

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 15, 2020

Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz,

On September 3, members of a U.S. Marshals' task force killed Michael Reinoehl, who was suspected of murder. A *New York Times* investigation casts doubt on whether the officers had legitimate grounds to kill Mr. Reinoehl. Based on accounts from eyewitnesses, the *Times* reconstruction of what occurred "raises questions about whether law enforcement officers made any serious attempt to arrest Mr. Reinoehl before killing him."<sup>1</sup> On October 15, Donald Trump stated, "We sent in the US Marshals, took 15 minutes it was over ... They knew who he was, they didn't want to arrest him and 15 minutes that ended." We respectfully request you open an investigation to determine if an extrajudicial killing occurred in this case.

Extrajudicial killings in the U.S. are illegal. As former prosecutors, the whole point of our jobs was to provide due process to those accused of crimes. Under our Constitution, the federal government cannot deprive a person of his or her life without due process of law, regardless of what crimes they are suspected of committing. The members of the U.S. Marshals' task force were legally authorized to use deadly force only if they or another person faced an imminent threat from Mr. Reinoehl. Based on both the reporting from the *Times* and the words of Donald Trump, that does not appear to be the case.

We request you open an investigation into the killing of Mr. Reinoehl. There are many questions to be answered, including but not limited to:

1. Were the U.S. Marshals given any type of order or suggestion that they kill Mr. Reinoehl without trying to arrest him first?

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<sup>1</sup> Evan Hill, Mike Baker, Derek Knowles and Stella Cooper, 'Straight to Gunshots': How a U.S. Task Force Killed an Antifa Activist, *New York Times*, Oct 13, 2020.

2. Did the President give any orders or suggestions to the U.S. Marshals related to the killing of Mr. Reinhoehl? If so, what was that order or suggestion?
3. Did the Attorney General give any orders or suggestions to the U.S. Marshals related to the killing of Mr. Reinhoehl? If so, what was that order or suggestion?
4. Did the U.S. Marshals have legitimate grounds to use deadly force?
5. What attempts, if any, were made to first arrest or subdue Mr. Reinhoehl?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress