

NANCY MACE
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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



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February 17, 2026

The Honorable John L. Ratcliffe
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
George Bush Center for Intelligence
1000 Colonial Farm Road
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Director Ratcliffe:

We write to request the opportunity to view any and all records, documents, images, video, photographs, communications, passports and other materials in the possession of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) related to Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell and any of their activities.

Files released by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), pursuant to the Epstein Files Transparency Act (Public Law 119-38), show in 2011 lawyers on behalf of Jeffrey Epstein filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records to show his affiliation with the CIA.

While the CIA's 2011 response indicated the agency was unable to locate any information or records "that might reflect an open or otherwise acknowledged Agency affiliation" with Epstein, the CIA "with respect to responsive records that would reveal a classified connection to the CIA... can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of responsive records."

The CIA response went on to say "the fact of the existence or nonexistence of requested records is currently and properly classified and is intelligence sources and methods information that is protected from disclosure." This amounts to a refusal by the CIA to acknowledge whether records existed to link the CIA to Epstein, going as far as to say even acknowledging if they exist or not is "classified."

There are other signs of a relationship between Epstein and the CIA. One of Epstein's attorneys, Kathryn Ruemmler, who was also White House counsel under President Barack Obama, received the highest honor from the CIA from then-Director John Brennan, and told Epstein about it.

@RepNancyMace

Epstein repeatedly referred to entering a SCIF. Someone described to him an In-Q-Tel-funded project. In a 2015 email to Ruemmler, Epstein writes "it looks like a cia drop."

Epstein did business or had ties to individuals who were involved in the CIA's Iran Contra scandal. One of Epstein's first clients was Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer who was the central middleman in the CIA's Iran-Contra operation. Epstein oversaw the repurposing of CIA front/contractor "Southern Air Transport" for Leslie Wexner. Epstein worked for Douglas Leese, an arms dealer who introduced Epstein to Khashoggi. Epstein appears to have been an intermediary to Norinco, the Chinese state owned defense company. and Epstein held ties with the cofounder and owner of US defense contractor DynCorp.

Epstein had contact with powerful diplomats, including former CIA Director William Burns, and representatives of foreign governments, including a U.K. official who recently was forced to step down after it was revealed he gave Epstein confidential financial information.

At a minimum, the National Resources Division (NR) of the CIA would likely have had extensive contact with Epstein over the years, given its focus on debriefing high-level business people and investors who travel frequently abroad, do business with foreign officials, and who have links to restricted areas, which Epstein, appeared to have. All of this suggests not only does the CIA have information on Epstein, it should have a large amount of information, over several decades, and covering many issues.

Given this information, we believe it is essential to Congress' oversight responsibilities and in the public interest to understand what relationship, if any, the CIA had with Jeffrey Epstein, and what information, if any, the CIA has about Epstein and his activities.

We respectfully request the CIA search all records, classified and unclassified, to identify any records relating to Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, and make those records available to us to review. Further, we believe any records which may exist, to the maximum extent allowable by law, should be disclosed to the public.

The American people - and the survivors of Epstein's heinous crimes - deserve complete transparency on whether the CIA had any affiliation with prolific sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein or had any knowledge of his nefarious activities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Mace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

@RepNancyMace