

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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June 25, 2026

Mr. Ryan P. Haygood  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
c/o Mr. Abbe Lowell and Mr. David Kolansky  
Lowell & Associates, PLLC  
1250 H Street NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Haygood:

The Committee is continuing to conduct oversight of the Biden-Harris Administration's close coordination with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on federal civil rights matters.<sup>1</sup> In furtherance of this oversight, the Committee issued a subpoena to your predecessor, Bryan Fair, compelling the production of four categories of documents related to the SPLC's use of members of extremist groups as "field sources" and its close collaboration with the Biden-Harris Administration.<sup>2</sup> To date, the SPLC has failed to comply with the subpoena. Your refusal to comply has impeded the Committee's oversight and hindered its ability to develop legislative reforms to protect the integrity of federal civil rights enforcement.<sup>3</sup>

On April 23, 2026, the Committee requested information regarding the SPLC's use of field sources and its communications with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and its components.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g. *The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate, Hearing Before H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (2026); *The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate, Part II, Hearing Before H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (2026); *Partisan and Profitable: The SPLC's Influence on Federal Civil Rights Policy: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on the Const. & Limited Gov't of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (2025); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Hon. Pamela Bondi, Att'y Gen., U.S. Dep't of Just. (Nov. 25, 2025); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. Bryan Fair, Interim Pres. & Chief Exec. Officer, S. Poverty L. Ctr. (Apr. 23, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. Bryan Fair, Interim CEO & President, S. Poverty L. Ctr (May 20, 2026) (attaching subpoena); see also Letter from Brian Fair, Interim CEO & President, S. Poverty L. Ctr., to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (April 30, 2026) (on file with Committee); see also Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Brian Fair, Interim CEO & President, S. Poverty L. Ctr., (Apr. 23, 2026).

<sup>3</sup> *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 ("Without information, Congress would be shooting in the dark, unable to legislate 'wisely or effectively.'") (quoting *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 175 (1927)).

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. Bryan Fair, Interim Pres. & Chief Exec. Officer, S. Poverty L. Ctr. (Apr. 23, 2026).

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On April 30, 2026, Mr. Fair responded to the Committee asserting, without evidence, that its request for documents was “quite unusual,” and stating that he needed “time to address all the allegations.”<sup>5</sup> Then, on May 5, the SPLC’s Office of the General Counsel (OGC)<sup>6</sup> emailed the Committee reiterating the need for additional time before responding to its requests and stated that it was “working on a response to the [Committee’s] April 23, 2026 letter.”<sup>7</sup> On May 14, the Committee reiterated its request for documents with your counsel.<sup>8</sup>

On May 19, the Committee issued a subpoena to Mr. Fair for SPLC materials with a return date of June 3, 2026.<sup>9</sup> On June 1, your counsel informed the Committee that notice to the prosecutors and the court about the Committee’s subpoena had been provided, that the SPLC had taken steps to gather responsive documents, but that SPLC would be unable to meet the subpoena’s June 3 deadline. At this time, the Committee made an accommodation not to require the SPLC to produce responsive documents before its June 9 hearing.

During Mr. Fair’s testimony before the Committee on June 9, 2026, he refused to answer at least 36 times in response to questions related to the Committee’s oversight.<sup>10</sup> When asked about the SPLC’s compliance with the Committee’s subpoena, Mr. Fair stated, “SPLC’s counsel is working with this [C]ommittee’s counsel to respond.”<sup>11</sup> He also refused to answer numerous questions about the SPLC’s field source program, the shell companies that the SPLC created to pay field sources, and any crimes field sources allegedly committed while on the SPLC’s payroll.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Letter from Mr. Bryan Fair, Interim Pres. & Chief Exec. Officer, S. Poverty L. Ctr., to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Apr. 30, 2026) (on file with the Comm.).

<sup>6</sup> The email was sent from an email address titled “General Counsel” and signed by “the Office of the General Counsel, Southern Poverty Law Center.”

<sup>7</sup> Email from the Off. of the Gen. Couns., S. Poverty L. Ctr., to Committee Staff, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (May 5, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> Phone Call Between Comm. Staff, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, and Lowell & Associates, PPLC, (May 14, 2026).

<sup>9</sup> Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. Bryan Fair, Interim CEO & President, S. Poverty L. Ctr (May 20, 2026) (attaching subpoena).

<sup>10</sup> *The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate, Part II, Hearing Before H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (2026).

<sup>11</sup> *The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate, Part II, Hearing Before H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (2026) (statement of Bryan Fair, Interim President, SPLC).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 52, 73, 95, 110 (statement of Bryan Fair, Interim President, SPLC).

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The Committee has made several good-faith efforts to work with your counsel to obtain documents responsive to the subpoena. To date, the Committee has still not received any such documents. Therefore, the SPLC must promptly produce all materials responsive to the Committee's subpoena as soon as possible, but not later than 5:00 p.m. on July 9, 2026. The Committee is prepared to use available mechanisms to enforce its subpoena.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Jordan". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and "D".

Jim Jordan  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member