

To: Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government

Date: July 9, 2024

From: The Honorable Sylvia Garcia

Re: Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia's Remarks and Questions for the Record

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

It is astounding that in their effort to discredit the trial against Trump – the twice-impeached, convicted president – Republicans have relentlessly attacked the presiding judge over the case, Judge Juan Merchan.

They have accused him of having “a clear judicial bias against President Trump.”

They have filed ethics complaint against him, claiming he has a conflict of interest in the case and should not have been allowed to preside over it because his daughter is a Democrat.

Republicans – including the Speaker of the House – have publicly attacked the judge's daughter, a private citizen who has no part in the case.¹

They have lied and said he blocked Mr. Smith from testifying altogether, when in fact the testimony was supposed to be limited to comply with legal evidentiary standards.

Republicans have also made obviously false claims that Judge Merchan only made rulings to benefit the prosecution and punish the Trump defense team.

It has been a long and coordinated effort to discredit and attack this judge at all costs.

And per usual, they are just following Donald Trump's lead.

Trump has relentlessly attacked the judges in the cases brought against him – including Judge Merchan.

In a Truth Social Post, Trump called Judge Merchan a “highly conflicted” overseer of a “kangaroo court,”² Trump supporters then started making threats of violence against him, writing in response online: “Treason is a hangable offense,” and “They should all be executed,” among other such statements.³

Individuals on right-wing sites have also written that Judge Merchan “needs to be strangled with piano wire,” and “deserves garroting in the street.”⁴

¹ Kyle Cheney and Ben Feuerherd, *Trump's surrogates continues launching verbal attacks that would violate gag order if Trump said them himself*, POLITICO (May 15, 2024), [Trump's surrogates continue launching verbal attacks that would violate gag order if Trump said them himself - Live Updates - POLITICO](#)

² Peter Eisler, Ned Parker, and Joseph Tanfani, *Trump blasts his trial judges. Then his fans call for violence*, REUTERS (May 14, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-election-threats-courts/>

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

Another individual wrote of judges in Trump trials: “These judges and lawyers should HANG for perpetuating these fraud cases.”⁵

This is just a small sampling of what far-right MAGA supporters are writing about this judge.

As a former judge, I am appalled by this sort of behavior. Judges swear an oath to uphold the Constitution and fairly administer the law, and they should be able to do their jobs safely without fear of retribution or violence for simply fulfilling their duty.

So, before I get to my questions for our witnesses, I would like to ask the Chairman for a simple yes or no answer: will you agree today to denounce ANY calls for violence against Judge Merchan?
