

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 6, 2025

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 90535

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Director Wray and Secretary Mayorkas:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is seeking information about the deadly terrorist attack that occurred on Bourbon Street in New Orleans early on New Year's Day, killing 14 people and injuring dozens.¹

Recently, it has come to the Committee's attention that on December 31, 2024, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) may have submitted a "travel lookout" record for the suspect, Shamsud-Din Jabbar, suggesting that the FBI may have had information on Jabbar prior to the deadly terrorist attack in the early hours of January 1, 2025. It is unclear to the Committee at this time whether the creation of the travel record was a technical error in the system or was set as a one-year tracking period starting from the night before the terrorist attack to December 31, 2025.

The Committee recognizes that law enforcement officials commonly create tracking records for suspects, whether alive or deceased, including travel monitoring records. These records are often used after an attack to confirm the suspect's identity or uncover possible associates, particularly when a deceased suspect's identity is not yet fully verified or when there is a possibility of additional individuals being involved. With that said, the FBI has previously informed the Committee that it does not have any evidence or means of intelligence to suggest that the deadly terrorist attack on January 1, 2025, was going to happen.² Additionally, there are new reports that Jabbar not only made multiple trips to New Orleans prior to the attack, but that he also traveled to Egypt and Canada in 2023.³ It is unclear whether these trips played a role in Jabbar's motivation or his planning for the terrorist attack in New Orleans.

To assist the Committee's ongoing oversight work, please provide a briefing no later than Monday, January 20, 2025, to provide pertinent information, including but not limited to:

¹ Kerry Breen, et al., *Bourbon Street attack suspect identified after deadly rampage in New Orleans*, CBS NEWS, Jan. 1, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bourbon-street-new-orleans-attack-suspect-what-to-know/>.

² Briefing call with the Fed. Bureau of Investigation and Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Jan. 2, 2025).

³ Rick Rojas, *Driver in Ramming Attack Made Trips to New Orleans and Abroad*, N.Y. TIMES, Jan. 5, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/05/us/new-orleans-attack-travel.html>.

1. Whether the FBI created a “travel lookout” record for Jabbar on December 31, 2024, prior to the deadly terrorist attack, and an explanation for doing so;
2. Information about Jabbar’s domestic and foreign travel, including whether the FBI or any other U.S. federal law enforcement agency or partner received intelligence reports from a foreign government about Jabbar;
3. Information about what, if any, security measures the FBI and DHS took to support state and local law enforcement partners in New Orleans to try and prevent the terrorist attack given that in December 2024, the FBI, DHS, and the National Counterterrorism Center issued a joint intelligence bulletin that warned federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government and law enforcement officials and private sector security partners about the threat of violence during the 2024 winter holiday season;
4. Confirmation about whether Jabbar had explosive compounds never used before in the United States or Europe;
5. An update on whether the FBI had no means of intelligence to suggest the terrorist attack was going to happen on January 1, 2025;
6. An update on whether Jabbar was inspired by ISIS to commit the terrorist attack and had no evidence to suggest that Jabbar was directed or tasked by a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization;
7. An update on whether the FBI has any evidence that Jabbar made any U.S. border crossing;
8. An update on whether the FBI has any evidence that Jabbar was on any federal government watchlists or systems;
9. An update on what the FBI has learned from the exploitation of the three cell phones recovered from Jabbar, including whether Jabbar used any encrypted applications; and

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10. An update on the roles and activities of DHS's involvement in the investigation, including the 130 DHS personnel assisting the FBI's investigation;

Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special oversight functions of "all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security."


If a full response requires the disclosure of classified information, please provide such information under separate cover.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Member of Congress



AUGUST PFLUGER
Member of Congress

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Member of Congress

The Honorable Seth Magaziner, Member of Congress