

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 11, 2023

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

We write in connection with yesterday’s shocking revelation that Gal Luft, a supposed “whistleblower” in your political probe into President Biden’s family, has been charged with several felonies by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, including arms trafficking, operating as an unregistered foreign agent for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and making false statements to federal agents.¹

According to a statement by the Department of Justice, Mr. Luft was “engaged in multiple, serious criminal schemes” including allegedly evading Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) registration while conspiring with others to “advance the interests of the People’s Republic of China” in the United States through an adviser to then-President-elect Trump. The indictment also charges Mr. Luft with illegally trafficking CCP-manufactured weapons to Iran in exchange for Iranian oil provided to China.² Finally, the false statements charges against Mr. Luft eviscerate any credibility this individual may have.³

We are concerned that an official committee of the House of Representatives has been manipulated by an apparent con man who, while a fugitive from justice, attempted to fortify his defense by laundering unfounded and potentially false allegations through Congress.

¹ *Republican’s ‘Whistleblower’ Charged as Unregistered Foreign Agent*, Rolling Stone (July 10, 2023) (online at www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/gal-luft-doj-charged-unregistered-foreign-agent-1234785971/); James Comer (@RepJamesComer), Twitter (July 7, 2023) (online at <https://twitter.com/RepJamesComer/status/1677414170411560962>).

² United States Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York, *Press Release: U.S. Attorney Announces Charges Against Co-Director of Think Tank for Acting as an Unregistered Foreign Agent, Trafficking in Arms, Violating U.S. Sanctions Against Iran, And Making False Statements To Federal Agents* (July 10, 2023) (online at www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/us-attorney-announces-charges-against-co-director-think-tank-acting-unregistered).

³ *Id.*

Although Mr. Luft has been on the run for months, you touted him as a “potential witness” and even prepared to interview him as part of your investigation.⁴ As recently as Friday, you described Mr. Luft as “a very credible witness” about matters relating to the President’s son’s financial dealings with Chinese companies.⁵

Mr. Luft purportedly shared his allegations about Hunter Biden with officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice in a March 2019 meeting in Brussels.⁶ The indictment alleges that Mr. Luft repeatedly lied to federal agents during that very same meeting.⁷

In May, in response to statements that you “lost” Mr. Luft, you further acknowledged Mr. Luft’s duplicity, stating: “Remember, these informants are kind of in the spy business, so they don't make a habit of being seen a lot or being high-profile or anything like that.”⁸ Indeed, Mr. Luft has now been charged with being an unregistered foreign agent of the CCP’s interests in the United States.

Despite previous public reporting about Mr. Luft’s evasion of the serious criminal charges unsealed yesterday,⁹ Senator Ron Johnson demanded that Mr. Luft be granted immunity from prosecution in order to help Republicans attack President Biden, asserting that “he’s

⁴ ‘Missing’ Biden Corruption Case Witness Dr. Gal Luft Details Allegations Against President’s Family in Extraordinary Video, New York Post, (July 5, 2023) (online at <https://nypost.com/2023/07/05/missing-biden-corruption-case-witness-dr-gal-luft-details-allegations-against-presidents-family-in-extraordinary-video/>).

⁵ James Comer (@RepJamesComer), Twitter (July 7, 2023) (online at <https://twitter.com/RepJamesComer/status/1677414170411560962>); see also, e.g., *Guest: Rep. James Comer*, The Glenn Beck Program (May 22, 2023) (online at www.iheart.com/podcast/the-glenn-beck-program-23014384/episode/best-of-the-program-guest-115666145/) (Chairman Comer stated in an interview: “The Israeli whistleblower, informant—whatever you want to call him—that has been in the news for several years and he is missing.”); *Biden Is Now Prioritizing Illegal Migrants Over Homeless Vets... and Our Media Isn’t Being Honest About Trump’s Ukraine Comments*, Fox Across America with Jimmy Failla (May 15, 2023) (online at www.listennotes.com/podcasts/fox-across-america/biden-is-now-prioritizing-VbSZA4wU5nW/). (Chairman Comer stated in an interview: “There are many whistleblowers. Okay, we've got whistleblowers that—there's the IRS whistleblower. There's the—there's what I call the Grassley whistleblower. This is the one you and I were just talking about. Then there are other whistleblowers. The whistleblower that I was talking about was the one in Israel that's currently missing, Luft – what was his name? Hold on one second. It's Gal Luft. That's who I was talking about that's missing.”).

⁶ ‘Missing’ Biden Corruption Case Witness Dr. Gal Luft Details Allegations Against President’s Family in Extraordinary Video, New York Post, (July 5, 2023) (online at <https://nypost.com/2023/07/05/missing-biden-corruption-case-witness-dr-gal-luft-details-allegations-against-presidents-family-in-extraordinary-video/>).

⁷ United States Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York, *Press Release: U.S. Attorney Announces Charges Against Co-Director of Think Tank for Acting as an Unregistered Foreign Agent, Trafficking in Arms, Violating U.S. Sanctions Against Iran, And Making False Statements To Federal Agents* (July 10, 2023) (online at www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/us-attorney-announces-charges-against-co-director-think-tank-acting-unregistered).

⁸ *Republican Admits Key 'Informant' Against Joe Biden Now Missing*, Newsweek, (May 14, 2023) (online at www.newsweek.com/republican-admits-key-informant-against-joe-biden-now-missing-1800209).

⁹ *Israeli Professor Arrested on Suspicion of Arms Trafficking to China, Libya*, Jerusalem Post (Feb. 19, 2023) (online at www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-732050).

literally fleeing for his life right now. He's on the run. He's an important witness. He needs to be granted immunity to be able to testify and tell his story."¹⁰

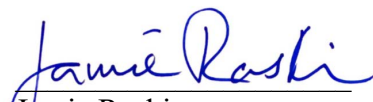
It appears as if Mr. Luft sought "whistleblower" status from you in an effort to defend himself from criminal prosecution while a fugitive from justice. Worse yet, this latest episode also raises concerns that Mr. Luft may be manipulating your investigation not only for his own self-interest but perhaps also in furtherance of the CCP's efforts to undermine U.S. security interests and the President of the United States.

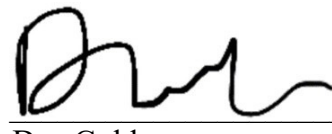
These recent revelations naturally raise broader concerns about the credibility and motivations of other purported whistleblowers that Congressional Republicans have relied on to support unfounded and baseless allegations. Sadly, the Luft episode severely undermines the credibility of the critical function of whistleblowers in this body.

We further note that you have refused to share any documents or information that you have received from Mr. Luft with Oversight Committee Democrats. Given your own public endorsements of Mr. Luft's information, there is no plausible basis for you to withhold from Committee Democrats any and all information that Mr. Luft has provided to the Committee, including any information that led you to conclude that he is "a very credible witness" despite being under indictment and a fugitive from justice.

In order to protect the Congress's institutional credibility and to reassure the American people that the CCP is not using Republicans' investigations as a vehicle to undermine the United States government, we urge you to immediately initiate an investigation into whether the Committee may have been unwittingly duped by Mr. Luft in furtherance of the CCP's interests, as well as any potentially false statements made by Mr. Luft to Members of Congress or congressional staff. In addition, we request that you immediately provide Committee Democrats with all materials and information provided by Mr. Luft to the Committee.

Sincerely,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member


Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

¹⁰ Sen. Ron Johnson: "Important Witness" Gal Luft Needs Immunity To Tell His Story About Biden Family Business, Real Clear Politics (July 9, 2023) (online at www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2023/07/09/sen_ron_johnson_important_witness_gal_luft_needs_immunity_to_tell_his_story_about_biden_family_business.html) (During an interview with Maria Bartiromo, Senator Johnson acknowledged that Mr. Luft had been arrested by INTERPOL in Cyprus back in February 2023 on suspicion of trafficking arms to China and Libya).