



# Trump DOJ subpoenaed Twitter for identity behind Nunes parody account

BY HARPER NEIDIG - 05/17/21 04:54 PM EDT

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The Trump administration subpoenaed Twitter for information on who was operating an account parodying Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.), a close ally of the former president, according to court documents unsealed on Monday.

A federal judge on Monday unsealed a motion from Twitter filed on March 10 to quash the subpoena that was issued in November. In the newly public filing, Twitter argued that it was concerned the government was aiding Nunes's legal efforts to attack and unmask his online critics and said the subpoena violated the First Amendment.

"It appears to Twitter that the Subpoena may be related to Congressman Devin Nunes's repeated efforts to unmask individuals behind parody accounts critical of him," [the motion reads](#). "His efforts to suppress critical speech are as well-publicized as they are unsuccessful."

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The subpoena sought identifying information from Twitter about the account @NunesAlt. There is little public information about the court proceedings around the subpoena. It's not clear whether Twitter ever complied with the demand or if it was ultimately quashed by a federal judge.

It's also unclear if the Biden administration's Justice Department stood by the subpoena after Trump left office. A Justice Department spokeswoman did not immediately respond when asked for comment.

According to the unsealed motion, the subpoena was issued along with a gag order prohibiting Twitter from revealing or talking about the document. A spokesman for Twitter did not immediately respond when asked for comment.

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