



Written by [Rebecca Terrell](#) on March 2, 2023

## Attorney General Garland Gets a Grilling

Fireworks exploded on Capitol Hill this week as U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee. His annual oversight [hearing](#) on Wednesday was packed with “must-see” moments.

Senators grilled him on a wide range of topics, including investigations into both President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, as well as former President Donald Trump, fentanyl deaths, and more.

In a heated exchange, Texas Republican Ted Cruz pounced on Garland for not being more aggressive in prosecuting protesters who threatened Supreme Court justices in regard to the *Roe v. Wade* reversal last summer. He also peppered him with questions about the FBI’s arrest of pro-life advocate Mark Houck.



AP Images  
Merrick Garland

🔊🔊🔊 FIREWORKS! Ted Cruz & Merrick Garland go at it during Senate hearing on the Department of Justice [pic.twitter.com/6PUefoSGbb](https://pic.twitter.com/6PUefoSGbb)

— The NPC Show (@TheNPCShow) [March 1, 2023](#)

Senator Josh Hawley rallied to Houck’s defense as well. Though the Missouri Republican displayed photos from security video at the Houcks’ residence that upheld his description of the raid, Garland repeatedly insisted that FBI documentation is “not consistent” with the senator’s description of the event. Hawley went on to ask pointed questions about the FBI’s targeting of various religious groups.

Sen. [@HawleyMO](#) destroys Garland Mark Houck arrest: "You used an unbelievable show of force with guns, that I just note, liberals usually decry. We're supposed to hate long guns and assault-style weapons, you're happy to deploy them against Catholics and innocent children." [pic.twitter.com/1xyK3ANefP](https://pic.twitter.com/1xyK3ANefP)

— Media Research Center (@theMRC) [March 1, 2023](#)

FBI says “traditionalist Catholics” are a terrorist risk and should be monitored. So how many spies and sources do they have in America’s churches? Garland won’t answer [pic.twitter.com/KjXd1pWjFD](https://pic.twitter.com/KjXd1pWjFD)

— Josh Hawley (@HawleyMO) [March 1, 2023](#)

Utah’s Republican Senator Mike Lee kept the heat on with queries about disparity between the FBI’s



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prosecution of abortion clinic protesters and pregnancy help-center firebombers. Garland countered that pro-lifers work in the daylight and are therefore easier to catch. Their counterparts “are clever” and “are doing it in secret” and at night, which is apparently too much for the FBI.

Mike Lee was waiting for this moment:

"DOJ has announced charges against 34 individuals for blocking access to abortion clinics... There have been over 81 reported attacks on pregnancy centers and only 2 individuals have been charged!" [pic.twitter.com/pyeb7OH04f](https://pic.twitter.com/pyeb7OH04f)

— Citizen Free Press (@CitizenFreePres) [March 1, 2023](#)

Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) also pursued the issue of firebombing pregnancy help-centers, focusing on the radical group Jane’s Revenge. Garland claimed that the FBI could not find anyone associated with the organization and asked the senator to forward any information she might have.

Jane's Revenge claimed responsibility for firebombing pregnancy centers and went as far as spray painting their names on the wall, but Merrick Garland admitted that he couldn't find them.

It's his job to find Jane's Revenge and prosecute them. [pic.twitter.com/Woq36MCWhW](https://pic.twitter.com/Woq36MCWhW)

— Sen. Marsha Blackburn (@MarshaBlackburn) [March 1, 2023](#)

Arkansas Republican Tom Cotton took the AG to task about the crisis at our southern border.

Tom Cotton grills Merrick Garland on The Border Crisis [pic.twitter.com/hSq4h14MSq](https://pic.twitter.com/hSq4h14MSq)

— The NPC Show (@TheNPCShow) [March 1, 2023](#)

And Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana, also a Republican, questioned Garland regarding FBI targeting of parents who attend school-board meetings to criticize Covid policies and perverse curricula being pushed in public schools.

Ted Kennedy Grills Merrick Garland on Politically Persecuting Parents At School Board Meetings [pic.twitter.com/prvrbyzDPc](https://pic.twitter.com/prvrbyzDPc)

— The NPC Show (@TheNPCShow) [March 1, 2023](#)

The full committee hearing is available [here](#). Coverage begins at 16:41 into the video.



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