



Focus on Religious Freedom

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DOJ Report Confirms: FACE Act Weaponized Against Pro-Lifers from 2021 through 2024

Pro-life activists have long insisted that the previous Justice Department targeted them for selective prosecution and harsh prison sentences.

Now, in a Department of Justice detailed report covering a year-long investigation that reviewed over 700,000 internal records, the current Department of Justice has confirmed that the prior DOJ weaponized the FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances) Act against pro-lifers engaged in peaceful prayer vigils or nonviolent civil disobedience.

Although the FACE Act “was supposed to protect both pro-choice and pro-life facilities,” the report found “the Biden DOJ provided extensive support to abortion clinics, while ignoring and downplaying vandalism and attacks against pregnancy resource centers,” and “pursued significantly harsher sentences for pro-life defendants than violent pro-abortion defendants.” In fact, the “Biden DOJ closely collaborated with pro-abortion groups” that tracked and reported on pro-lifers’ activities, “pushed targets for prosecution,” and “compiled evidence and dossiers (including pictures of targeted pro-lifers’ minor children) that ultimately gave rise to search warrants and charges.”

They “authorized aggressive arrest tactics” against peaceful pro-lifers, like Mark Houck of Pennsylvania, whose attorneys offered to have him surrender voluntarily. Instead, sixteen FBI agents, “visibly armed,” surrounded his home at 7:03 a.m., arresting and handcuffing him in front of his wife and seven children. Houck was later acquitted.

“The behavior unearthed in this report is shameful,” said Assistant Attorney General Daniel Burrows. “Lawyers who should have known better withheld evidence, worked to keep committed religious people off juries, and generally allowed the Department of Justice to be used as the enforcement arm of pro-abortion special interests.” “This Department will not tolerate a two-tiered system of justice,” Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said in a news release detailing steps to “rectify these wrongs,” including President Trump’s full pardons of many unfairly targeted pro-lifers.

In addition, the Trump DOJ has “settled civil cases to address the injustices” and taken “personnel action against those responsible;” dismissed three civil lawsuits against pro-life activists; and directed that “moving forward, DOJ prosecutors may only bring abortion-related civil actions and prosecutions under the FACE Act in extraordinary circumstances or in cases presenting significant aggravating factors.” **Read the DOJ report here** <https://tinyurl.com/jdxmehya>