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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

March 15, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Department of Justice

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

My office has obtained a December 2020 FBI FD-302 documenting an interview with an FBI Agent who served on Special Counsel Mueller's team. This agent was involved in the Crosswind investigation which was a subpart of Crossfire Hurricane. According to the FD-302, the reason for the interview was an internal investigation regarding an allegation that Supervisory Intelligence Analyst Brian Auten may have violated Offense Code 1.7 -Investigative Deficiency-Misconduct "relating to Judicial Proceedings." The FD-302 details substantial allegations of misconduct and political bias occurring within Special Counsel Mueller's office during the investigation.¹

For example, the FD-302 states multiple personnel were removed from then-Special Counsel Mueller's team because they "saw concerning things and voiced their concern." It also says former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe "referred to President Trump in a derogatory manner" and an attorney wanted to remove the negative tone of the remark from an FD-302. The FD-302 specifically notes Aaron Zelinsky's, Assistant Special Counsel to Mueller, bias and states that the Mueller team created "caricatures and cartoons that were anti-Trump."

The FD-302 also notices instances where security protocols were violated and classified information was mishandled as well as potential FISA abuses, including FISA renewals on "Crosswind" being unnecessary. Yet, Kevin Clinesmith allegedly said about FISA corrections, "[w]e can't send this to DOJ." The FD-302 also states that an investigation into Tom Barrack shouldn't have been opened. And finally, the FD-302 notes alcohol was consumed by Mueller team members while they were on the clock for the taxpayer.

I have listed the relevant excerpts below.

¹ On file with Committee staff.

A. Potentially improper FISA renewals and misleading the FISC:

(U//FOUO) The second big battle was when Ahmad asked Khoury if we should renew a FISA for the third time. Khoury said, "No!" Khoury [REDACTED] said they were getting all of the information they needed from interviews with the target of the investigation who was cooperating and providing everything they needed. Khoury said we did not need to do it because it would not give us anything more and there was nothing in the past FISA that aided the investigation other than to prove the Target was being honest with the investigators. I also did not agree with renewing it for different reasons. As the investigation progressed, the facts that we originally thought meant one thing were learned to mean something else. Per reporting from another agency and what we learned from the investigation up to the point of the third renewal, there were no corroborating facts that tied Crosswind to certain facts that we thought were originally true. For instance, there was nothing confirming Crosswind received a large money payment, and nothing confirming Crosswind had a meeting in another country for the purposes of the initial allegation. I pointed out these specific corrections to the application in numerous instances throughout the FISA certified copy process. This was circa 2018. I sent these edits to Kevin Clinesmith who said, "We can't send this to DOJ." Kevin set up a meeting with DOJ and led a discussion on the FISA renewal. I provided arguments for how the information had changed our understanding of our initial analysis. In response they said, "We don't know for sure", and that the statements they used in the FISA to describe the Target was "broad enough" to cover the differing perspectives. Spencer Basset was the attorney for the FISA at DOJ. Walter Giardina signed it as Case Agent. Joe Nelson or Jennifer [REDACTED]

B. "Concerning things" and anti-Trump bias:

(U//FOUO) I believe Vivien Moon was removed from the investigation because she would not allow the investigation to become politicized. Khoury, Burns, Murphy, and Tapen were all removed because they saw concerning things and voiced their concern. Michelle Taylor was a great agent; I heard her arguing with the prosecutors because one of the attorneys wanted to change the characterization that Deputy Director McCabe made toward President Trump. Apparently, McCabe referred to President Trump in a derogatory manner and Taylor refused to change the tone of the 302 to reflect that McCabe spoke about him without the negative connotation. Taylor left the Bureau shortly after her time with the Special Counsel's Office. With the exception of me, anyone who disagreed with Ahmad or her line of thinking were removed from the team. Those who stayed were Gleason, Giardina, LaParre, Smith, and me. I got along very well with Ahmad, despite disagreeing with her often, having many concerns about the investigation, and having concerns about her security practices. [REDACTED]

C. Bias exhibited by Aaron Zelinsky and anti-Trump drawings:

(U//FOUO) My opinions about the overall investigation are the same as Barnett's, which I read in the 302 of his interview that was released in the public. Barnett's FD-302 got out and I am worried my thoughts will get out as well. Like I said earlier, I have a great relationship with most on the team, despite having significant concerns with what went on with the team. I observed what I would consider bias on Team B. The general atmosphere was led by one young prosecutor, Aaron Zelinsky. Brandon VanGrack was also a prosecutor who worked on Team A and I consider him to be a great person. There were caricatures and cartoons that were anti-Trump. (Writer's Note [REDACTED] [REDACTED] provided a sketch of the office layout, which is attached to the file in a 1A. It was used to describe where the anti-Trump caricatures were hung.)

D. Potentially improper FISA; “overzealous thoughts and bias that permeated the investigation,” “get someone” attitude, alleged improper investigation into Barrack:

(U//FOUO) I believe that there are several things that were wrong with the investigation. First and most egregious was that despite the change in our information, we still put out the third FISA renewal, which was the fourth FISA against the target. Second, there were overzealous thoughts and bias that permeated the investigation. There was a “let’s get him” attitude. Third, all of those who voiced a differing opinion were removed from the team. Fourth, we were told that we were SCO personnel, not FBI. That may be a direct quote in my journal and the implications of this are far more reaching than just words. Fifth, as described by Barnett, there was a “get someone” attitude versus the normal investigative attitude of finding the truth of what happened. This attitude led to the FISA renewal, search warrants, and the opening of the investigation on Tom Barrack that all relate to ethical dilemmas. In my opinion, there was no authority for the SCO to open a case on Tom Barrack. The WFO was asked to consider opening on Barrack earlier, but opined the investigation should have been on the agent who was interacting with Barrack, not Barrack himself.

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- E. Zainab Ahmad allegedly violated security protocols; SCO team members allegedly consumed alcohol while on the taxpayers' dime:

[REDACTED] U//FOUO) Apparently, Loretta Lynch brought Ahmad to the team. Apparently, Andrew Weissman vouched for her and later regretted this. Jeannie Rhee had a shouting match with Ahmad. Ahmad was lax with security protocols and I witnessed at least one instance that I later reported to our security official. For example, she brought classified documents to a meeting at WFO without adherence to FBI security policy by bringing her classified notebook to the meeting without a proper carrying bag. What was worse, she came to WFO from her residence, meaning she kept her notebook at the residence. This was reported by myself; I reported it to SCO security. The WFO attorney who was present at the meeting also noticed this and discussed it with me. In the beginning of the investigation, I reached out to Sally Moyer with my concerns that Ahmad had access to raw FISA information, but Moyer indicated this was acceptable because she was part of the investigative team. This is documented in an email exchange with Moyer. While it did not occur frequently, I did see alcoholic drinks being consumed while in the SCO team area. Most of what I have articulated here is reflected in my journals, but not the caricatures or the drinking.

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F. Mueller team officials appear to have realized they engaged in wrongdoing:

(U) On numerous occasions, Gleason told me I was capturing too much information electronically. She always said, and everyone knew, there would be an investigation afterwards. Murphy came over about a half dozen times and said we all needed professional liability insurance. Murphy had significant concerns with the scope of the investigation. Rosenstein wrote the scoping letter, there was a footnote, number four. In both my and Murphy's opinion, we were beyond the scoping letter at numerous points during the investigation. Murphy spoke up about this. She wanted to end the FISA at least a month before it stopped. I believe, the main reason Ahmad opened an investigation on one subject (Barack) was because she knew the stream of investigation was coming to an end; she wanted to extend the reason to remain on the SCO and also have a project for when she returned to her office in New York.

G. The interviewee suggests documents exist to prove wrongdoing:

(U//FOUO) If possible, I would get a copy of the last FISA and a copy of the predication; look at reporting from a couple of other US government agencies. Our understanding of things changed during the investigation and these three documents were disproven. Despite this, the team still went on with the third renewal of the FISA. In the end, Murphy had the same thoughts as Khoury and I.

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The FD-302 confirms long-standing concerns that political bias rotted the decision-making process within the Mueller team. The American public deserve answers. Accordingly, please provide answers to the following questions and responsive records no later than March 29, 2026.

1. Provide all emails relating to the FD-302 from all named custodians. This request includes FISA related emails.
2. Provide all FISA applications, predication material and related reporting.
3. Provide all journals referenced in the FD-302.
4. Provide the FD-302 where McCabe allegedly referred to Trump in a derogatory manner.
5. Provide the Rosenstein scoping letter.
6. Provide the 1A file including all ant-Trump drawings and caricatures.
7. Provide the email with Sally Moyer regarding Zainab Ahmad's alleged security violations.
8. Was any investigation conducted into the allegations that Zainab Ahmad potentially mishandled classified information? If not, why not? If yes, provide all records.²
9. Does Justice Department policy allow the consumption of alcohol while at work? If not, did the Justice Department investigate the allegations that alcohol was consumed in the SCO team area? If not, why not? If yes, provide all records.

Thank you for your prompt review and responses. If you have any questions, please contact my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

² "Records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).