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To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Daily News Briefing - January 29, 2025

Date: Wed, 29 Jan 2025 11:30:28 +0000

Importance: Normal

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From: FBI News Briefing [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:16:13 AM
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January 29, 2025
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Daily News Briefing

(In coordination with the Office of Public Affairs)

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OTHER FBI NEWS

- [REDACTED]

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BIG PICTURE

- New York Times
- Wall Street Journal
- Washington Post
- ABC News
- NBC News
- CBS News
- Fox News
- CNN

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

IN THE NEWS

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GOP Wants to Release the Epstein Files Despite His History With Trump

The [Daily Beast](#) (01/28, Hamadeh) reported that several prominent Republicans in Washington, including Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, have voiced their support for the declassification of intelligence files related to the disgraced financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein—regardless of whether or not his onetime friend Donald Trump is named in them. The article noted that Cruz said Trump should “absolutely” declassify Epstein’s files and added that it has been a goal of his for a while. “I have long called for the administration to release the Jeffrey Epstein files, and also the P. Diddy files,” Cruz said. “We deserve to know who is implicated in abusing children.” The article mentioned that in July 2019, Epstein was arrested by the FBI for child sex trafficking. He died by suicide in his prison cell six weeks later. Trump and Epstein were famously friends during the 1990s and early aughts, with the president telling *New York Magazine* in 2002: “I’ve known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy. He’s a lot of fun to be with. It is even said

that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side.” The [Huffington Post](#) (01/28, Moyer), and the [Latin Times](#) (01/28, Walker) also reported on the story.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Congo Tries to Slow the Assault of Rwanda-Backed Rebels Amid Reports of Dead Bodies in the Streets

[Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [CNN](#), [New York Times](#), [Guardian](#), [BBC](#), [Al Jazeera](#)

Serbia's Prime Minister Resigns as Anti-Corruption Protests Sparked by Deadly Collapse Swell

[Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [Guardian](#), [Al Jazeera](#)

Giorgia Meloni Investigated for Italy's Release of Libyan War Crimes Suspect

[New York Times](#), [Reuters](#), [Washington Post](#), [Associated Press](#), [Guardian](#)

Trump's Freeze on US Aid Rings Alarm Bells From Thailand to Ukraine

[Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#), [ABC News](#), [Washington Post](#)

More Than Seven Killed in Stampede at India's Maha Kumbh Festival, Official Says

[Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Independent](#)

GOP Fails, for Now, in Bid to Sanction International Criminal Court

[Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [Politico](#)

Israel Says 8 of the 26 Hostages Listed for Imminent Release Are Dead

[New York Times](#)

Zelenskiy Urges Trump to Be On Ukraine's Side, Says Putin Not Afraid of Europe

[Reuters](#)

Chastened by Past Wars, Kremlin Tries to Elevate Its Veterans

[New York Times](#)

As Trump Envoy Pushes Gaza Ceasefire, Persian Gulf States Eye Postwar Role

[Washington Post](#)

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OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Judge Temporarily Blocks Part of Trump Administration's Plans to Freeze Federal Aid

[CNN](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#)

Oklahoma Moves to Require Schools to Ask Students' Immigration Status

[New York Times](#), [USA TODAY](#), [CNN](#)

A Mysterious Meeting With Syrian President Is at the Center of Spy Chief's Nomination Fight

[Associated Press](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#)

Florida's GOP Legislature Passes Its Own Immigration Bill Over DeSantis Objections

[Politico](#), [ABC News](#)

Trump Administration Offers Millions of Federal Workers Payouts to Resign

[New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#)

Across DOJ, Fear, Anxiety and Angry Bosses

[New York Times](#)

Senate Confirms Trump Transportation Secretary Pick Sean Duffy in Bipartisan Vote

[Washington Examiner](#)

Trump Signs Order to Restrict Medical Treatments for Transgender Children, Teens

BIG PICTURE

New York Times

- Judge Stays Trump's Federal Funding Freeze, but Disruption to Medicaid Sows Fear
- Trump Threatens Tariffs Over Immigration, Drugs and Greenland
- What It's Like to Be a Kid After a Fire Took Almost Everything
- Rwanda, the West's 'Donor Darling,' Seizes an Opportunity in Congo
- Patel's Loyalty to Trump Raises Doubts Over F.B.I.'s Independence

Wall Street Journal

- DeepSeek's Rise Exposes Nvidia's Weakness
- Deported Colombian Migrants Complain of 'Despotic, Humiliating' Treatment
- France Is Furious Over a Few Stained-Glass Windows in Notre Dame
- In First White House Briefing, Youngest Press Secretary Ever Eschews Tradition
- U.S. Consumers Lose Confidence at Start of Trump's Second Term

Washington Post

- Trump order leads to bedlam
- Sweeping offer would cut federal workforce
- RFK Jr. repeatedly disparaged vaccines
- MIT iconoclast shaped Gabbard's Syria views
- Area officials' concern grows over federal funds

ABC News

- RFK Jr. expected to face tough questions on vaccine, abortion stance; F-35 crashes at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska as pilot ejects safely; Fed expected to hold interest rates steady, defying pressure from Trump

NBC News

- RFK Jr. to face grilling from senators at his first confirmation hearing; Trump administration offers roughly 2 million federal workers a buyout to resign; What California families saved before wildfires destroyed their homes: Heirlooms, stuffed animals and more

CBS News

- Trump administration offering "deferred resignation" to government workers unwilling to return to office; White House blames "outage" for locking out Medicaid, Head Start, health centers from funding site; Gen. Mark Milley's security detail and security clearance revoked, Pentagon says

Fox News

- Senate to kick off RFK Jr, Kelly Loeffler confirmation hearings for top Trump posts; Zelenskyy praises Trump for 'just and fair' rhetoric toward Russia: 'Exactly what Putin is afraid of'; Denmark to increase military spending in North Atlantic by \$2 billion amid row with Trump over Greenland

CNN

- Why Trump's funding freeze is deepening fears that he seeks unlimited power; Trump administration offers buyouts to federal workers; RFK Jr.'s litany of controversial views to come

under scrutiny in Senate confirmation hearing

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

White House

President Trump

- No official presidential schedule released or announced.

Vice President Vance

- No official presidential schedule released or announced.

US Senate

- Business meeting to consider the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice. – 9:00 AM – Host: Judiciary
- Hearings to examine the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. – 10:00 AM – Host: Finance
- Business meeting to consider committee rules for the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Howard Lutnick, of New York, to be Secretary of Commerce. – 10:00 AM – Host: Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Hearings to examine making Washington work for seniors, focusing on fighting to end inflation and achieve fiscal sanity. – 3:30 PM – Host: Aging
- Hearings to examine the nomination of Kelly Loeffler, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration. – 3:30 PM – Host: Small Business and Entrepreneurship

US House of Representatives

- No events scheduled.

Cabinet Members

- **Secretary of State Rubio** meets with Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly at the Department of State at 4:00 PM.

Visitors

- No events scheduled.

General Events

- AEI: On the Front Porch with Brent Orrell and Tony Pipa: A Conversation with Benji Backer and Michelle Moore – Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Location: AEI Auditorium, 12:00 PM. The tensions between development and sustainability and production and conservation, combined with the ongoing debate over energy sources, have taken center stage in recent years. Join us for the next installment of the “On the Front Porch” series as AEI’s Brent Orrell and the Brookings Institution’s Tony Pipa talk with Michelle Moore of Groundswell and Benji Backer of the American Conservation Coalition about their companies’ distinct approaches to environmental sustainability. Ms. Moore will highlight how clean energy policy can revitalize rural America, while Mr. Backer

will emphasize market-driven solutions. Together, they'll explore how communities across the country can address environmental challenges through innovative and locally focused strategies.

- PIIE: Transatlantic perspectives on US-China geoeconomic competition – Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Location: Online event, 12:15 PM. The Peterson Institute for International Economics and the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel have jointly organized a half-day conference that explores US and EU alignment on China through a series of engaging sessions.
- Atlantic Council: Countering growing maritime threats – Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Location: Atlantic Council, 9:00 AM. On Wednesday, January 29, from 9:00–12:00 p.m. ET, the Atlantic Council's Transatlantic Security Initiative, a program within the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, will host a conference on emerging threats to the global maritime order and how to counter them.
- Winston Center: Kennan at 50: Honoring Senator Ben Cardin – Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Location: Wilson Center, 4:30 PM. Please join us at the Wilson Center from 4:30-5:30 pm on Wednesday, January 29 for an event honoring US Senator Ben Cardin who until a few weeks ago was the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. He was the author of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, and a longtime Commissioner and former Chairman of the Helsinki Commission. Senator Cardin will be honored with the George F. Kennan Leadership Award.

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