

FBI · Published May 11, 2022 9:27pm EDT

# Whistleblowers: FBI targeted parents via terrorism tools despite Garland's testimony that it didn't happen

Jordan and Johnson said these investigations were a direct result of Garland's directive to the FBI

By Bradford Betz | Fox News



## Youngkin urges AG Garland to prosecute demonstrators breaking law outside Supreme Court justices' homes

Virginia Republican governor says he requested security for the justices' homes, outlines other measures he is taking in his state on 'Your World.'

**NEW** You can now listen to Fox News articles!



Listen to this article

0:00 / 3:44 1X

BeyondWords

Republican Reps. Jim Jordan and Mike Johnson say they have evidence that the [FBI](#) targeted parents who protested schools' [COVID](#) policies despite assurances from Attorney General Merrick Garland that it never happened.

In a letter addressed to the [Justice Department](#), Jordan and Johnson said they have evidence that the FBI labeled dozens of investigations into parents with a threat tag created by the bureau's Counterterrorism Division to assess and track investigations related to school boards. The evidence comes from "brave whistleblowers" within the Department of Justice, they say in the letter addressed to Attorney General Garland.

### **EDUCATION SECRETARY CARDONA SOLICITED NSBA LETTER COMPARING PROTESTING PARENTS TO DOMESTIC TERRORISTS: EMAIL**



Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks at a news conference May 5, 2022, at the Department of Justice in Washington. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) [sent a letter](#) to the Biden administration in September comparing parents who protested school's COVID policies to domestic terrorists. Five days later, the DOJ issued a memo directing the FBI to investigate threats to school boards.

The memo highlighted the FBI's National Threat Operations Center, which Jordan and Johnson likened to a "snitch-line" for tips about parents at school board meetings.

An internal email from the FBI's criminal and counterterrorism divisions instructed agents to apply the threat tag "EDUOFFICIALS" to all investigations and assessments of threats directed specifically at education officials.

### **GARLAND REFUSES TO BACK AWAY FROM DOJ MEMO AFTER SCHOOL BOARD APOLOGY**

Jordan and Johnson, citing a whistleblower, said the FBI opened investigations with the EDUOFFICIALS threat in every region of the country and relating to all types of educational settings.

The lawmakers cited several examples where someone reported a parent, or a state elected official using the FBI's National Threat Operations Center.

In one investigation, FBI officials interviewed a mom for allegedly telling a school board member "we are coming for you." The person reported the mom because she belonged to a "right wing mom's group" called "Moms for Liberty" and because she is a gun owner. FBI officials eventually determined this mom was not a threat.

### **SEVENTEEN STATES ASK BIDEN, GARLAND TO STOP INTIMIDATING PARENTS INTO SILENCE AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**





People gather to protest during a Loudoun County School Board meeting in Ashburn, Virginia, Oct. 26, 2021. (Reuters/Leah Millis)

In another investigation, FBI officials interviewed a dad opposed to masks, according to Jordan and Johnson. The person who reported the dad did so because he supposedly fit the bill of an "insurrectionist" and "rails against the government" and "has a lot of guns and threatens to use them" – claims which the person later admitted they had "no specific information or observations of ... any crimes or threats."

Republican elected officials in an undisclosed state were also reported by a state Democratic Party official who said that Republicans "incited violence" by expressing displeasure with school districts' vaccine mandates.

Jordan and Johnson said these investigations were a direct result of Garland's Oct. 4 directive to the FBI. They noted that the FBI agents ultimately determined that these cases did not amount to terrorist threats, but they lamented the waste of "valuable law-enforcement time and resources (that) could have been expended on real and pressing threats."

### [CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP](#)

"This whistleblower information raises serious concerns that your October 4 memorandum will chill protected First Amendment activity as parents will rightfully fear that their passionate advocacy for their children could result in a visit from federal law enforcement," the lawmakers said.

In testimony before Congress in October 2021, [Garland told lawmakers](#) that his Department of Justice had not deployed antiterrorism tools against parents protesting the actions of school boards. "I can't imagine any circumstance in which the Patriot Act would be used in the circumstances of parents complaining about their children, nor can I imagine a circumstance where they would be labeled as domestic terrorism," he said at the time.

Fox News has reached out to the DOJ for comment but did not hear back before publication

time.

*Fox News' Tyler O'Neil and Jessica Chasmar contributed to this report.*

---

Bradford Betz is a reporter for Fox News Digital. Story tips can be sent to [bradford.betz@fox.com](mailto:bradford.betz@fox.com) and on Twitter: [@Bradford\\_Betz](https://twitter.com/Bradford_Betz).

## Sponsored Stories

### **Diamond Carat: The Ultimate Buying Guide**

Sponsored | Vrai

### **"Bone-On-Bone" Knee Troubles? You Need To See This**

Sponsored | AmRelieve

### **Binge Halo**

Sponsored | Paramount+

### **Where to invest \$10,000 right now**

Sponsored | The Motley Fool

### **Access Your Home's Equity w/ a Cash-Out Refinance**

Sponsored | New American Funding

### **If You Eat Oatmeal Every Day, This Is What Happens**

Sponsored | Gundry MD Total Restore

Ads by Yahoo





[Redacted text bar]

[Redacted text bar]

[Redacted text bar]

[Redacted text bar]

[Redacted text bar]

[Redacted text bar]

### Coronavirus

### U.S.

- Crime
- Military
- Education
- Terror
- Immigration
- Economy
- Personal Freedoms
- Fox News Investigates

## World

- U.N.
- Conflicts
- Terrorism
- Disasters
- Global Economy
- Environment
- Religion
- Scandals

## Politics

- Executive
- Senate
- House
- Judiciary
- Foreign Policy
- Polls
- Elections

## Business

- Personal Finance
- Economy
- Markets
- Watchlist
- Lifestyle
- Real Estate
- Tech

## Science

- Archaeology
- Air & Space
- Planet Earth
- Wild Nature
- Natural Science
- Dinosaurs

## Opinion

## Entertainment

- Celebrity News
- Movies
- TV News
- Music News
- Style News
- Entertainment Video

## Lifestyle

- Food + Drink
- Cars + Trucks
- Travel + Outdoors
- House + Home
- Fitness + Well-being
- Style + Beauty
- Family
- Faith

## Tech

- Security
- Innovation
- Drones
- Computers
- Video Games
- Military Tech



## Health

- [Coronavirus](#)
- [Healthy Living](#)
- [Medical Research](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Cancer](#)
- [Heart Health](#)
- [Children's Health](#)

## About

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Fox Around the World](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Media Relations](#)
- [Corporate Information](#)
- [Compliance](#)
- [Supplier Diversity](#)

## TV

- [Shows](#)
- [Personalities](#)
- [Watch Live](#)
- [Full Episodes](#)
- [Show Clips](#)
- [News Clips](#)

## Other

- [Fox Weather](#)
- [Fox Nation](#)
- [Fox News Shop](#)
- [Fox News Go](#)
- [Fox News Radio](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Apps & Products](#)

---

[New Terms of Use](#) [New Privacy Policy](#) [Do Not Sell my Personal Information](#) [Closed Captioning Policy](#) [Help](#)  
[Contact Us](#) [Accessibility Statement](#)

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. ©2022 FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. Quotes displayed in real-time or delayed by at least 15 minutes. Market data provided by Factset. Powered and implemented by FactSet Digital Solutions. Legal Statement. Mutual Fund and ETF data provided by Refinitiv Lipper.