

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 2, 2020

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray,

As Members of the House Judiciary Committee with oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), we write to ascertain the existence of an investigation recently disclosed by President Trump into a plane “loaded with thugs.”

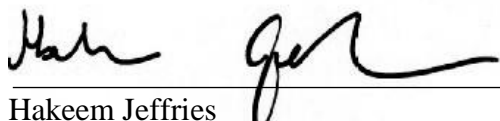
During an August 31 interview with Fox News, President Trump made a troubling claim. He said, “We had somebody get on a plane from a certain city this weekend. And in the plane, it was almost completely loaded with thugs wearing these dark uniforms, black uniforms with gear and this and that. They’re on a plane.”<sup>1</sup> When pressed for more details, the President replied, “I’ll tell you sometime, but it’s under investigation now.”<sup>2</sup> On Tuesday, the President again spoke to this alleged incident saying, “A person was on a plane, said there were about 6 people like that person, more or less, and what happened is the entire plane filled up with the looters, the anarchists, rioters, people that were obviously looking for trouble and the person felt very uncomfortable on the plane.”

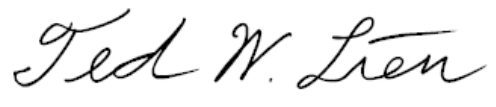
These are extreme allegations. However, there is no evidence thus far that such an aviation event occurred beyond the President’s murky secondhand account. Rather, it seems that President Trump is stoking fears about the peaceful protests taking place around the country and pushing wild conspiracy theories that have no basis in fact. Such rhetoric has led to violence, including the murder of two protestors.

While it is not FBI policy to disclose ongoing investigations, the President has already revealed the potential existence of such an inquest to the public. If the President is using the FBI to pursue baseless conspiracy theories, that would be a gross misuse of federal law enforcement and taxpayer dollars. As Members of Congress, we have a direct interest in determining whether such an investigation exists, and whether there is a legitimate factual basis for it.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

  
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Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

  
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> “The Ingraham Angle,” *Fox News*, August 31, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*