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SENATOR VIT  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
REMARKS PREPARED FOR  
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
OVERSIGHT HEARING: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
TESTIMONY OF  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL MATT WHITAKER  
QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD**

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February 8, 2019

Mr. Whitaker: can you tell which is considered by you and the DOJ to be the **greater threat to our democracy and national security: active measures by hostile foreign actors to subvert American elections, or widespread voting fraud, which exists only in the minds of conspiracy theorists** like Kris Kobach, Alex Jones or Donald Trump?

Finally, Mr. Whitaker – can you please explain to this Committee **why it is that the U.S. DOJ civil rights Division, with its 800 lawyers, has not brought a single voting rights or civil rights case during the life of this administration?**

As you may know, there has been considerable and justified outrage about the conditions in which prisoners at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. During the most recent cold spell, referred to in the press and by scientists as a “polar vortex,” temperatures plunged to well below freezing, when considering wind chills. Yet, **inmates at MDC were left with no food, water, or heat for days in a prison managed by the Bureau of Prisons. Families were pleading for help, but no help came for days.**

- When did you learn about the conditions at MDC?
- What were your first action items that you undertook as a result?
- When did you undertake those actions?
- What is your plan going forward to ensure this never happens again?

It has been reported that President Trump lashed out at you on at least two occasions after Michael Cohen pleaded guilty on November 29, 2018, and after federal prosecutors identified President Trump as Individual 1 in a court filing on December 8, 2018.

**Did President Trump contact you after Michael Cohen pleaded guilty?** What did he say? Did you take any action as a result of that conversation?

**Did President Trump contact you after he was identified as Individual 1 in documents related to the criminal sentencing of Michael Cohen?** What did he say? Did you take any action as a result of that conversation?

**In any of these conversations, did President Trump express concern, anger, or similar frustration with the actions of the U.S. Attorney for the S.D.N.Y.?**

In any of these conversations, **did the President discuss the recusal of Geoffrey Berman, the current US Attorney for the SDNY, from the Michael Cohen case and other matters related to the work of the Special Counsel?**

- The Special Counsel’s **investigation has secured numerous indictments, convictions or guilty pleas from the:**

**President's campaign manager, his deputy campaign manager, his campaign's foreign policy advisor, his former personal attorney, his longtime confidante, and many others, including Russian agents**

- The president has **attempted to dismiss these crimes and other charges brought—like obstruction of justice, perjury, making false statements, etc—as “process crimes,” when in actuality they are crimes designed to safeguard the integrity of the criminal justice system and the rule of law**
- **Do you think it is appropriate to minimize crimes like perjury, obstruction of justice, making false statements as “process crimes?”**
- Isn't it true that after your departure from the U.S. Attorney's office you were on the Board of Directors of a company targeted by the **Federal Trade Commission with charges that it was an Invention promotion scam, and regarding which you still owe \$10,000 to the court. Isn't that correct?**