Twitter Thread by American Oversight



American Oversight
@weareoversight

The Trump administration will be over on January 20, but officials like Attorney General William Barr — who has been involved in some of this administration's most corrupt policies — must not be allowed to escape accountability.

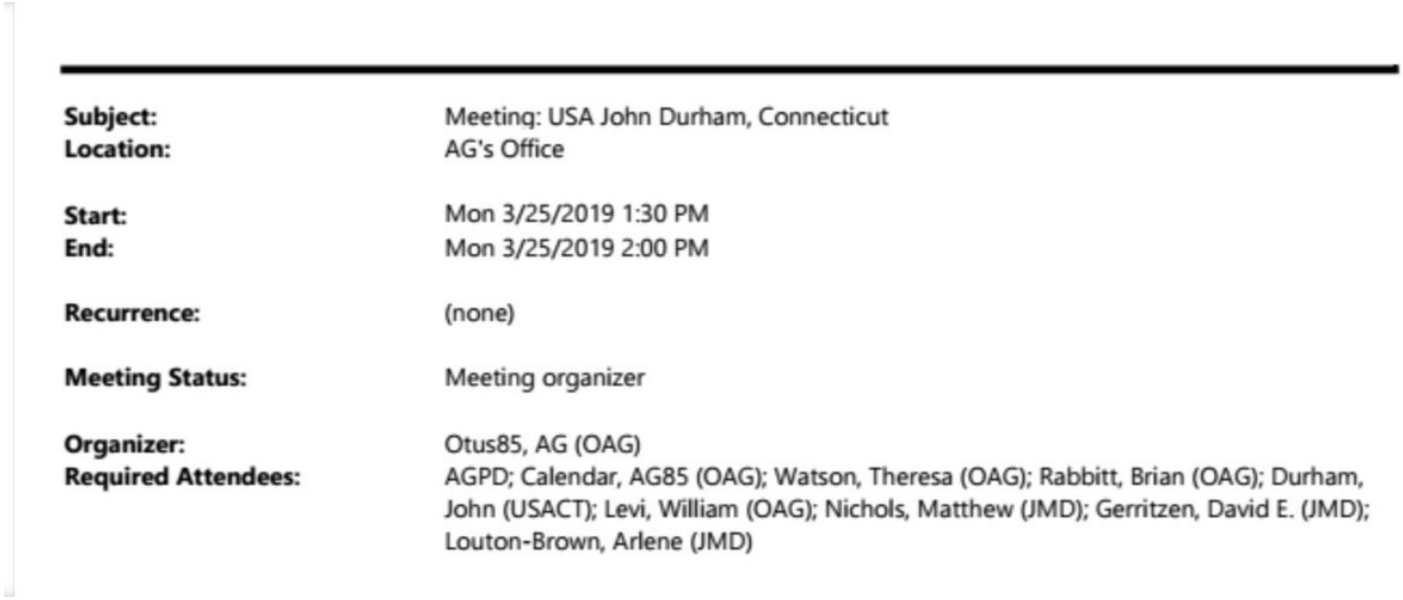
Here's what we're still investigating:1/

President Trump has sought to transform DOJ into a political weapon meant to serve his allies & punish his perceived enemies.

We've uncovered details on the extent to which Barr has aided those efforts, including the Durham investigation, Roger Stone's sentencing & more. 2/

Our FOIA litigation revealed that Barr met frequently with federal prosecutor John Durham, who was tasked with looking into the origins of the Russia investigation — 18 times in the 7 months after the Mueller investigation ended. 3/
https://t.co/kBLMaY8Po1

On March 25, 2019 — just a day after Barr submitted his letter summarizing the Mueller report to Congress — Durham met with Barr, Barr's then-Chief of Staff Brian Rabbitt and two career officials from the department's Justice Management Division. 4/
https://t.co/iQAR0VHSJx



Subject:	Meeting: USA John Durham, Connecticut
Location:	AG's Office
Start:	Mon 3/25/2019 1:30 PM
End:	Mon 3/25/2019 2:00 PM
Recurrence:	(none)
Meeting Status:	Meeting organizer
Organizer:	Otus85, AG (OAG)
Required Attendees:	AGPD; Calendar, AG85 (OAG); Watson, Theresa (OAG); Rabbitt, Brian (OAG); Durham, John (USACT); Levi, William (OAG); Nichols, Matthew (JMD); Gerritzen, David E. (JMD); Louton-Brown, Arlene (JMD)

Despite Barr's frequent public statements about the ongoing Durham investigation, DOJ has selectively chosen to invoke the "ongoing investigation" privilege to withhold documents the public needs in order to understand Durham's work. 5/
https://t.co/hu1i5PG2Ur

In response to our FOIA requests, DOJ has acknowledged that it has 24 pages of directives and guidance regarding the Durham probe, as well as records regarding its related expenses. DOJ refuses to turn over the Durham-related records. 6/

"The whole point of tapping an outside prosecutor in a case like this is to avoid political interference from the attorney general and other top officials, but here we see just the opposite: Bill Barr had repeated meetings and calls with John Durham at critical moments...." 7/

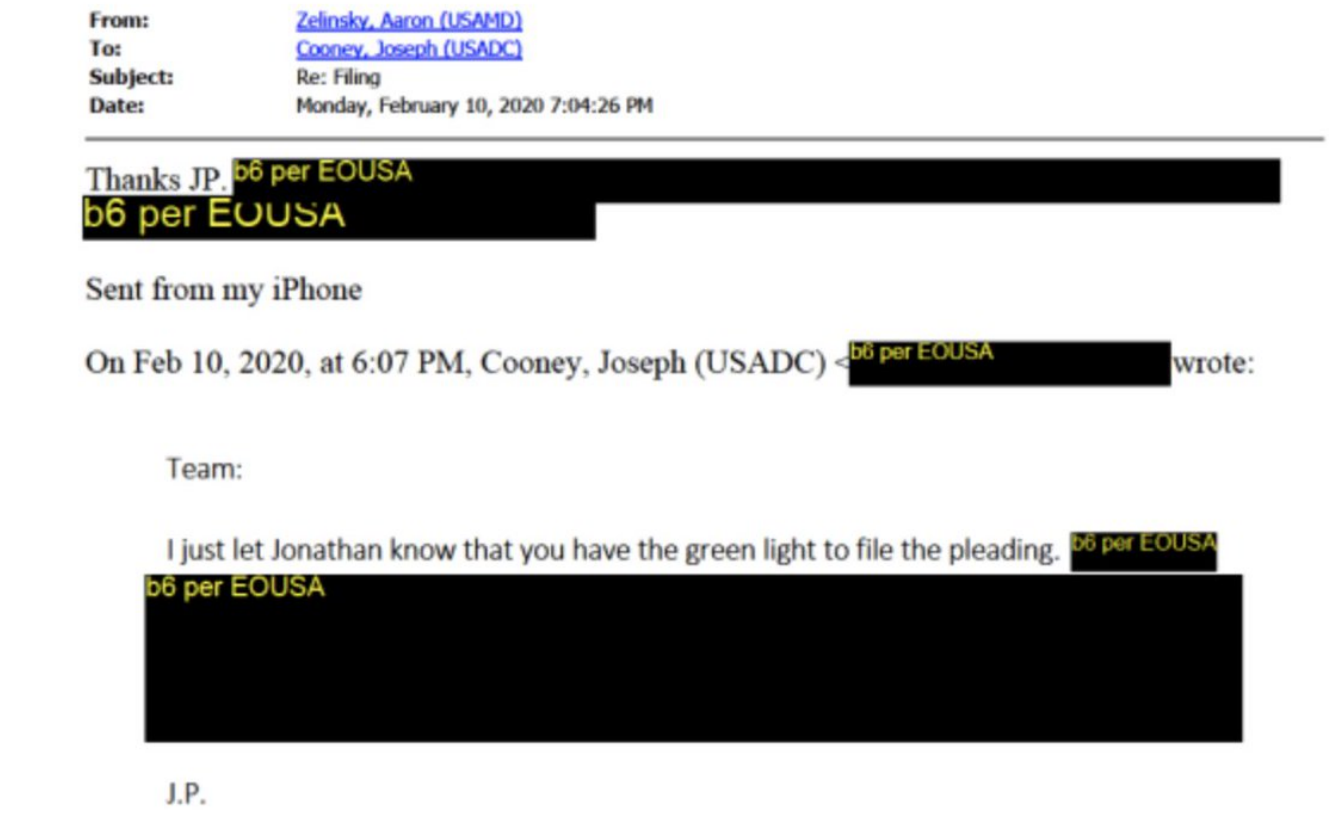
"...linked to the Russia investigation, and that raises serious questions about the independence and credibility of whatever Durham produces," our executive director Austin Evers said when we uncovered the documents. 8/
https://t.co/Ra1MY2UI15

In February 2020, the abrupt change in sentencing recommendations for Roger Stone was a shocking example of the lengths Barr's Justice Department was willing to go to in order to intervene in the cases of associates of President Trump. 9/

In September, we obtained records that shed new light on the circumstances surrounding this controversial move. The records showed how quickly DOJ leadership's intervention caused chaos. 10/
https://t.co/dLn8AfzRO9

On Feb. 10, DOJ prosecutors recommended Stone serve 7-9 years in prison for lying under oath and witness tampering. Trump tweeted his displeasure at Stone's perceived ill-treatment. On Feb. 11, an amended sentencing memo was filed. 11/

The records we obtained show that on the night of Feb. 10, DOJ official J.P. Cooney signed off on filing the original sentencing memo. 12/
https://t.co/Lm0ir9Z1Gx



From: Zelinsky, Aaron (USAMD)
To: Cooney, Joseph (USADC)
Subject: Re: Filing
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:04:26 PM

Thanks JP. b6 per EOUSA
b6 per EOUSA

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2020, at 6:07 PM, Cooney, Joseph (USADC) <b6 per EOUSA wrote:

Team:

I just let Jonathan know that you have the green light to file the pleading. b6 per EOUSA
b6 per EOUSA

J.P.

On the morning of Feb. 11, Fox News reported that DOJ's sentencing position in Stone's case was expected to change. Around noon that day, Cooney responded to a press inquiry asking whether the reports were accurate. "False," Cooney said. 13/
https://t.co/wctEXHZWMA

From: "Cooney, Joseph (USADC)" <b6 per EOUSA>
Date: February 11, 2020 at 12:07:11 PM EST
To: "Marando, Michael (USADC)" <b6 per EOUSA>, "Kravis, Jonathan (USADC)" <b6 per EOUSA>
Subject: RE: Hi — can you confirm /comment on this development re: Roger Stone's recommended sentence?

False.

From: Marando, Michael (USADC) <b6 per EOUSA>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Cooney, Joseph (USADC) <b6 per EOUSA>; Kravis, Jonathan (USADC) <b6 per EOUSA>
Subject: Fwd: Hi — can you confirm /comment on this development re: Roger Stone's recommended sentence?

FYI

Michael J. Marando
Assistant United States Attorney

We also obtained records that show Barr personally met with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani & former U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy in the summer and fall of 2019 — apparently regarding a Venezuelan client — just a month before the impeachment inquiry was announced. 14/
https://t.co/mR63Akk7WA

And visitor logs from 2019 and 2020 obtained by American Oversight indicate Barr also met with Tom Fitton, Fox News host Laura Ingraham, conservative judicial adviser Leonard Leo, and White House official Kash Patel, among others. 15/
https://t.co/hf0Uv38OM0

We're still investigating:

Did Barr aid efforts to discredit voting by mail? Barr cited false data to assert that elections relying on VBM have had substantial fraud, which DOJ claimed was due to an incorrect briefing memo. We requested that memo. 16/

What role did Barr play in the federal government's authoritarian and aggressive response to nationwide racial justice protests this summer? In early June, Barr reportedly ordered the removal of peaceful protesters near the White House. 17/

We've filed a lawsuit against the Justice Department for any of Barr's directives on this issue as well as information on all federal police forces deployed to cities across the country. 18/
https://t.co/xNbfXG1P7a

What do internal whistleblowers say about the attorney general's conduct? Barr has inappropriately intervened in criminal cases against associates of the president, and has made public statements about the progress of ongoing politically sensitive investigations. 19/

We're suing for any complaints lodged with the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General or its Office of Professional Responsibility regarding Barr's conduct as attorney general. 20/
https://t.co/xKyl2PwfHW

Barr is just one of the administration officials we're still investigating. Stay tuned for more info about our ongoing work—and check out our detailed blog about how we're using records requests & litigation to ensure Barr and others are held accountable.
https://t.co/KF3IAJeN4m