

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

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

The Honorable Terrance C. Cole
Administrator
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

Dear Attorney General Bondi, Director Patel, and Administrator Cole:

On March 6, 2026, Bloomberg News reported on a Justice Department investigation involving Jeffrey Epstein called Operation Trip Knot, “a money laundering and human trafficking and drug trafficking investigation tied to Russian organized crime.”¹ The Operation was led by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, which DOJ has since shuttered.

Although Epstein’s name reportedly “surfaced repeatedly” during Operation Trip Knot, it appears that only one document released under the Epstein Files Transparency Act relates directly to this Operation.² Given that DOJ has yet to produce all documents required by the Act, it is unclear whether additional documents related to Operation Trip Knot exist and should have been produced.

¹ Jason Leopold, *Ketamine, Prostitution and Money: Details of a Secret DEA Probe of Jeffrey Epstein*, BLOOMBERG (Mar. 6, 2026), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2026-03-06/epstein-investigated-in-dea-probe-for-ketamine-money-laundering>.

² *Id.*; EFTA00129095: Import Form, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Apr. 8, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/epstein/files/DataSet%209/EFTA00129095.pdf>.

To help assess DOJ's compliance with the Act, I request that you answer the following questions by March 30, 2026:

1. Is Operation Trip Knot an ongoing investigation? If not, when did DOJ officially close that investigation?
2. Did Operation Trip Knot contribute to any arrests, indictments, criminal cases, or referrals to foreign prosecutors? If so, please detail the actions taken and dispositions.
3. Please provide all records or other materials that relate to both Operation Trip Knot and the matters covered under Section 2(a) of the Epstein Files Transparency Act, subject to the exemptions in Section 2(c) of the Act. To the extent DOJ has previously withheld such records, please explain its reasons for doing so with respect to each record.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member,
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on
Federal Courts, Oversight,
Agency Action, and
Federal Rights