

The Political Persecution of Maryland Sheriff Chuck Jenkins

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As someone who attended Sheriff Chuck Jenkins' news conference on Tuesday, November 12, I was shocked by the woefully inadequate and misleading

coverage in the News-Post ("Feds Drop Case Against Sheriff" on November 13, front page) of how U.S. Attorney Ereik L. Barron ultimately surrendered in his two- and one-half-year campaign to imprison a sheriff with conservative views on border security. It was "pure hell," Jenkins said about what the federal government was doing to him and his family, and he said it amounted to a political assassination attempt.

Sheriff Jenkins, first elected in 2006, was under investigation and legal indictment for a total of 587 days, he said. The case was dismissed "with prejudice," meaning the case is closed and the charges cannot be refiled. It was a campaign Jenkins described as designed to ruin his reputation and destroy him financially, with federal authorities "knowing very well" he committed no crimes.

During this ordeal, the sheriff's service weapon was taken away, making him a vulnerable potential target for criminal illegal aliens and other street thugs.

The Remembrance Project, a voice for those killed by illegal aliens, had analyzed the case correctly, saying that Sheriff Jenkins was cooperating with Biden's DOJ and the ATF "when he was blind-sided by U.S. Attorney Ereik Barron in what looks to be a politically motivated sham indictment."

Their analysis was correct.

The News-Post referred to the case brought by the “government” against an innocent man without mentioning how U.S. Attorney Barron was appointed by the Biden-Harris Administration and that Jenkins was in line with President Trump and has conservative political views on matters like illegal immigration.

Barron was co-chair of the group Marylanders for Biden, which formed early in the 2020 presidential election campaign.

Only in this context does Jenkins’ point about an assassination attempt make sense.

“I feel like this was an assassination attempt very similar to President Trump on July 13,” Jenkins said. “I really do, in retrospect. It was a near miss. I was injured and I was bloodied, but I didn’t give up the fight. I will never give up that fight I never will.”

The News-Post article mentioned assistant U.S. Attorney Christine Goo moving to dismiss the original and revised indictments, but failed to note that she works for Biden-nominated U.S. attorney Erik Barron.

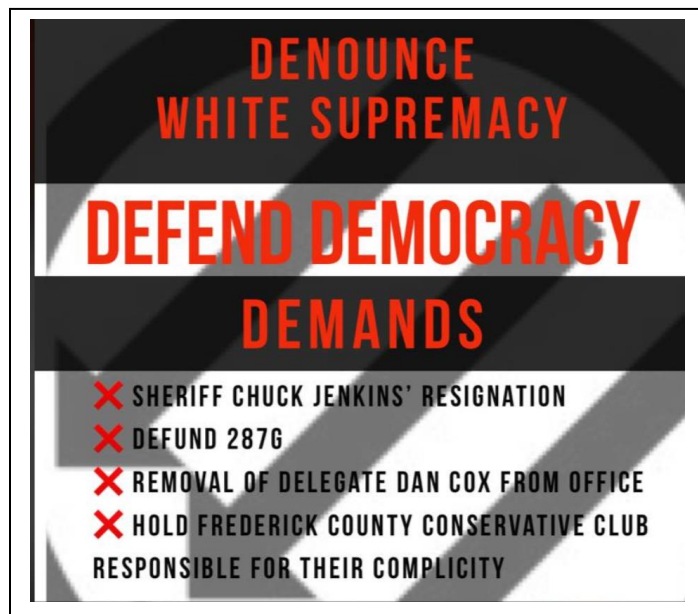
Goo was [described](#) in one article as having been assigned in the office to the Fraud and Public Corruption Unit, with a focus on police corruption.

If this was her specialty, she has failed in a spectacular way. Taxpayers have a right to know how much in public funds was wasted and what motivated this frivolous prosecution.

Asked point-blank if he was prosecuted for his stand against open borders, he looked at his attorney and they said “We are evaluating that.”

However, under further questioning, he confirmed that Barron, when he was in the Maryland state legislature, opposed Jenkins’ stand against so-called “sanctuary state” bills allowing illegal criminal aliens to seek refuge in and remain in Maryland.

He also said, “I know that over the course of my 18 years as sheriff I have been attacked by the ACLU, the NAACP, Black Lives Matter, Rise of Western Maryland – all the organizations that are opposed to what I do and what I stand for.”



He said, “In my mind I can connect the dots,” when asked what motivated the campaign against him. The anti-Jenkins forces, which attacked “white supremacy,” then-Delegate Dan Cox, and the Frederick County Conservative Club, included:

- The RISE (Resources for Immigrant Support and Empowerment) Coalition of Western Maryland is a lobby for illegal aliens which claimed that the indictment of the sheriff meant that “he brought dangerous weapons into our community for profit and political favors” and was therefore “unfit for office.”
- Black Lives Matter marched on the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office and demanded Jenkins’ removal.
- The local NAACP issued a statement about the indictment of Jenkins that decried the “increased militarization of civil police departments” and “increased Gestapo-like tactics” by the police.

Jenkins did indicate during the news conference that his associations with President Trump’s administration and support for enforcing laws against illegal immigration may have been a factor in the persecution. Jenkins was invited to the Trump White House because Frederick County, the largest county in the State of Maryland, was cited as more safe and secure because of Jenkins’ policies.

Jenkins was forced to defend himself in court, at considerable expense, over charges involving what amounted to alleged paperwork problems regarding the acquisition of machine guns for demonstration purposes by his office or a local shooting range and gun shop owner by the name of Robert Krop.

By contrast, Barron worked with Obama Attorney General Eric Holder, found guilty of contempt of Congress for refusing to release documents about his role in the “Fast and Furious” gun-running scandal.



Jenkins and Krop were [accused](#) of six federal crimes, including conspiracy and making false statements in the indictment announced on April 5, 2023, by Barron and Special Agent in Charge Toni M. Crosby of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Baltimore Field Division.

Jenkins and Krop faced a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison on some of the charges, while Krop also faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison for unlawful possession of a machine gun.

“Since October 2021,” his website says, “Mr. Barron has served as Maryland’s chief federal law enforcement officer, leading a staff of approximately 98 attorneys and 73 administrative and support professionals. He supervises the investigation and prosecution of all federal crimes and the litigation of all civil matters in which the United States has an interest.”

One of his goals is to “end gun violence.” One of the main goals, it appears, was to imprison Sheriff Jenkins.

At an event remembering the 1,200 victims of the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and the more than 100 hostages still held by the group in Gaza, Jenkins said that he fears a wave of crime and violence is being planned for the United States by “terror cells” and foreign criminal gangs already on American soil.

“He staked out an aggressive stance on detaining undocumented immigrants who are charged with crimes, which made him a national voice on that debate while sharpening opinions of him at home,” conceded the liberal Washington Post.

That national voice had to be silenced by the same administration trying to imprison President Trump.

The Remembrance Project, a voice for those killed by illegal aliens, was a strong backer of Jenkins and interviewed him on their YouTube show, where he talked about the impact of illegal alien crime in Frederick County and other areas. It declared:

Sheriff Jenkins has served the people since 2006 – 17 years of loyalty and service of placing the safety of Frederick County first. He cooperates with the federal government through the 287g program to turn over criminal illegal aliens to I.C.E. Jenkins has spoken against sanctuary jurisdictions for criminal illegal aliens, has testified before Congress on safety, supports parents whose children were murdered by criminal illegal aliens and correctly predicted that without a secure border every county will be ‘a border county.’ Jenkins also said that Biden’s immigration actions will make the U.S. less safe – and he was correct, once again.

After the indictments, the group declared:

Last week Sheriff Jenkins was “politically targeted” by what looks to be an attempt to tarnish his good name, good work, and because he cannot be beaten at the ballot box; much like the increasingly-popular former President Donald Trump.

The parallel to this political targeting is blaringly obvious to what is happening to President Trump. If Donald Trump supports you, then you become a target,

especially if you were endorsed by Trump. Sheriff Jenkins also participated in a number of roundtable discussions and press conferences with President Trump.

Krop was acquitted by a jury before the charges against Jenkins were dropped for lack of evidence. His attorney, Dan Cox, [referred](#) to the vexatious, frivolous, and false charges and said the case constituted Biden-Harris lawfare against a leading border security sheriff.

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ACLU accuses county sheriff of civil rights violations

Jenkins defends office's use of 287(g) program for immigration enforcement

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The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is among 54 law enforcement agencies accused of "egregious" civil rights violations in an immigration-focused report released by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The report, released Wednesday, labels Sheriff Chuck Jenkins as "anti-immigrant," highlights a 2019 racial profiling lawsuit filed against him and his agency and calls for the Biden administration to end the federal 287(g) immigration program, of which FCSO is a participant.

"The 287(g) program is a jail based program, and has nothing to do with profiling, law enforcement operations on the street, or jail conditions in the housing of detainees," Jenkins wrote in an email to the News-Post on Wednesday afternoon when asked for his response. "This has nothing to do with legal immigration which I am not opposed to, however I am opposed to illegal immigration, open border policies, and the failure in enforcing our immigration laws."

The 287(g) program allows partnerships between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and state and local law enforcement agencies. Through 287(g), FCSO can look into the immigration status of people booked at the detention center and begin deportation proceedings if necessary.

Jenkins has been a vocal supporter of the program, which began at FCSO in 2008.

In its 63-page report, the ACLU takes aim at Jenkins and other police officials who partner with ICE. The report is titled "License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs and Civil Rights Violations."

Researchers for the report examined 142 state and local law enforcement agencies that had 287(g) partnerships as of April 2022, according to the ACLU. The



Jenkins

(See ACLU A14)

In connecting the dots, we not only have to consider the attacks on Jenkins by the ACLU and other left-wing groups, but the anti-Jenkins bias of the Frederick News-Post. One article was splashed across the paper in a sensational manner designed to make Jenkins look guilty.

My on-line search found several articles quoting attacks on Jenkins by the ACLU, Rep. David Trone, "immigrant rights groups," and others. After the indictments were filed, a writer [attacked](#) Jenkins and Krop in the pages of the News-Post as "not very bright guys" and made fun of attorney Dan Cox and President Trump as well.

Such smears should not appear in a responsible newspaper.

After the exoneration, the News-Post reported, "Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater had no comment on the development in Jenkins' case, according to spokesperson Vivian Laxton." Fitzwater is a critic of Jenkins.

What about the response from Barron's office?

Defenders of Jenkins sent letters to the editor. The Frederick County Conservative Club organized a rally in 2020 in support of Jenkins. Another event, organized by Citizens for 287(g), was held in support of Jenkins. Both events were covered by the News-Post.

As an ally of President Trump and a conservative Republican opposing open borders, Jenkins was an obvious political target – for the Democrats and the News-Post.

Carrying the anti-Jenkins campaign to an extreme, the ACLU and its Maryland chapter had filed an administrative complaint with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security,

asking its Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to investigate Jenkins. That added to the left-wing pressure on the Biden-Harris Administration to continue to target Jenkins.

Trone, who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate, had called on the Biden Administration to end an illegal immigration enforcement agreement between the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Jenkins testified on numerous occasions against sanctuary policies not only before the Maryland General Assembly but on the federal level. On April 19, 2016, for example, he [testified](#) before Congress that the Frederick County Sheriff's Office had been committed to illegal immigration enforcement by partnering with Homeland Security and ICE in the 287g Delegation of Authority program since 2008. Jenkins was first elected in 2006. On September 26, 2019, Jenkins had [testified](#) before Congress in support of ICE and against sanctuary policies.

Apparently operating on the bogus "theory" that Jenkins got money for allegedly signing letters to obtain machine guns for demonstration purposes, Jenkins said "They sifted through my personal finances, my emails, my bank accounts, my credit, my campaign finance records, my contributions for election over the past 16 years. They found nothing." He said, "They refused to listen to the truth." He said ATF agents secretly recorded his conversations during an interview, as part of the frame-up job.

While noting there was never any evidence of any "conspiracy" to obtain machine guns, he said demonstrations of high-powered weapons are necessary so that police can understand what criminals on the streets have access to and the damage they can inflict. "The ATF lets these weapons out on the street," he said. "I don't." Jenkins said he learned of his indictment through the media and that Barron's office didn't even have the courtesy to inform his attorneys in advance.

"There was never a case," said Jenkins lawyer Andrea Smith. "There was never a conspiracy." Jenkins and the other target, Krop, who was acquitted, "didn't know each other." No evidence was ever presented by the government, she said, adding that Jenkins spoke freely with the ATF because he had nothing to hide. Jenkins also offered to speak to the prosecutors and "they weren't interested," she said.

The other co-counsel, Margaret "Mimi" Teahan, who is based locally in Frederick County, discussed Jenkins' integrity and honesty and his popular support.

In addition to his activity in the Maryland legislature, where he was a leading liberal Democrat, Barron once [served](#) as policy advisor to then-Senator Biden and was a [member](#) of President Obama's Transition Team where he worked with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

As noted, however, Holder was implicated in the "Fast and Furious" gun-running scandal involving weapons transfers to the Mexican drug cartels. The Congress found him in contempt for refusing to comply with demands for documents concerning his role

in this scandal. The vote was 255-67, with 17 Democrats voting in support of a criminal contempt resolution.

The ATF was [accused](#) of “dangerous misconduct” in the scandal and a U.S. Border Patrol agent, Brian Terry, was killed with guns tied to the Fast and Furious program,

In view of this, the assault by the chief federal law enforcement officer for the State of Maryland on an elected sheriff because he refused to toe the Democratic Party line on open borders must be exposed and addressed in this notorious case involving weaponization of government.

The media have an obligation to examine whether the real corruption resides in the office of U.S. Attorney. I wait for the News-Post to get to the bottom of this scandal and hold the Biden-Harris regime and U.S. Attorney Barron accountable for this abuse of the criminal justice system.

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