

OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS

May 20, 2021

Organized political and social violence is ripping apart the fabric of America with no end in sight.

Congress, federal investigative and law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors have failed to understand and confront this organized, interstate criminal activity. People from both parties are looking for answers.

Congress must establish an independent, bipartisan commission to investigate the individuals, organizations, and networks behind all the organized violence, from Minneapolis to Portland to the US Capitol in Washington, DC.

The commission must examine the methods of instigation and organization, the funding, the training, the historical origins, the ideologies, the works that animate the violence; any secret relations with or support from people in government and public institutions; and any foreign connections that include funding or intelligence or other support, including connections to regimes in China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Russia.

We call on Congress to broaden the independent commission to investigate all organized political and social violence in America. We call on the commission also to investigate biases and government misconduct that include failure to arrest and prosecute those who burn our cities and attack our federal buildings, and who hold suspects for months without charges, often in solitary confinement or in conditions that expose them to abuse.

We regard the limitation of the commission's mandate to the January 6 violence at the US Capitol as an illegitimate, politically motivated exercise that deliberately ignores the concerns outlined above.

Sincerely,

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