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Press Release

DA Morrissey joins over 60 AGs and Elected Prosecutors Condemning Attack on Capitol as Assault on Democracy

Leaders call for President Trump and others to be held accountable

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Following the Jan. 6 attacks on the U.S. Capitol by armed insurrectionists, Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey has joined over 60 elected prosecutors from around the nation issuing a joint statement condemning President Trump's incitement of violence and attempts to undermine the results of a fair and free election.

The statement calls for accountability for anyone who incited or was involved in the attack as well as all who failed to adequately prepare for or appropriately respond to it. The statement underscores the damage done by eroding faith in our nation's democratic processes, and also urges all elected leaders to immediately accept the results of the 2020 election.

"Those of us who have sworn an oath to protect and defend the Constitution should not be silent in this crisis, and cannot pretend it is less serious than it is," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The effort to disrupt the presentation of the Electoral College ballots that day cost the life of Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick and others. It is all outrageous."

Massachusetts District Attorneys Marian Ryan, David Sullivan, Andrea Harrington, and Rachael Rollins also joined the statement.

The statement calls for President Trump and all other elected leaders to "denounce these attacks and those who participated in them in no uncertain terms, to cease perpetuating mistruths that are fanning distrust and division in our nation, and to accept the results of the 2020 election." The statement also contrasts how other law enforcement agencies responded during the past year to overwhelmingly peaceful protests for racial equity across the country with mass arrests, force and militarization, yet some police faced accusations of standing aside for the crowd in Washington. The leaders call for systemic transformation and an independent Justice Department to restore integrity to the federal government.

"The assault we saw on the Capitol this week was the culmination of four years of a relentless narrative that has perpetuated untruths and attacks on the rule of law and our democratic norms and institutions," said Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution, the organizer of the statement. "The president's repeated efforts to impede and ignore the will of the people is an imminent threat to public safety and to the future of our Republic. Elected prosecutors have a duty to promote justice and therefore a responsibility to speak out in the face of this brazen and dangerous erosion of the very foundation of our government."

The signatories also point to the inextricable connection between trust in the justice system and public safety: "President Trump and (a number of) his supporters have repeatedly incited violence and perpetuated conspiracy theories with devastating consequences. Public trust is at the heart of public safety, yet trust in government and our legal system has plummeted in the last four years. Words matter. And false narratives of a stolen election and efforts to disenfranchise countless Americans by ignoring their votes are attacks on our democracy and law and order, threatening the very wellbeing of our country."

Read the full statement and see the list of signatories [here](#).