

Kamala Harris defends Biden administration decision not to release Epstein files

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Former Vice President [Kamala Harris](#) said Wednesday that the Biden administration was right not to pressure the Department of Justice (DOJ) to release files related to Jeffrey Epstein.

“We strongly and rightly believed that there should be an absolute separation between what we wanted as an administration and what the Department of Justice did,” [Harris told](#) ABC’s [Jimmy Kimmel](#) on his late-night show. “We absolutely adhered to that, and it was right to do that.”

Attorney General [Pam Bondi](#) has [until Friday](#) to publicly release files related to the convicted sex offender, a deadline included in the Epstein Files Transparency Act that passed Congress with near-unanimous majorities and was [signed into law](#) by [President Trump](#) last month.

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During his 2024 campaign, Trump said he would consider releasing the Epstein files if elected, noting the need to protect the privacy of victims and people who did not commit a crime. After returning to office, he repeatedly dismissed the push to release the documents this year as a “hoax” led by Democrats before relenting as Republicans in Congress backed the push.

After signing the act last month, Trump pointed a finger at the Biden administration, [writing on his Truth Social platform](#) that Biden officials “did not turn over a SINGLE file or page related to” Epstein. The president argued Democrats in Congress were using the issue to distract from his administration’s accomplishments.

Harris said Wednesday that under former [President Biden](#), the DOJ “would make its decisions independent of any political or personal vendetta or concern that we may have.”

Epstein was [arrested and charged](#) with sex trafficking of minors in July 2019, during Trump’s first term. The disgraced financier died in jail just more than a month later in what authorities determined was a suicide.

The DOJ and FBI under the Trump administration confirmed that assessment [earlier this year](#) while concluding Epstein did not maintain a “client list.”

That infuriated many of the president’s supporters who have long demanded more details in the case, and members of both parties called for transparency with the government’s files on Epstein.

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