Lol—couldn’t miss it. Welcome to the club😊

***
Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

Not sure if you’ve seen this one...

NBC asks if we have any comment on this story. A reporter who is not on the byline reached out, adding apologies that no one may have reached out in advance.


FBI Director Christopher Wray becomes the latest target of Trump’s ire

Wray is the latest in a growing list of Justice Department officials who have angered the president, NBC News has learned.

by Carol E. Lee, Nicolle Wallace and Kristen Welker / Sep.04.2018 / 4:00 PM ET

WASHINGTON — In recent conversations with confidants, President Donald Trump has added FBI Director Christopher Wray to his list of key members of his administration whom he complains about, three people familiar with the discussions tell NBC News.

Trump has criticized Wray as another figure in the Justice Department who is not protecting his interests — and is possibly out to undermine his presidency, these people said.

Trump is "in the worst mood of his presidency and calling friends and allies to vent about his selection of (Attorney General Jeff) Sessions and Wray," said one person familiar with the president’s thinking. This person said the president was particularly focused on both men over the Labor Day weekend.
Trump has frequently tweeted about the Russia probe and more than once has criticized the Justice Department, the FBI and Sessions by name. But until now, the president has been cautious about publicly criticizing the person he appointed after firing former FBI Director James Comey.

Now he's increasingly grouping Wray with Sessions, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and the special counsel's Russia investigation, all subjects of relentless criticism from the president.

Trump nominated Wray for the FBI post last summer, weeks after the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller and months after Sessions recused himself from the Russia investigation.

Since then, Wray has largely avoided the president's public ire. While Trump has criticized the FBI generally, saying the bureau is biased against him, he has not gone after Wray personally.

That has changed, the people familiar with the president's thinking said, as Trump's frustration with his Justice Department has escalated. He's pointed to issues such as the resistance by the FBI to turn over documents to congressional Republicans. NBC News has reached out to the White House and the FBI for comment.

Wray has defended the FBI against Trump's attacks. In December, after Trump said the FBI's reputation was in "tatters," Wray pushed back publicly.

"The FBI that I see is tens of thousands of agents and analysts and staff working their tails off to keep Americans safe from the next terrorist attack, gang violence, child predators, spies from Russia, China, North Korea and Iran," he said during a congressional hearing.

Trump has at times been wound up by Tom Fitton, the president of the conservative advocacy group Judicial Watch, and a regular commentator on Fox News, who has been sharply critical of Wray and what he describes as corruption at the FBI.

Wray has reportedly threatened to resign at least once over potential pressure from the president to fire his then-deputy Andrew McCabe. Asked in July by NBC's Lester Holt whether he'd ever reached a point where a line had been crossed and he threatened to resign, Wray did not deny he had.

"I'm a low-key, understated guy, but that should not be mistaken for what my spine is made out of. I'll just leave it at that," Wray said.
FYSA, this is what was launched last night.

Dave

Sarah,

Just two things from me in addition to the concerns I already expressed to the DAG.

1.

2.

Good job overall on the release.

Dave B
Subject: Final statement

Updates and statement below:
With edits from the FBI included

Changed order based on conversation with the AG.

I'm set to appear on F&F at 6:20am.

Thanks for everyone's attention and responsiveness to this today!

S


From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: Re: Final statement

One department! ;)

On Apr 9, 2018, at 8:20 AM, Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI) wrote:

Sarah,

You did a great job this morning representing both departments under difficult circumstances and weathered some tough questions.

Thank you,
Dave

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.igur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2018 8:54 PM
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI) 
Cc: Rosenstein, Rod (ODAG) (JMD) <Rod.Rosenstein@usdoj.gov>; Medina, Amelia (ODAG) (JMD) <Amelia.Medina@usdoj.gov>; Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG) (JMD) <Zachary.Terwilliger2@usdoj.gov>; Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (JMD) <Stephen.E.Boyd@usdoj.gov>; Schools, Scott (ODAG) (JMD) <Scott.Schools@usdoj.gov>; Hur, Robert (ODAG) (IMD) <Robert.Hur@usdoj.gov>; O'Callaghan, Edward (NSD) (JMD) <Edward.OCallaghan@usdoj.gov>; Boente, Dana (DO) (FBI) Maguire, Jacqueline (BJS) (FBI) <Jacqueline.Maguire@usdoj.gov>; Lausch, John (USA/LN) <John.Lausch@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Final statement

Sending tonight (hopefully in 8 minutes!) but with a note that we are officially sending it tomorrow. I'll take out (b)(5) 

I assume that we're clear from FBI. Will check w dog and then get this out the door!

On Apr 8, 2018, at 8:50 PM, Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI) wrote:
From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)  
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 9:00 PM  
To: Rosenstein, Rod (ODAG) (JMD)  
Cc: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI); Medina, Amelia (ODAG) (JMD); Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG) (JMD); Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (JMD); Schools, Scott (ODAG) (JMD); Hur, Robert (ODAG) (JMD); O’Callaghan, Edward (NSD) (JMD); Boente, Dana (DO) (FBI); Maguire, Jacqueline (BH) (FBI); Lausch, John (USAG)  
Subject: Re: Final statement  

Done. I'll start getting this out now and then we'll officially send in the morning.

On Apr 8, 2018, at 8:59 PM, Rosenstein, Rod (ODAG) <rrosenstein@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

I agree we should **(b)(5)**

On Apr 8, 2018, at 8:53 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <slflores@ilmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative
Clear from FBI.
Maguire, Jacqueline (BH) (FBI)

From: Maguire, Jacqueline (BH) (FBI)
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 8:55 PM
To: Bowdich, David L. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: Final statement

Just pointing out...

-------- Original message --------
From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Date: 4/8/18 8:35 PM (GMT-05:00)
Subject: Final statement

-------- Original message --------
From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Date: 4/8/18 8:35 PM (GMT-05:00)
Subject: Final statement
Sarah,

I will be on a 9:00 pm conference call, so will be offline for a few, but sent you two minor concerns.

Dave

-------- Original message --------
From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)<Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Date: 4/8/18 8:35 PM (GMT-05:00)
Subject: Final statement

Sarah,

I will be on a 9:00 pm conference call, so will be offline for a few, but sent you two minor concerns.

Dave
Sarah,

I just spoke with the DAG, and we made a few edits which he will forward.

Dave
Thanks, Sarah - spoke to our DD, he is reviewing based on his convos with AG/DAG...

Jackie
Thanks Jackie

FYSA...

FYSA: This was the final email tonight

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <siflores@imld.usdoj.gov>
Date: April 8, 2018 at 9:08:09 PM EDT
Cc: "Prior, Ian (OPA)" <iprior@imld.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement on Congressional Production

We will be sending this out tomorrow am. It is *not* embargoed. As an example, please phrase
as "tomorrow the department will be announcing..." Enjoy!

Attributable to Sarah Isgur Flores:

The Attorney General and FBI Director understand the concerns of members of Congress and the President about the pace of production and level of redactions in the documents already received by the Committee. They agree that the Department and the FBI should accommodate the Committee's request in a timely fashion and in the fullest manner consistent with the Department's law enforcement and national security responsibilities.

Over the weekend, the Attorney General and FBI Director asked US Attorney John Lausch from the Northern District of Illinois to oversee this production moving forward. Mr. Lausch, who has experience in the Department and in private practice, will ensure that production moves at an acceptable pace and that any redactions are necessary and consistent under the relevant laws and regulations. He will have independent authority to oversee this production and report progress to the Attorney General. Mr. Lausch will also be available to meet with members of Congress to discuss the redaction process to ensure that they remain confident in the Department's efforts to be as transparent as possible with the Committee.

The ongoing credibility of the Department with the American public is vital to its law enforcement and national security mission. By appointing Mr. Lausch to oversee this specific document production, our goal is to assure Congress, the President, and the American people that the FBI is going to produce the relevant documents and will do so completely and with integrity and professionalism.

PRODUCTION

Last week, the Attorney General directed the FBI to double the number of people working to fulfill the request from the House Judiciary Committee for all documents reviewed by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General related to the FBI's investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a privately-owned email server while Secretary of State. Currently, 54 FBI staff are working each day in two shifts from 8am to midnight. Today, the FBI will be producing 3,600 pages of additional material requested by the House Judiciary Committee.

The IG's initial request for information resulted in production to the Inspector General of over a million pages of material, the majority of which was not relevant to the FBI's investigation. For example, because the Office of the Inspector General is part of the Department of Justice, in response to the IG's request, the internal
Production to the IG included all communications between or among certain employees for a specified date range, regardless of the content of such communications.

These documents include grand jury material, the disclosure of which is prohibited by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e), classified information, and information about unrelated and ongoing investigations that must be redacted in order to preserve the integrity of other investigations and to avoid the appearance of political influence in criminal prosecutions.

US ATTORNEY LAUSCH

Mr. Lausch was appointed by President Trump to serve as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois and confirmed by the Senate in November 2017. Mr. Lausch previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois from 1999-2010. During that time, he served as Deputy Chief in the Narcotics & Gangs Section, overseeing criminal prosecutions involving street gangs, fraud schemes, and corrupt public officials. He also served as the office's Violent Crime Coordinator, leading the District's Anti-Gang and Project Safe Neighborhoods programs. From 2010 until his appointment as the United States Attorney, Mr. Lausch worked in private law practice in Chicago. Mr. Lausch earned his law degree from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and his Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University, where he served as captain of the football team.

Deep background not for attribution:

There has been confusion between two different requests from Congress. The President's tweets this weekend concern the request from Chairman Goodlatte. That is the one discussed above.

Separate is a request from Chairman Nunes last week. That had two parts:

1. That other members of the committee wanted to see the FISAs. We answered that and agreed.

2. To review the fully unredacted EC. The background of this is important. There was an initial request to review it, which we did with redactions for Gowdy, Schiff,
and staff. They then asked to remove specific redactions, which we did. The current letter asks to remove the remaining redactions. Those remaining pertain to the identity of a foreign nation. We have not answered that part of the letter yet.

As we have noted in previous letters to the Committees, members and staff may come to the Department to view appropriately unredacted portions of these productions, which has been ongoing.