to discuss raid on Mar-A-Lago and effort to unseal affidavit portion of search warrant #FoxNews



instagram.com
Bret Baier (@bretbaier) · Instagram reel

3:12 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Michael Barone](#), Washington Examiner



Michael Barone
@MichaelBarone

The government cited the Espionage Act of 1917 in its Mar-a-Lago search warrant. That sounds pretty bad (almost like collusion with Russia). But that's nonsense, as the late Pat Moynihan made clear, as I write in my latest Washington Examiner column.



washingtonexaminer.com

The Espionage Act of 1917 once again rears its ugly head
When federal agents removed top-secret documents from former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence last week, they carried with them a ...

3:09 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Hayes Brown](#), MSNBC



Hayes Brown
@HayesBrown

...

“‘It’s not theirs, it’s mine,’ several advisers say Mr. Trump told them” about classified material that was at Mar-a-Lago that NARA wanted back



nytimes.com

F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the investigation into...

3:02 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Katherine Faulders](#), ABC



Katherine Faulders
@KFaulders

...

The FBI has interviewed former White House counsel Pat Cipollone & former deputy White House counsel Pat Philbin about the documents that were stored at Mar-a-Lago, sources tell me & @Santucci. First reported by @maggieNYT

3:02 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Jenna Ellis](#), Newsmax



Jenna Ellis
@JennaEllisEsq

...

TUCKER: The raid on Mar-a-Lago was an attack on the rule of law



thepostmillennial.com

TUCKER: The raid on Mar-a-Lago was 'an attack on the rule of law'
"Despite superficial appearances, the raid on Mar-a-Lago was not an act of law enforcement, it was the opposite of that; it was an attack on the rule of law."

2:59 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Katy Tur](#), MSNBC



Katy Tur Reports
@KatyOnMSNBC



NEW: NYT Reports Pat Cipollone and Patrick Philbin were interviewed about President Trump's documents stored at Mar-a-Lago. @AWeissmann_ talks about the revelations: "This could be quiet explosive."



2:51 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Wildmoka

[Alex Thompson](#), Politico



Alex Thompson
@AlexThomp



.@joshgerstein and @kyledcheney: "Trump claims to have verbally declassified the sensitive records the FBI seized from his Mar-a-Lago compound. It's not as unprecedented or outlandish an argument as widely believed — if he can prove it happened."



politico.com

Why Donald Trump's declassification claim might not be that outlandish
The Scooter Libby case under George W. Bush showed that presidents can declassify materials without a clear paper trail.

2:35 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Andrew Chung](#), Reuters

Andrew Chung 
@andrew_chung_

"But officials then used a subpoena to obtain surveillance footage of the hallway outside a storage room at Mar-a-Lago and saw something that alarmed them."



nytimes.com
F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the investigation into...

2:27 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Maggie Haberman](#), NY Times

Maggie Haberman 
@maggieNYT

NEW: the FBI interviewed Cipollone and Philbin in the investigation over Trump's handling of boxes



nytimes.com
F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the investigation into...

2:18 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Maggie Haberman @maggieNYT · 38m



Replying to @maggieNYT

Both were named by Trump as NARA reps for him the day before he left office; Philbin was one person who archives contacted in efforts to get the boxes back last year



nytimes.com

F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Do...
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the ...



6



89



384



Maggie Haberman @maggieNYT · 36m



Philbin tried to facilitate NARA getting the boxes back, per several people familiar with the events. Trump repeatedly told advisers he didn't want to give material back.



nytimes.com

F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Do...
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the ...



47



206



660



[James Pindell](#), Boston Globe


James Pindell 
 @JamesPindell

Tom Cotton speaking at @NHGOP fundraiser, says “I know we have a lot more questions than answers” on Mar-a-Lago raid. Goes off on Garland, but wasn’t exactly defending Trump. #fitn #nhpolitics




2:11 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Miranda Devine](#), NY Post

Miranda Devine  @mirandadevine · 50m

Per pool: AF1 landed at 1:25 pm. POTUS emerged at 1:36, carefully leading Baby Beau down the red carpeted stairs. He didn’t come over to pool. However at a distance of some 10 yards he responded to two shouted questions:
Q: “How’s Dr Biden?”
A: “Doing well.” 1/2

10 30 92

Miranda Devine  @mirandadevine

The second Q: “Any national security concerns over the Mar-a-Lago situation?” and the response was unfortunately inaudible.
The motorcade left at 1:39 pm. 2/2

1:59 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Other

[Claire McCaskill](#), Former Senator from Missouri and analyst

Claire McCaskill ✓
@clairecmc

Just to be clear. FIRST..,DOJ informed Trump they were returning his passports. (2 expired) THEN he accuses them of stealing them. This guy is such a jerk. And liar.



apple.news

What's up (and what's not) with the FBI taking Trump's passports
The question isn't why the FBI took Donald Trump's passports; the question is why the former president tried to deceive the public about what happened.

4:23 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Yashar Ali](#), Freelance

Yashar Ali ✓
@yashar

Story continues to shift:

1. Documents have been planted
2. There was nothing of consequence at Mar-A-Lago
3. The documents were already declassified
4. He had a standing order to declassify docs he took upstairs
5. He can telepathically declassify

And now...he didn't trust NARA



paulsperry ✓
@paulsperry · 3h

BREAKING: Sources close to Trump say the former president was reluctant to furnish presidential records to the National Archives after he found out partisan Democrat political appointees there were releasing thousands of his White House documents to the January 6 Committee in spite of his lawyers' claims of executive privilege. They say the former president simply "does not trust" the Obama and Biden political appointees running the National Archives to act in good-faith and in bipartisan spirit

4:12 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Andy Barr](#), US House candidate, KY-06

 **Andy Barr** ✓
@barrforcongress
US House candidate, KY-06

DOJ can't say information in the Trump affidavit is so sensitive it can't be made public while selectively leaking to every reporter in Washington info they think justifies their unprecedented raid on President Trump's home.

3:48 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

1 Retweet

 Tweet your reply Reply

 **Andy Barr** ✓ @barrforcongress · 1m
US House candidate, KY-06
Replying to @barrforcongress
This is why people don't trust Washington. Release the unredacted affidavit and reveal to the American people why this unprecedented action was justified, if it was.

[Joyce Vance](#), Lawyer and former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama

 **Joyce Alene** ✓
@JoyceWhiteVance

Buried lede: "officials then used a subpoena to obtain surveillance footage of the hallway outside a storage room at Mar-a-Lago and saw something that alarmed them."



nytimes.com
F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the investigation into...

3:41 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[2]



Joyce Alene
@JoyceWhiteVance



Trump hasn't been charged yet. The only possible reason to try & get witness identities is so they can be pressure or perhaps retaliated against.

This is one of DOJ's key arguments for keeping the affidavit that accompanied the search warrant application confidential.

The Recount @therecount · 2h

Trump's attorney, Alina Habba, says Trump wants the Department of Justice to release the names of the witnesses who helped secure the search warrant for Mar-a-Lago.



3:44 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[JJ MacNab](#), Author



JJ MacNab ✓
@jjmacnab



This was helpful.

Myths & Misunderstandings Relating to Mar-a-Lago Documents Investigation



justsecurity.org
Myths & Misunderstandings Relating to Mar-a-Lago Documents Investigation
Five myths - about MAL documents - broken down by author who was responsible for oversight of classified info for entire executive branch.

3:31 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

18 Retweets 30 Likes



Tweet your reply

Reply



JJ MacNab ✓ @jjmacnab · 5m
Replying to @jjmacnab
The author knows his stuff.



"As the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office from 2002-2008, he was responsible for policy oversight of the Executive branch-wide national security information classification system."



3

13



[Stars and Stripes](#), American military newspaper



Stars and Stripes ✓
@starsandstripes



Adam Bies was charged with threatening federal law enforcement officers days after FBI agents executed a search warrant at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club.



stripes.com
Man accused of declaring 'open season' on FBI agents is arrested
Adam Bies was charged with threatening federal law enforcement officers days after FBI agents executed a search warrant at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club.

3:20 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · TweetDeck

[Renato Mariotti](#), Former federal prosecutor



Renato Mariotti
@renato_mariotti

...

If I took Top Secret records with me when I left government service, and insisted they were "mine," that wouldn't have ended well for me.

Yes, Trump was President. But repeated requests, a subpoena, and a meeting with DOJ establish that he knew these were government records.

Orin Kerr @OrinKerr · 1h

Patrick Philbin, Trump's deputy White House Counsel, who Trump appointed to make sure Trump records ended up properly at the National archives, tried to get Trump to turn over the records. Trump refused, saying the records are "mine," "not theirs." [nytimes.com/2022/08/16/us/...](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/16/us/...)

Mr. Philbin tried to help the National Archives retrieve the material, two of the people familiar with the discussions said. But the former president repeatedly resisted entreaties from his advisers.

"It's not theirs, it's mine," several advisers say Mr. Trump told them.

3:15 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Benjamin Weingarten](#), RealClearInvestigations and columnist



Benjamin Weingarten
@bhweingarten

...

Weingarten: FBI raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate will lead to prosecution



straightarrownews.com

Weingarten: FBI raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate will lead to prosecution

The recent FBI raid on former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate is the work of a regime that will not rest until he is prosecuted.

3:13 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Sarah Reese Jones](#), PoliticusUSA

 Sarah Reese Jones 
@PoliticusSarah

The FBI is talking to at least six current Trump employees about his possession and handling of classified info at Mar-a-Lago.

As Many As 6 Current Employees Could Be Informing To The FBI On Trump
politicususa.com/2022/08/16/fbi... via @politicususa



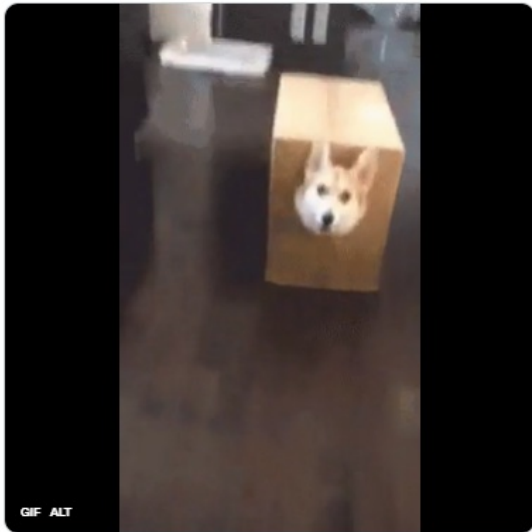
politicususa.com
As Many As 6 Current Employees Could Be Informing To The FBI On Trump
The FBI is talking to at least six current Trump employees about his possession and handling of classified info at Mar-a-Lago.

3:03 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPad

[George Conway](#), Lawyer

 George Conway 
@gtoonway3d

Mar-a-Lago BOX UPDATE



 Maggie Haberman  @maggieNYT · 45m
NEW: the FBI interviewed Cipollone and Philbin in the investigation over Trump's handling of boxes [nytimes.com/2022/08/16/us/...](https://nytimes.com/2022/08/16/us/)
[Show this thread](#)

2:53 PM · Aug 16, 2022 from West Nyack, NY · Twitter for iPhone

[The Daily Show](#)



When it comes to the FBI's findings at Mar-a-Lago, even the best case scenario is pretty bad.



Nuclear Secrets in Mar-A-Lago Basement?

2:53 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Media Studio

[Frank Figliuzzi](#), FBI Assistant Director (ret) and National Security Analyst



Subpoenaed surveillance footage from outside the storage room "alarmed" DOJ. Trump told lawyers, "It's not theirs, it's mine.": F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents - The New York Times



nytimes.com
F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents
Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed in the investigation into...

2:50 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Occupy Democrats](#), Grassroots organization



BREAKING: Donald Trump's attorney acts like a mafia lawyer and demands that the Justice Department "uncover" the identities of the witnesses who prompted the Mar-a-Lago raid, dismissing valid concerns about "witness protection." RT TO DEMAND THAT THE WITNESSES BE PROTECTED!

2:44 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Dylan Williams](#), J Street (nonprofit liberal advocacy group)



Dylan Williams
@dylanotes



J Street Condemns Onslaught of Antisemitism following Mar-a-Lago Search:

"There can be no tolerance for political figures who endanger our community, undermine our democracy and attack the rule of law."



jstreet.org

J Street Condemns Onslaught of Antisemitism Following Mar-a-Lago Search
We condemn the appalling onslaught of antisemitic rhetoric and threats against judges, law enforcement officers and Jewish journalists following the FBI's ...

2:42 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Mike Collins](#), Republican nominee for GA-10



Mike Collins
@MikeCollinsGA



The next Republican congress must have an oversight and investigation into what the hell is going on at the DOJ and FBI like never before. Trust from the American people of these institutions is at an all time low and for good reason.

2:36 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for Android

[Teri Kanefield](#), Former appellate defender



Teri Kanefield
@Teri_Kanefield

...

twitter.com/therecount/sta...

Of course, this is what Trump wants (and it's probably driving him crazy that people are talking to the DOJ about him and he doesn't know who they are).

The reasons Trump wants to know are exactly the reasons he shouldn't know.

The Recount @therecount · 3h
 Trump's attorney, Alina Habba, says Trump wants the Department of Justice to release the names of the witnesses who helped secure the search warrant for Mar-a-Lago.

NATIONAL NEWS going to be concealed for very long. That's just not the OBE
 0:26 345.8K views EAR TAIWAN DURING US LAWMAKERS' ISLAND VISIT ... TRUMP: 'NO WAY TO JU

2:23 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

[Kimberly Wehle](#), Law professor and legal analyst



Kimberly Wehle
@kimwehle

...

Looking forward to joining [@TheLeadCNN](#) on set with [@jaketapper](#) at 4p today to run down the latest on [#MarALago](#) warrant, a story that's extraordinarily important to democracy itself.

2:17 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[James Gagliano](#), CBS analyst



James A. Gagliano
@JamesAGagliano

...

[.@RepBrianFitz](#) — well done on [@FoxNews](#), Congressman. You laid things out perfectly. Trust, but verify. Why this most intrusive method employed by DOJ, in light of past erosion of trust? There are means of articulating this to American public without giving up sources and methods.

1:14 PM · Aug 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Raiin Wilson](#), Actor



RainnWilson
@rainnwilson

...

When THE OFFICE wrapped we were watched like hawks by NBC to make sure we didn't take any props or mementos or keepsakes with us. The prop master was even threatened! Maybe NBC/Universal should oversee Presidents leaving the White House.

4:18 PM · Aug 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

13.9K Retweets 447 Quote Tweets 190.4K Likes

Full Articles

New York Times: [F.B.I. Interviewed Top White House Lawyers About Missing Trump Documents](#), by Maggie Haberman

Pat A. Cipollone and Patrick F. Philbin, the White House counsel and his deputy under President Donald J. Trump, were interviewed by the F.B.I. in connection with boxes of sensitive documents that were stored at Mr. Trump's residence in Florida after he left office, three people familiar with the matter said.

Mr. Cipollone and Mr. Philbin are the most senior people who worked for Mr. Trump who are known to have been interviewed by investigators after the National Archives referred the matter to the Justice Department this year.

Mr. Philbin was interviewed in the spring, according to two of the people familiar with the matter, as investigators reached out to members of Mr. Trump's circle to find out how 15 boxes of material — some of it marked as classified — made its way to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Fla. It was unclear when Mr. Cipollone was interviewed.

Mr. Cipollone and Mr. Philbin were Mr. Trump's representatives to deal with the National Archives; they were named to the positions shortly before the president's term ended, in January 2021. At some point after National Archives officials realized they did not have Trump White House documents, which are required to be preserved under the Presidential Records Act, they contacted Mr. Philbin for help returning them.

A spokesperson for Mr. Philbin did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Philbin tried to help the National Archives retrieve the material, two of the people familiar with the discussions said. But the former president repeatedly resisted entreaties from his advisers.

"It's not theirs, it's mine," several advisers say Mr. Trump told them.

The former president returned 15 boxes of material to the National Archives in January, but the Justice Department issued a subpoena in May for documents that were still at his residence. On June 3, counterintelligence officials with the Justice Department's national security division went to Mar-a-Lago to collect remaining documents with classified markings.

At that point, at least one Trump lawyer signed a statement saying material with the classified markings had been returned, according to four people familiar with the document. But officials then used a subpoena to obtain surveillance footage of the hallway outside a storage room at Mar-a-Lago and saw something that alarmed them. They also received information from at least one witness who indicated that more material might remain at the residence, people familiar with the investigation said.

Mr. Philbin is among eight people who currently or used to work for Mr. Trump who have been contacted by the F.B.I. since a grand jury was formed this year. Investigators also interviewed Derek Lyons, a former White House staff secretary.

Mr. Lyons's last day at the White House was Dec. 18, 2020, meaning he did not know how the last boxes were packed as Mr. Trump prepared to leave. But he had information about paper flow in the White House and how the former president handled material.

The F.B.I. has reached out to about a half-dozen people who currently work for Mr. Trump and who might know what documents he may still have in his possession.

ABC: [FBI interviews former White House counsel Pat Cipollone and his deputy about Mar-a-Lago documents](#), by Katherine Faulders and John Santucci

Former White House counsel Pat Cipollone and former deputy White House counsel Pat Philbin have been interviewed by the FBI regarding documents that were stored at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, sources

familiar with the matter tell ABC News.

The two are the latest former White House officials and members of Trump's current staff to be interviewed by the FBI.

This is a developing story. Please check back for updates.

Guardian: [Judge to consider unsealing Trump search affidavit as legal worries mount](#), by Lauren Gambino

A federal judge in Florida will hear arguments on Thursday over whether to make public an affidavit used to justify a search of Donald Trump's Florida estate, as broadening legal disputes on multiple fronts intensify against the former president and his allies.

In a 13-page filing on Monday, the justice department objected to efforts to unseal the document, arguing that doing so would "jeopardize the integrity of this national security investigation" into Trump's handling of some of the government's most closely held records after leaving the White House. The prosecutors said that the affidavit that gave the FBI probable cause to search Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort contained sensitive information about witnesses who are key and acknowledged that its investigation involved "highly classified material".

Bruce Reinhart, the federal magistrate judge who signed off on the search warrant, will decide whether to publish the affidavit, which would provide more details about the investigation and the FBI's search of Trump's private residence. Trump and his allies, including some members of Congress, have also pushed for the release of the affidavit.

But the prosecutors said the affidavit should not be unsealed because that could reveal the scope of the investigation into Trump's unauthorized retention of classified White House records.

"The affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course," prosecutors wrote. They also argued that releasing the document could compromise the continuing investigation.

"Disclosure of the government's affidavit at this stage would also likely chill future cooperation by witnesses whose assistance may be sought as this investigation progresses, as well as in other high-profile investigations," prosecutors added.

Last week, Reinhart agreed to unseal the search warrant and a list of items removed from the property after the justice department, in a rare move, asked for the documents to be made public given the "substantial public interest" in the investigation. Trump did not oppose the release of the materials, which he had but refused to disclose publicly.

FBI agents seized about 20 boxes of materials, among them documents designated "top secret", a grant of clemency for Trump's close ally, Roger Stone, and information related to the "president of France", according to the list of items removed from the property. The search warrant, unsealed on Friday, revealed that federal agents were investigating potential violation of the Espionage Act, among other laws.

Trump has sought to cast himself as a victim of a political witch-hunt designed to keep him from running for office, even as his campaign gleefully shares news stories claiming his recent legal troubles have only served to strengthen his support.

The tussle over the affidavit is only the latest in a series of legal obstacles that could trip up Trump and his closest allies.

This week, Trump's former attorney Rudy Giuliani was informed that he is a target of an ongoing criminal investigation in Georgia related to efforts by the former president and his legal team to invalidate Joe Biden's electoral victory in the state. The notification came as a federal judge rejected an attempt by the Republican senator Lindsey Graham, another prominent Trump ally, to avoid testifying in the same investigation before the special grand jury in Atlanta.

As his personal lawyer, Giuliani led the efforts to keep Trump in power, which included brazen attempts to overturn the results of elections in key states that Trump lost. Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, is scheduled to testify before the special grand jury in Atlanta on Wednesday. He is expected to invoke attorney-client privilege on questions related to his discussions with Trump over those efforts, the Guardian has reported.

Meanwhile, Trump took a similar approach when questioned under oath last week in New York state's long-running civil investigation into his business practices. In a statement, Trump claimed to have done nothing improper but invoked his fifth amendment right against self-incrimination.

And all that comes against the backdrop of the justice department's intensifying investigation into the January 6 attack on the US Capitol and Trump's attempts to reverse his defeat. The New York Times on Monday reported that Eric Herschmann, a lawyer who worked in the Trump White House, had been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury. Pat Cipollone, who served as White House counsel, has also received a subpoena, according to the Times.

Trump and his allies have attacked the various legal investigations as politically motivated and denied wrongdoing.

Daily Beast: [Feds Interview 2 Ex-Trump Lawyers on Mar-a-Lago Docs: NYT](#), by AJ McDougall

Former White House counsel Pat Cipollone and his onetime deputy, Patrick Philbin, were tapped by federal agents for an interview on the 11 boxes of sensitive information recently removed from former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. Two sources familiar with the FBI's strategy as it probes Trump's circle for possible violations of the Espionage Act told The New York Times on Tuesday that Philbin was interviewed this spring. It was not clear when Cipollone was interviewed. The men are the two most senior Trump aides yet known to have sat down with investigators. Both were designated liaisons with the National Archives as it attempted to retrieve the former president's documents. Trump reportedly dug his heels in as Philbin attempted to convince him to give over the material. "It's not theirs, it's mine," he said, several ex-aides told the Times. The National Archives referred the case to the Justice Department in February.

KFox 14: [Some question why probable cause affidavit in Mar-a-Lago search was not made public](#), by Jillian Smith

A federal judge unsealed the search warrant that led to the raid at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. Now, there are questions about why the Federal Bureau of Investigation was looking into Trump and what they were expecting to find at the estate.

Former federal prosecutor Thiru Vignarajah joined the National Desk to discuss what the government was looking for, if they found it and what may come following the investigation.

"The Espionage Act is seeking to make sure that public officials and government employees don't take sensitive documents out of public offices out of government offices so whenever you leave government, whether it's a top-secret document, whether it's a classified or unclassified document, you're not supposed to take that out of the office," Vignarajah said. "So what you're looking for is evidence of documents that should never have left the White House and we see in the receipts, indication after indication that sensitive documents, the top secret documents, sensitive documents, compartmentalized documents, were in fact among the materials that were taken out. That's an early indication that the agents found what they were looking for."

It has also caused questions as to the probable cause behind the search warrant.

"This is not the modest reasonable suspicion standard. Probable cause is the highest standard you have short of proof beyond a reasonable doubt probable cause is enough to make an arrest. It's enough to make an arrest, it's enough to conduct a search. This means that there was enough evidence to go before a federal judge and convince them under a basic, a sworn affidavit, that this step was necessary," said Vignarajah.

"The fact that Attorney General Merrick Garland who does not do things rashly, he's a very measured, cautious Attorney General Garland was willing to authorize this at the highest level means that the president really has some trouble ahead," he added.

Trump says he declassified these documents before leaving office. Vignarajah says it's something that hasn't been done before.

"I've never heard of such a thing. I find it to be a bizarre defense. The fact that you can declassify certain documents and take them with you to your resort in Florida is unprecedented," he said.

Many are wondering what information the affidavit will provide to the public. Vignarajah says it's key to understanding the basis for the search.

"There's speculation it was a Secret Service agent to tipped the FBI off. We need to know the sources of the information. That affidavit is obviously in the hands of the former president. He knows, his former lawyers know, agents and the prosecutors. Now, the public doesn't know but it would reveal the strength of the sources on which the federal judge decided to approve this search."

He says the steps that have been taken so far are a clear indication that sensitive documents are involved in the investigation.

"The fact that they took the step to go before a federal judge after issuing a subpoena that the former president didn't respond to, after a request from the national archivist requesting these documents. They have tried to take one measured step after another The fact that it came to this means that there is something very sensitive at issue and I do worry, for the sake of the nation, that we're going to have a very, very divisive issue in the days ahead."

Raw Story: [Trump lawyer blows off witness protection concerns and demands to know who spilled beans on documents](#), by Brad Reed

Alina Habba, an attorney representing former President Donald Trump, blew off concerns about witness protection this week and demanded to know the names of people who spilled the beans to the Department of Justice about top secret documents being stashed at Mar-a-Lago.

During an appearance on Newsmax, Habba called for the DOJ to reveal all its cards in its probe of the former president, who is facing a criminal investigation for potentially violating the Espionage Act.

"The president's position, the same as what I would advise him, is to ask them to uncover everything so that we can see what is going on," she said. "I understand the witness protection issue, but at the same time, these witnesses are truly not going to be concealed for very long."

In fact, the witnesses will only be revealed if the DOJ decides to press criminal charges against Trump, as the government will then be forced to give Trump's attorneys the unredacted affidavit that was used to justify the Mar-a-Lago search warrant.

Habba, however, suggested that the law enforcement agencies would leak out the names of the witnesses, despite the fact that such a leak would be beneficial to Trump's lawyers and could jeopardize cooperation from other potential witnesses in the case.

"It's in the best interest so that the country can get comfortable to see what the basis was, especially from someone who was cooperating," she claimed.

One America News: [Judge To Hold Hearing On Unsealing Warrant Affidavit Used On Mar-A-Lago](#), by Staff

A magistrate judge is set to hold a hearing to decide whether they will unseal more documents in relation to the search warrant used on Mar-a-Lago. Judge Bruce Reinhart will hold the hearing Thursday in regard to several media outlets request for the probable cause affidavit and other information to be made public

The Department of Justice opposed the release of the warrant affidavit, claiming it could hamper witness cooperation and the confidentiality of grand jury proceedings. According to the agency, the affidavit details the argument investigators made to the judge explaining the probable cause they had to search the home of 45th President Donald Trump.

Meanwhile, Trump is calling for the immediate release of the un-redacted affidavit. While taking to Truth Social Tuesday, he continued to rail against the FBI raid on his estate. Trump called for transparency and said the search was unjustifiable. He also said the judge on this case should recuse himself.

"There is no way to justify the unannounced RAID of Mar-a-Lago, the home of the 45th President of the United States (who got more votes, by far, than any sitting President in the history of our Country!), by a very large number of gun toting FBI Agents, and the Department of "Justice" but, in the interest of TRANSPARENCY, I call for the immediate release of the completely Unredacted Affidavit pertaining to this horrible and shocking BREAK-IN. Also, the Judge on this case should recuse!"

Donald Trump via Truth Social

Recently, the DOJ decided to keep the details of the raid private from the media. This has caused lawmakers from both parties to raise questions about the investigation into the former president.

Federal authorities returned three of Trump's passports taken during the raid. According to a report citing a Justice Department official Monday, the passports were given back to the former president after they were taken last week.

This came after the passports were not identified on the property receipt from last week's search. A spokesperson for the FBI released a statement on the bureau's practices, saying the agency returns items that do not need to be retained for law enforcement practices. Two of Trump's passports taken were reportedly expired.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 22-8332-BER

IN RE: SEALED SEARCH WARRANT

ORDER ON MOTIONS TO UNSEAL¹

On August 8, 2022, the Government executed a search warrant at 1100 S. Ocean Boulevard, Palm Beach, Florida (“the Premises”). The Premises are a private club that is also the part-time residence of Former President Donald J. Trump.

Numerous intervenors (“Intervenors”) now move to unseal materials related to the search warrant. ECF No. 17 at 2. The Intervenors are Judicial Watch (ECF No. 4), Albany Times Union (ECF No. 6), The New York Times Company (ECF No. 9), CBS Broadcasting, Inc. (ECF No. 20), NBCUniversal Media, LLC d/b/a NBC News, Cable News Network, Inc., WP Company, LLC d/b/a The Washington Post, and E.W. Scripps Company (ECF No. 22), The Palm Beach Post (ECF No. 23), The Florida Center for Government Accountability, Inc. (ECF No. 30), The McClatchy Company LLC d/b/a Miami Herald and Times Publishing Company d/b/a Tampa Bay Times (ECF No. 31), Dow Jones & Company, Inc. (ECF No. 32), The Associated Press (ECF No. 33), and ABC, Inc. (ECF No. 49). The Government opposes the request to unseal. ECF No. 59. Neither Former President Trump nor anyone else purporting to be the

¹ This Order memorializes and supplements my rulings from the bench at the hearing on August 18, 2022.

owner of the Premises has filed a pleading taking a position on the Intervenors' Motions to Unseal.

BACKGROUND

On August 5, 2022, the Court issued a search warrant for the Premises after finding probable cause that evidence of multiple federal crimes would be found at the Premises ("the Warrant"). An FBI Special Agent's sworn affidavit ("the Affidavit") provided the facts to support the probable cause finding. The Government submitted (1) a Criminal Cover Sheet, (2) an Application for Warrant by Electronic Means, (3) the Affidavit, (4) a proposed Warrant, (5) a Motion to Seal all of the documents related to the Application and the Warrant, and (6) a proposed Order to Seal (collectively the "Warrant Package"). The Government asserted there was good cause for sealing the entire Warrant Package because public disclosure might lead to an ongoing investigation being compromised and/or evidence being destroyed. ECF No. 2. The Motion to Seal the entire Warrant Package was granted. ECF No. 3. After the search on August 8, 2022, the Government filed an inventory of the seized items (the "Inventory"), as required by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41(f)(1)(D). ECF No. 21.

Beginning on August 10, 2022, the Intervenors filed motions to intervene and to unseal the entire Warrant Package. On August 11, the Government moved to unseal (1) the Warrant and (2) a copy of the Inventory that had been redacted only to remove the names of FBI Special Agents and the FBI case number. ECF No. 18. The Court granted the Government's Motion to Unseal these materials on August 12,

2022. ECF No. 41. Those materials are now publicly available. Therefore, to the extent the Intervenors have moved to unseal the Warrant and the Inventory, the motions are DENIED AS MOOT.

On August 12, 2022, the Government filed under seal redacted copies of several other documents from the Warrant Package — the Criminal Cover Sheet, the Application for a Warrant by Telephone or Other Reliable Electronic Means, the Motion to Seal, and the Sealing Order. ECF No. 57. These materials are redacted only to conceal the identities of an Assistant United States Attorney and an FBI Special Agent. The Government does not oppose unsealing the redacted versions. ECF No. 59 at 2. The Intervenors do not object to the limited redactions. Hrg. Tr. at 8. I find that the redactions are appropriate to protect the identity and personal safety of the prosecutor and investigator. Therefore, to the extent the Intervenors move to unseal these redacted documents, their motions are GRANTED. *See* ECF No. 74.

All that remains, then, is to decide whether the Affidavit should be unsealed in whole or in part. With one notable exception that is not dispositive, the parties agree about the legal principles that apply.² They disagree only about how I should apply those principles to the facts. The Government concedes that it bears the burden of justifying why the Affidavit should remain sealed. Hrg. Tr. at 8; *see, e.g., DiRussa v. Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.*, 121 F.3d 818, 826 (2d Cir. 1997).

² As discussed below, the parties disagree whether a First Amendment right of public access applies to a sealed search warrant and related documents.

APPLICABLE LEGAL PRINCIPLES

It is a foundational principle of American law that judicial proceedings should be open to the public. An individual's right to access judicial records may arise from the common law, the First Amendment, or both. *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.*, 263 F.3d 1304, 1310-12 (11th Cir. 2001). That right of access is not absolute, however. *Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978). Where a sufficient reason exists, a court filing can be sealed from public view.

“The common law right of access may be overcome by a showing of good cause, which requires balanc[ing] the asserted right of access against the other party's interest in keeping the information confidential.” *Romero v. Drummond Co., Inc.*, 480 F.3d 1234, 1246 (11th Cir. 2007) (brackets in original) (quoting *Chicago Tribune*, 263 F.3d at 1309). In deciding whether good cause exists, “courts consider, among other factors, whether allowing access would impair court functions or harm legitimate privacy interests, the degree of and likelihood of injury if made public, the reliability of the information, whether there will be an opportunity to respond to the information, whether the information concerns public officials or public concerns, and the availability of a less onerous alternative to sealing the documents.” *Romero*, 480 F.3d at 1246. They also consider “whether the records are sought for such illegitimate purposes as to promote public scandal or gain unfair commercial advantage, whether access is likely to promote public understanding of historically significant events, and whether the press has already been permitted substantial access to the contents of

the records.” *Newman v. Graddick*, 696 F.2d 796, 803 (11th Cir. 1983) (citing *Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 596-603 & n.11).

Despite the First Amendment right of access, a document can be sealed if there is a compelling governmental interest and the denial of access is “narrowly tailored to serve that interest.” *Globe Newspaper Co. v. Superior Court*, 457 U.S. 596, 606 (1982).

The Eleventh Circuit has not resolved whether the First Amendment right of access applies to pre-indictment search warrant materials. The Government argues, “The better view is that no First Amendment right to access pre-indictment warrant materials exists because there is no tradition of public access to *ex parte* warrant proceedings.” ECF No. 59 at 4 n.3. Nevertheless, the Government says that I need not resolve this question because, even under the First Amendment test, a compelling reason exists for continued sealing. *Id.* (citing *Bennett v. United States*, No. 12-61499-CIV, 2013 WL 3821625, at *4 (S.D. Fla. July 23, 2013) (J. Rosenbaum).

I do not need to resolve whether the First Amendment right of access applies here. As a practical matter, the analyses under the common law and the First Amendment are materially the same. Both look to whether (1) the party seeking sealing has a sufficiently important interest in secrecy that outweighs the public’s right of access and (2) whether there is a less onerous (or, said differently, a more narrowly tailored) alternative to sealing. As discussed more fully below, in this case, both tests lead to the same conclusion.

DISCUSSION

1. *Balancing the Parties' Interests*³

The Government argues that unsealing the Affidavit would jeopardize the integrity of its ongoing criminal investigation. The Government's motion says, "As the Court is aware from its review of the affidavit, it contains, among other critically important and detailed investigative facts: highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government; specific investigative techniques; and information required by law to be kept under seal pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e)." ECF No. 59 at 8.

Protecting the integrity and secrecy of an ongoing criminal investigation is a well-recognized compelling governmental interest. *See, e.g., United States v. Valenti*, 987 F.2d 708, 714 (11th Cir. 1993); *Bennett*, 2013 WL 3821625, at *4; *Patel v. United States*, No. 19-MC-81181, 2019 WL 4251269, at *4 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 9, 2019) (J. Matthewman). "Although many governmental processes operate best under public scrutiny, it takes little imagination to recognize that there are some kinds of government operations that would be totally frustrated if conducted openly." *Press-*

³ "As the Eleventh Circuit has explained, findings in a public order as to the need for sealing 'need not be extensive. Indeed, should a court say too much the very secrecy which sealing was intended to preserve could be impaired. The findings need only be sufficient for a reviewing court to be able to determine, *in conjunction with a review of the sealed documents themselves*, what important interest or interests the district court found sufficiently compelling to justify the denial of public access.'" *United States v. Steinger*, 626 F. Supp. 2d 1231, 1234 (S.D. Fla. 2009) (J. Jordan) (citing and adding emphasis to *United States v. Kooistra*, 796 F.2d 1390, 1391 (11th Cir. 1986)).

Enter. Co. v. Superior Court of Cal. for Riverside Cnty., 478 U.S. 1, 8-9 (1986). Criminal investigations are one such government operation. The Intervenors agree that protecting the integrity of an ongoing criminal investigation can, in the right case, override the common law right of access. Hrg. Tr. at 28.

In the context of an ongoing criminal investigation, the legitimate governmental concerns include whether: (1) witnesses will be unwilling to cooperate and provide truthful information if their identities might be publicly disclosed; (2) law enforcement's ability to use certain investigative techniques in the future may be compromised if these techniques become known to the public; (3) there will be an increased risk of obstruction of justice or subornation of perjury if subjects of investigation know the investigative sources and methods; and (4) if no charges are ultimately brought, subjects of the investigation will suffer reputational damage. *See Douglas Oil Co. of Cal. v. Petrol Stops Nw.*, 441 U.S. 211, 219 n.10 (1979) (discussing importance of secrecy to grand jury investigations) (quoting *United States v. Procter & Gamble*, 356 U.S. 677, 681-82 n.6 (1958)). Most of the cases discussing these principles arise in the grand jury setting. *See, e.g., Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Dresser Indus., Inc.*, 628 F.2d 1368, 1382 (D.C. Cir. 1980) (Grand jury secrecy "serves to protect the identities of witnesses or jurors, the substance of testimony, the strategy or direction of the investigation, the deliberations or questions of jurors, and the like."); *see also Pitch v. United States*, 953 F.3d 1226, 1232 (11th Cir. 2020) (discussing "vital purposes" for grand jury secrecy). The same concerns also apply to a pre-indictment search warrant. At the pre-indictment stage, the Government's need to

conceal the scope and direction of its investigation, as well as its investigative sources and methods, is at its zenith. *Blalock v. United States*, 844 F.2d 1546, 1550 n.5 (11th Cir. 1988) (“The courts’ concern for grand jury secrecy and for the grand jury’s law enforcement function is generally greatest during the investigative phase of grand jury proceedings.”) (quoting S. Beale & W. Bryson, *Grand Jury Law & Practice* § 10:18 (1986)). Maximizing the Government’s access to untainted facts increases its ability to make a fully-informed prosecutive decision while also minimizing the effects on third parties.

As the Government aptly noted at the hearing, these concerns are not hypothetical in this case. One of the statutes for which I found probable cause was 18 U.S.C. § 1519, which prohibits obstructing an investigation. Also, as some of the media Intervenors have reported, there have been increased threats against FBI personnel since the search. ECF No. 59 at 8 n.5 (citing news articles about threats to law enforcement); *see, e.g.*, Josh Campbell, et al., *FBI Investigating ‘Unprecedented’ Number of Threats Against Bureau in Wake of Mar-a-Lago Search*, CNN.COM (Aug. 13, 2022), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/12/politics/fbi-threats-maralago-trump-search/index.html>; Nicole Sganga, *FBI and DHS Warn of Increased Threats to Law Enforcement and Government Officials After Mar-a-lago Search*, CBSNEWS.COM (Aug. 15, 2022), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mar-a-lago-search-fbi-threat-law-enforcement/>. An armed man attempted to infiltrate the FBI Office in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 11, three days after the search. Elisha Fieldstadt, et al., *Armed Man Who was at Capitol on Jan. 6 is Fatally Shot After Firing into an FBI Field Office in*

Cincinnati, NBCNEWS.COM (Aug. 11, 2022), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/armed-man-shoots-fbi-cincinnati-building-nail-gun-flees-leading-inters-rcna42669>. After the public release of an unredacted copy of the Inventory, FBI agents involved in this investigation were threatened and harassed. Alia Shoaib, *An Ex-Trump Aide and Right-wing Breitbart News Have Been Separately Accused of Doxxing [sic] the FBI Agents Involved in the Mar-a-Lago Raid*, BUSINESSINSIDER.COM (Aug. 13, 2022), <https://www.businessinsider.com/breitbart-trump-aide-doxxing-mar-a-lago-raid-fbi-agents-2022-8>. Given the public notoriety and controversy about this search, it is likely that even witnesses who are not expressly named in the Affidavit would be quickly and broadly identified over social media and other communication channels, which could lead to them being harassed and intimidated.

Balancing the Government's asserted compelling need for sealing against the public's interest in disclosure, I give great weight to the following factors:

- There is a significant likelihood that unsealing the Affidavit would harm legitimate privacy interests by directly disclosing the identity of the affiant as well as providing evidence that could be used to identify witnesses. As discussed above, these disclosures could then impede the ongoing investigation through obstruction of justice and witness intimidation or retaliation. This factor weighs in favor of sealing.
- The Affidavit discloses the sources and methods used by the Government in its ongoing investigation. I agree with the Government

that the Affidavit “contains, among other critically important and detailed investigative facts: highly sensitive information about witnesses, including witnesses interviewed by the government; specific investigative techniques; and information required by law to be kept under seal pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e).” ECF No. 59 at 8. Disclosure of these facts would detrimentally affect this investigation and future investigations. This factor weighs in favor of sealing.

- The Affidavit discusses physical aspects of the Premises, which is a location protected by the United States Secret Service. Disclosure of those details could affect the Secret Service’s ability to carry out its protective function. This factor weighs in favor of sealing.

- As the Government concedes, this Warrant involves “matters of significant public concern.” ECF No. 59 at 7. Certainly, unsealing the Affidavit would promote public understanding of historically significant events. This factor weighs in favor of disclosure.

The Intervenors emphasize that the Court is required to consider if the press has “already been permitted substantial access to the contents of the records.” *Newman*, 696 F.2d at 803. The Government acknowledges that the unsealed Warrant and Inventory already disclose “the potential criminal statutes at issue in this investigation and the general nature of the items seized, including documents marked as classified.” ECF No. 59 at 7. One Intervenor argues that no privacy

interest remains because “Mr. Trump and his counsel have spoken repeatedly about the government’s search and publicly disclosed information about the alleged subject matter of the warrant, including the potential mishandling of classified documents and violations of the Presidential Records Act.” ECF No. 32 at 5. Another cites the Government’s statement in its Motion to Unseal the Warrant that “the occurrence of the search and indications of the subject matter involved are already public.” ECF No. 22 at 7 (citing ECF No. 18 at 3). A third argues:

The investigation has been made public by the target of the warrant himself, details of the investigation have appeared in publications throughout the world, members of Congress have demanded that the Justice Department provide an explanation, and political commentary on the search continues unabated. In short, with so much publicity surrounding the search, the Court should be skeptical about government claims that disclosure of this true information will invade privacy, disturb the confidentiality of an investigation, tip off potential witnesses, or lead to the destruction of evidence.

ECF No. 8 at 8-9. No one disputes that there has been much public discourse about this Warrant and the related investigation. ECF No. 67 at 7-9 (summarizing issues of public discussion). Nevertheless, much of the information being discussed is based on anonymous sources, speculation, or hearsay; the Government has not confirmed its accuracy.

In any event, these arguments ignore that the contents of the Affidavit identify not just the facts known to the Government, but the sources and methods (i.e., the witnesses and the investigative techniques) used to gather those facts. That information is not known to the public. For the reasons discussed above, the Government has a compelling reason not to publicize that information at this time.

I do not give much weight to the remaining factors relevant to whether the common law right of access requires unsealing of the Affidavit. *See Romero, supra; Newman, supra.* Allowing access to the unredacted Affidavit would not impair court functions. Having carefully reviewed the Affidavit before signing the Warrant, I was — and am — satisfied that the facts sworn by the affiant are reliable. So, releasing the Affidavit to the public would not cause false information to be disseminated. There is no indication that the Intervenors seek these records for any illegitimate purpose.

After weighing all the relevant factors, I find that the Government has met its burden of showing good cause/a compelling interest that overrides any public interest in unsealing the full contents of the Affidavit.

2. Narrowly Tailoring/Least Onerous Alternatives

I must still consider whether there is a less onerous alternative to sealing the entire document. The Government argues that redacting the Affidavit and unsealing it in part is not a viable option because the necessary redactions “would be so extensive as to render the document devoid of content that would meaningfully enhance the public’s understanding of these events beyond the information already now in the public record.” ECF No. 59 at 10; *see also Steinger*, 626 F. Supp. 2d at 1237 (redactions not feasible because they would “be so heavy as to make the released versions incomprehensible and unintelligible.”). I cannot say at this point that partial redactions will be so extensive that they will result in a meaningless disclosure, but I may ultimately reach that conclusion after hearing further from the Government.

The Government argues that even requiring it to redact portions of the Affidavit that could not reveal agent identities or investigative sources and methods imposes an undue burden on its resources and sets a precedent that could be disruptive and burdensome in future cases. I do not need to reach the question of whether, in some other case, these concerns could justify denying public access; they very well might. Particularly given the intense public and historical interest in an unprecedented search of a former President's residence, the Government has not yet shown that these administrative concerns are sufficient to justify sealing.

I therefore reject the Government's argument that the present record justifies keeping the entire Affidavit under seal. In its Response, the Government asked that I give it an opportunity to propose redactions if I declined to seal the entire Affidavit. I granted that request and gave the Government a deadline of noon on Thursday, August 25, 2022. ECF No. 74. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that by the deadline, the Government shall file under seal a submission addressing possible redactions and providing any additional evidence or legal argument that the Government believes relevant to the pending Motions to Unseal.

DONE and ORDERED in Chambers this 22nd day of August, 2022, at West Palm Beach in the Southern District of Florida.



BRUCE E. REINHART
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject:
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: August 22, 2022 11:31 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: gov.uscourts.fsd.617854.80.0_2.pdf

Austin R. Evers

(b) (6) (m)

From: Coey, Anthony D. (PAO)
Subject: draft
To: Miller, Marsha (ODAG); Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Sent: August 22, 2022 5:33 PM (UTC-04:00)

(b) (5)

CNN: Trump's legal team asks for 'special master' to go through Mar-a-Lago evidence and determine if some should be returned

By [Katelyn Polantz](#) and [Kaitlan Collins](#), CNN

Updated 5:11 PM ET, Mon August 22, 2022

(CNN)Former President Donald Trump's legal team has asked a federal judge to appoint a "special master" to ensure the Justice Department returns any of his private documents seized during the search of Mar-a-Lago two weeks ago.

Trump is asking for a special master -- a third-party attorney -- to oversee the review of evidence gathered from the beach club in the criminal probe, and for the judge to pause federal investigators' work related to the evidence until the review is done, according to a new court filing.

The new lawsuit marks the first legal filing by Trump's team after FBI agents carried out their search on August 8 and underscores how his legal team has struggled to coalesce around a singular strategy.

In the suit, Trump argues his constitutional rights were violated and that there may have been privileged materials seized.

Though the legal maneuver could slow down the Justice Department's ongoing criminal investigation, Trump's request to the federal court in South Florida could face an uphill legal battle after his team missed multiple opportunities to challenge the search.

The ex-President's lawyers declined to take a position in court in the immediate aftermath of the search warrant execution. They also did not weigh in on whether the search warrant affidavit should be made public before or during a court hearing last week in West Palm Beach, Florida, even though one of his attorneys was present.

Trump, in the new filing, also asks for a more detailed receipt of what was removed from Mar-a-Lago. That request, if granted, would add to the two receipts the FBI already provided to Trump's team describing 33 items seized, and which his attorney signed off on at the end of the search.

The Justice Department removed 11 sets of classified documents from Trump's home, according to documents unsealed by a judge last week. The inventory shows that some of the materials recovered were marked as "top

secret/SCI," which is one of the highest levels of classification.

This is a breaking story and will be updated.

Draft/deliberative/predecisional

From: Miller, Marsha (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Proposed Redactions
To: Coey, Anthony D. (PAO)
Sent: August 26, 2022 8:07 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Redacted memo for filing 08.26.22.pdf, Redacted affidavit for filing.pdf

From: Simms, Donna Y. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: ECATS-2022-111782 - FBI - Letter from Mitch Boggs dtd 8/31/2022
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG); Lan, Iris (ODAG); Evers, Austin (ODAG); Brinkley, Winnie (ODAG); Brown, Angela M. (DAG); Chandler, Adam (ODAG); Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG); Simms, Donna Y. (ODAG); Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG)
Sent: September 9, 2022 4:36 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: ECATS-2022-111782 ES Summary Sheet.docx, ECATS-2022-111782 - Incoming to AG Gar and from Mitch Boggs (1).pdf

FYI.
Respectfully,

Donna Y. Simms

Department of Justice • Office of the Deputy Attorney General

950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW 4208 Washington, DC 20530 (b) (6)

 Desk: (b) (6) Mobile

From: Nickens, Rayna (JMD) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 4:31 PM
To: InfoCopies <InfoCopies@usdoj.gov>; ODAG INFO COPIES <(b) (6)>
Subject: ECATS-2022-111782 Letter from Mitch Boggs dtd 8/31/2022

Please see attached documents for info.

Thank you,

Rayna Nickens

Correspondence Management Analyst

Correspondence and Communications Control Team

Departmental Executive Secretariat

(b) (6)

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Attorney General Merrick Garland
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mitch Boggs

157th District - Lawrence County

August 31, 2022

United States Attorney General Merrick Garland
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

When the FBI raid on Mar-A-Lago was revealed three weeks ago, many Americans were shocked that a former President would be targeted in such a manner. As more information has come out about the raid, and the reasons given for it, concern about the integrity of the DOJ and the FBI continues to grow. There are a few key things to note and a few questions I would like to have the answers to.

First, in the same moment of time that DOJ and FBI officials decry the fact that Americans are increasingly losing respect for these government institutions, they are engaged in weaponizing these institutions against political opponents while simultaneously protecting political allies. How can Americans be expected to trust such institutions?

Second, it seems that you have not only political, but personal reasons for authorizing this raid. A few of those are glaringly obvious. (1) You were denied a position on the U.S. Supreme Court partly due to Donald Trump. (2) Your boss, President Biden, is a vocal critic of Donald Trump. (3) Your boss will potentially face Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election. Would you acknowledge that there are potential personal conflicts of interest at play in this?

Third, the judge, Bruce Reinhart, who you went to for the warrant has been a public critic of former president Trump, even recusing himself from a Trump-related case as recently as six weeks before he signed off on the raid. Did a knowledge of the judge's feelings play a role you selecting him to sign off on the warrant?

This is just scratching the surface of the many conflicts and biases that the raid brings to light and these are just a couple of the many questions that my constituents and I would like answers to. Thank you and I look forward to a prompt response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Boggs".

Sincerely,
Mitch Boggs