

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

November 20, 2025

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Joseph Cuffari
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of Inspector General
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Inspector General Cuffari,

On November 18, 2025, *ProPublica* reported that Paul Ingrassia, while serving as White House liaison to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), personally intervened in a federal investigation of the online influencer brothers and alleged rapists and human traffickers, Andrew and Tristan Tate.¹ After Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers seized the Tate brothers' electronic devices upon their February 2025 arrival in the United States, Mr. Ingrassia reportedly reprimanded DHS officials for doing so and directed them to return the devices to the Tates.² Mr. Ingrassia reportedly made clear to the DHS officials that this demand was coming directly from the White House.³ Even though the Tates did not receive the devices back, this politicized intervention in a law enforcement investigation is entirely inappropriate and deeply concerning.

The individuals whom Mr. Ingrassia reportedly intervened to assist, Andrew and Tristan Tate, are extremist online media personalities facing multiple criminal and civil charges of sex trafficking and rape in three different countries.⁴ Andrew Tate is a self-described "misogynist"⁵ who has said that women "are given to the man and belong to the man,"⁶ and should "bear some responsibility" for being raped.⁷ Mr. Tate has also questioned whether the Nazis were really the

¹ Robert Faturechi & Avi Asher-Schapiro, *The White House Intervened on Behalf of Accused Sex Trafficker Andrew Tate During a Federal Investigation*, PROPUBLICA (Nov. 18, 2025, 5:30 AM), <https://www.propublica.org/article/andrew-tate-investigation-dhs-paul-ingrassia>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ See Isabella Kwai, *What to Know About the Accusations Against Andrew Tate*, N.Y. TIMES (May 30, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/article/andrew-tate-arrests-explained.html>.

⁵ *Who Is Andrew Tate? The Self-Proclaimed Misogynist Influencer*, BBC (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64125045>.

⁶ Amanda Holpuch, *Why Social Media Sites Are Removing Andrew Tate's Accounts*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 24, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/24/technology/andrew-tate-banned-tiktok-instagram.html>.

⁷ Adam Smith, *Twitter Ignored Its Own Rules to Verify Kickboxer Who Said Women Should "Bear Some Responsibility" for Being Raped*, THE INDEPENDENT (Jan. 25, 2022, 6:56 AM), <https://www.the-independent.com/tech/twitter-andrew-tate-raped-verify-kickboxer-b1996239.html>.

“bad guy[s]” of World War II.⁸ Mr. Tate and his brother, Tristan, have been indicted in Romania for human trafficking, rape, and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women;⁹ charged in the United Kingdom with 21 counts of sex crimes, including rape, actual bodily harm, and human trafficking;¹⁰ sued for sexual assault in California¹¹ and the United Kingdom;¹² and placed under formal investigation for potential crimes in Florida.¹³

Mr. Ingrassia has his own history of deeply troubling conduct. He has reportedly described himself as having “a Nazi streak” and insisted that “[w]e need competent white men in positions of leadership” because “[t]he founding fathers were wrong that all men are created equal.”¹⁴ Mr. Ingrassia has made countless other bigoted and incendiary remarks, including, according to reports, that the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday should be “tossed into the seventh circle of hell,” that he would “[n]ever trust a chinaman or Indian,” and that the October 7th attack on Israel should be dismissed as a “psyop.”¹⁵

Moreover, Mr. Ingrassia’s alleged actions in this case constitute a brazen interference with a federal investigation in an apparent attempt to provide favorable treatment to individuals with whom he has a preexisting relationship. Prior to joining the Administration, Mr. Ingrassia was a member of the legal team representing the Tate brothers.¹⁶ Additionally, Mr. Ingrassia has heaped extensive praise on the Tate brothers in statements and social media posts. For example, he called Andrew Tate “an extraordinary human being” whose “physical prowess” and “willpower and spirit” make him “the embodiment of the ancient ideal of excellence.”¹⁷

⁸ Maya Oppenheim, *YouTube “Earned Up to £2.4m from Ads on Andrew Tate Videos,”* THE INDEPENDENT (Jan. 28, 2024, 4:33 PM), <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/andrew-tate-youtube-real-world-b2484840.html>.

⁹ Stephen McGrath & Andreea Alexandru, *Andrew Tate’s Trial on Charges of Rape and Human Trafficking Can Start, A Romanian Court Rules*, AP (Apr. 26, 2024, 10:29 AM), <https://apnews.com/article/andrew-tate-romania-trial-human-trafficking-rape-4dde5de557094c6eadde73722833327a>.

¹⁰ Ewan Somerville & Euan O’Byrne Mulligan, *UK Prosecutors Say 21 Charges Authorized Against Tate Brothers*, BBC (May 28, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckg41g1140po>.

¹¹ Isabella Kwai & Neil Vigdor, *Model Who Says She Dated Andrew Tate Accuses Him of Sexual Assault in Lawsuit*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/28/world/europe/andrew-tate-sexual-assault-lawsuit.html>.

¹² Emine Sinmaz, *Andrew Tate Served with UK Civil Proceedings Papers at Romania Home*, THE GUARDIAN (May 8, 2024, 1:55 PM), <https://www.theguardian.com/news/article/2024/may/08/andrew-tate-served-with-uk-civil-proceedings-papers-at-romania-home>.

¹³ *The Florida Attorney General’s Office Is Investigating Andrew and Tristan Tate*, AP (Mar. 4, 2025, 7:03 PM), <https://apnews.com/article/tate-brothers-florida-investigation-2487cd63580201fdef594804a62f2c95>.

¹⁴ Daniel Lippman, *Trump Nominee Says MLK Jr. Holiday Belongs in “Hell” and That He Has “Nazi Streak,” According to Texts*, POLITICO (Oct. 20, 2025, 3:29 PM), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/20/paul-ingrassia-racist-text-messages-nazi-00613608>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Faturechi & Asher-Schapiro, *supra* note 1.

¹⁷ Paul Ingrassia (@PaulIngrassia), X (July 5, 2023, 12:14 PM), <https://x.com/PaulIngrassia/status/1676625534959099905>.

Mr. Ingrassia's behavior further raises grave questions regarding the independence and impartiality of federal law enforcement operations and the White House's potential meddling in such investigations in this Administration. Additionally, Mr. Ingrassia's reported actions may have violated government ethics rules and his own ethical obligations as a lawyer. If this behavior is not examined and addressed, it could dangerously undermine the independence, legitimacy, and effectiveness of DHS law enforcement operations and implicate the White House as complicit in some of the most heinous crimes and hateful ideologies imaginable.

As the office charged with ensuring the integrity and autonomy of DHS, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is responsible for initiating and overseeing such an inquiry. Accordingly, I request that OIG promptly open an investigation into whether Mr. Ingrassia intervened in DHS's law enforcement actions involving Andrew and Tristan Tate and, if he did, whether such conduct occurred at the direction of the White House, and whether such conduct violated government ethics rules, Department standards, or federal law.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations



Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on
Investigations

Rand Paul, M.D.
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs