

United States Senate

June 25, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Merrick Garland
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear President Biden and Attorney General Garland,

I write urging immediate action against a pro-Hamas mob's recent assault on a Jewish community.

On June 23, pro-Hamas radicals assembled outside the Adas Torah synagogue in Los Angeles. The mob blocked the synagogue's entrance while they called for genocide. The mob attacked Jews with bear spray, beat a man until his face and shirt were covered in blood, and chanted "intifada revolution."

Although these antisemitic rioters advertised their plans in advance and synagogue members pled for police protection, city officials allowed the mob to grow out of control. According to some reports, elected officials even told the Los Angeles Police Department to stand down initially, with police sent to intervene only after violence broke out.

This vicious attack comes after months of antisemitic violence on college campuses, and just weeks after Hamas supporters vandalized national monuments outside of the White House. The Biden administration's inaction against these mobs, like its inaction against Democratic street militias harassing Supreme Court justices outside their homes in 2022, has emboldened these extremists to escalate their attacks.

The Department of Justice and federal law enforcement should take immediate action to protect the Jewish community and prosecute these mobs. I call for the administration to conduct a manhunt for every one of these antisemitic, pro-terrorist rioters with the same vigor it used to prosecute non-violent Trump supporters who were at the Capitol on January 6. Failure to act would only further expose this administration's pro-Hamas bias. In addition, please provide the following information by July 1, 2024:

1. Did city or state officials notify the DOJ regarding the planned pro-Hamas protest? Was federal law enforcement requested to protect the Jewish community?

2. Have you referred this case to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice?
3. Is the DOJ investigating whether outside groups are funding and organizing these violent outbursts? Provide a list of all outside groups that are linked to funding or organizing pro-Hamas or anti-Israel protests.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton
United States Senator