

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 11, 2026

Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

We are writing with questions about the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) reportedly "transactional nature" after its recent request to drop its criminal case against Gautam Adani.¹ This backtracking on white-collar crime prosecution came after Mr. Adani hired President Trump's personal lawyer and reportedly promised last month to invest \$10 billion in the United States if the DOJ stopped prosecuting him.² The DOJ had alleged that Mr. Adani was involved in a scheme to induce billions of dollars of investments under false and misleading pretenses and was involved in a wide-ranging bribery scandal.³ Yet, last month, the Department sought a court's permission to drop its prosecution of the tycoon.⁴ While the DOJ supposedly communicated that Mr. Adani's investment "proposal would play no role in the resolution of [his] criminal case,"⁵ its decision to halt its prosecution raises serious questions about corruption under President Trump and about the role that Mr. Adani's politically salient offer played in the DOJ's decision.

¹ The New York Times, "Federal Prosecutors Move to Drop Bribery Case Against Indian Magnate," Santul Nerkar and Alex Travelli, May 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/18/nyregion/gautam-adani-indictment-trump.html>.

² *Id.*; The New York Times, "U.S. Set to Drop Charges Against Indian Billionaire Accused of Fraud," Nicole Hong, Ben Protess, William K. Rashbaum, et al., May 14, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/14/nyregion/gautam-adani-billionaire-doj-trump.html>.

³ United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of New York, "Billionaire Chairman of Conglomerate and Seven Other Senior Business Executives Indicted in Connection With Scheme to Pay Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in Bribes and Conceal Bribery Scheme From U.S. Investors," press release, November 20, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/billionaire-chairman-conglomerate-and-seven-other-senior-business-executives-indicted>.

⁴ *Id.*; The New York Times, "Federal Prosecutors Move to Drop Bribery Case Against Indian Magnate," Santul Nerkar and Alex Travelli, May 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/18/nyregion/gautam-adani-indictment-trump.html>.

⁵ The New York Times, "Federal Prosecutors Move to Drop Bribery Case Against Indian Magnate," Santul Nerkar and Alex Travelli, May 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/18/nyregion/gautam-adani-indictment-trump.html>.

In 2024, the DOJ indicted Mr. Adani, the 17th wealthiest person in the world.⁶ The DOJ alleged that the billionaire-mogul was involved in a scheme to bribe Indian government officials to the tune of \$250 million and to lie to investors to receive billions more in investments from other entities – during which alleged scheme Adani Green Energy Ltd raised at least \$175 million from U.S. investors.⁷ The DOJ indictment alleged that Mr. Adani directly knew details of the bribery scheme, facilitated the promise of bribes, was referred to by his co-conspirators as “Numero uno” and “the big man,” and then “engaged in a scheme to obtain United States dollar-denominated financing for the Indian Energy Company and its subsidiaries.”⁸ As described by the then-Deputy Assistant U.S. Attorney General, “These offenses were allegedly committed by senior executives and directors to obtain and finance massive state energy supply contracts through corruption and fraud at the expense of U.S. investors.”⁹

Mr. Adani appeared to engage in transparent influence-peddling to avoid accountability. First, he hired a new legal team led by Robert J. Giuffra Jr., one of President Trump’s personal attorneys.¹⁰ In April, Mr. Giuffra reportedly met with prosecutors at DOJ headquarters to try and convince them to drop the charges. As part of his pitch to prosecutors, Mr. Giuffra reportedly included a highly unusual offer that the tycoon would invest \$10 billion in the U.S. economy if prosecutors dropped the charges against him.¹¹ While prosecutors reportedly “told Mr. Giuffra that the \$10 billion investment would play no role in the resolution of the criminal case,” it was reported that “his offer received a favorable response from at least one senior Justice Department official at the meeting.”¹² Then, last month, without providing any substantive rationale beyond its desire to not “devote further resources” to the case, the DOJ sought a court’s permission to

⁶ Bloomberg, “Bloomberg Billionaires Index,” <https://www.bloomberg.com/billionaires/profiles/gautam-s-adani/>; The New York Times, “U.S. Charges Indian Billionaire Adani With Fraud Over Bribery Scheme,” Nico Grant, November 20, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/20/technology/gautam-adani-bribery-charges.html>.

⁷ United States Attorney’s Office Eastern District of New York, “Billionaire Chairman of Conglomerate and Seven Other Senior Business Executives Indicted in Connection With Scheme to Pay Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in Bribes and Conceal Bribery Scheme From U.S. Investors,” press release, November 20, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/billionaire-chairman-conglomerate-and-seven-other-senior-business-executives-indicted>; U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, “SEC Charges Three Senior Executives in Two Actions Alleging Massive Bribery Scheme Involving Indian Energy Companies Adani Green and Azure Power,” press release, November 21, 2024, <https://www.sec.gov/enforcement-litigation/litigation-releases/lr-26177>.

⁸ Mr. Adani was an executive and Chairman of the “Indian Energy Company,” United States of America v. Gautam S. Adani et al., No. 24-CR-443 (E.D.N.Y., October 24, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/media/1377806/dl?inline>.

⁹ United States Attorney’s Office Eastern District of New York, “Billionaire Chairman of Conglomerate and Seven Other Senior Business Executives Indicted in Connection With Scheme to Pay Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in Bribes and Conceal Bribery Scheme From U.S. Investors,” press release, November 20, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/billionaire-chairman-conglomerate-and-seven-other-senior-business-executives-indicted>.

¹⁰ The New York Times, “U.S. Set to Drop Charges Against Indian Billionaire Accused of Fraud,” Nicole Hong, Ben Protess, William K. Rashbaum, et al., May 14, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/14/nyregion/gautam-adani-billionaire-doj-trump.html>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

drop all charges against Mr. Adani with prejudice, which would preclude the DOJ from filing the same charges against him again.¹³

Bribery distorts the broader market by undercutting honest businesses who do not pay bribes,¹⁴ and could lead to a race-to-the-bottom as the marketplace moves from seeking value to seeking payoffs. And when corporate executives rely on bribes rather than honest salesmanship, investors can be misled about the risk of putting their money into these corporations.¹⁵

But the DOJ's actions doubly undermine global efforts to combat bribery: they appear to reduce accountability for the crime of bribery while also suggesting that quid-pro-quo can successfully undermine the enforcement of our laws. The DOJ's decision gives the appearance that Mr. Adani – with the help of one of the President's personal lawyers – bought his way to criminal immunity, trading the promise of an investment in the United States for immunity from an alleged multi-billion dollar bribery scheme. The DOJ also risks furthering the misperception that bribery pays in the long run. Mr. Adani had additional economic incentives to make this offer because the dropped charges likely opened up additional business opportunities for his conglomerate. Shares of the Adani Group rose 5.3 percent the day after the DOJ filed to drop the charges,¹⁶ and, as one prominent lawyer described, “in America, [the Adani Group] will start their business in a big way because now allegations have been withdrawn.”¹⁷ This fact pattern indicates that Mr. Adani sought to engage in a quid-pro-quo agreement with the DOJ to evade justice, and could enrich himself in the process.

Additionally, the DOJ's decision threatens to further a troubling pattern when promoting accountability seems more appropriate. Mr. Adani has previously been criticized for allegedly receiving preferential treatment from the Indian government, including allegations that government contracts were steered to his company, the Adani Group.¹⁸ For example, members of

¹³ The New York Times, “Federal Prosecutors Move to Drop Bribery Case Against Indian Magnate,” Santul Nerkar and Alex Travelli, May 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/18/nyregion/gautam-adani-indictment-trump.html>; Politico, “DOJ moves to drop charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani,” Declan Harty, Michael Stratford, and Erica Orden, May 18, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/05/18/treasury-settlement-adani-enterprises-iran-energy-00926090>.

¹⁴ Compliance & Enforcement, “Crippling the FCPA Is Bad Business for the U.S.,” Stephen M. Kohn, March 13, 2025, https://wp.nyu.edu/compliance_enforcement/2025/03/13/crippling-the-fcpa-is-bad-business-for-the-u-s/.

¹⁵ Willkie Compliance, “Fines, Penalties, and Sanctions,” <https://complianceconcourse.willkie.com/resources/anti-bribery-and-corruption-enforcement-fines-penalties-and-sanctions/>; Business and Human Rights Centre, “Six reasons why corporations like (and want) the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act even if they won't admit it,” Conniel Malek, June 13, 2017, <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/blog/six-reasons-why-corporations-like-and-want-the-foreign-corrupt-practices-act-even-if-they-wont-admit-it/>.

¹⁶ Reuters, “Adani Group stocks rise after US drops fraud charges against Gautam Adani,” Surbhi Misra, May 18, 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/adani-group-stocks-rise-after-us-drops-fraud-charges-against-gautam-adani-2026-05-19/>.

¹⁷ The Economic Times, “Adani Group will start business in big way in US because allegations have been withdrawn: Senior Advocate HP Ranina,” May 19, 2026, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/adani-group-will-start-business-in-big-way-in-us-because-allegations-have-been-withdrawn-senior-advocate-hp-ranina/articleshow/131205742.cms>.

¹⁸ The New York Times, “Bribery Charges Against Tycoon Strike at Heart of Modi's India,” Alex Travelli, November 21, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/21/business/gautam-adani-bribery-indictment.html>; AP,

President Modi's party were accused of changing the requirements for which corporations can win contracts to develop airports to allow the Adani Group to win contracts for six of the country's airports.¹⁹

Mr. Adani's discussions also extended beyond the DOJ. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had been pursuing a parallel civil case based on the allegations under investigation, but last month sought to settle the case, without an admission of wrongdoing by Mr. Adani, by allowing him to pay merely \$6 million in financial penalties.²⁰ The next week, the Treasury Department settled with a subsidiary of Mr. Adani's company, Adani Enterprises, following allegations it had violated sanctions by shipping liquified petroleum gas that originated from Iran.²¹

Any DOJ decision to drop charges against Mr. Adani following the reported quid-pro-quo offer would be remarkable on its own. But it would be even more troublesome given the cloud of corruption hanging over the Department and its treatment of the President's allies and wealthy white-collar criminals. Notably, the DOJ has facilitated multiple pardons of individuals who made significant campaign donations to the President, including Trevor Milton, who, along with his wife, donated more than \$1.8 million to a campaign fund working to reelect President Trump and \$750,000 to a "pro-Trump" super-PAC before receiving a pardon,²² and Paul Walczak, whose mother attended a \$1 million per person fundraiser three weeks before her son received a full pardon.²³ Further, in the first six months of the Administration, the DOJ declined to

"US agrees to settle lawsuit that accused an Indian billionaire of hiding an alleged bribery scheme," May 14, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/adani-lawsuit-settlement-8c2cfafe46e83c1de7dba4273c630074>.

¹⁹ Janata Weekly, "Explainer: Why Rahul Gandhi Accused Modi Government of Bending Rules to Hand Over Airports to Adani," Arunabh Saikia, February 19, 2023, <https://janataweekly.org/explainer-why-rahul-gandhi-accused-modi-government-of-bending-rules-to-hand-over-airports-to-adani/>; CNBC TV18, "Adani's winning bids for six airports: Former privatisation panel head explains key policy changes," Madeeha Mujawar, February 9, 2023, <https://www.cnbc18.com/aviation/adani-winning-bids-for-six-airports-former-head-of-privatisation-panel-explains-key-policy-changes-15898141.htm>.

²⁰ The Washington Post, "DOJ expected to drop fraud charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani," Jeremy Roebuck and Perry Stein, May 15, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/05/15/doj-expected-drop-fraud-charges-against-indian-billionaire-gautam-adani/>.

²¹ U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Settlement Agreement between the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control and Adani Enterprises Limited," press release, May 18, 2026, <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20260518>; Reuters, "Trump administration ends civil, criminal cases against Adani after \$10 billion investment promise," Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff and Luc Cohen, May 18, 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/us-treasury-announces-275-million-settlement-with-indias-adani-enterprises-2026-05-18/>.

²² AP, "Convicted of bilking investors, Nikola founder and Trump donor gets a presidential pardon," Matt Ott, March 28, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/nikola-trevor-milton-fraud-trump-pardon-3fceb0a3820cecb205656f2dc3f6764>; The Washington Post, "Trump's pardons wipe out payments to defrauded victims," Beth Reinhard and Aaron Schaffer, December 19, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/12/19/donald-trump-pardons-trevor-milton-nikola/>; United States v. Trevor Milton, 1:21-cr-00478-ER, Document 361, (S.D.N.Y., March 14, 2025), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.nysd.564174/gov.uscourts.nysd.564174.361.0.pdf>.

²³ The New York Times, "Trump Pardoned Tax Cheat After Mother Attended \$1 Million Dinner," Kenneth P. Vogel, May 27, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/us/politics/trump-pardon-paul-walczak-tax-crimes.html>.

prosecute over 6,000 white-collar crime cases, a 59 percent increase over the last three Administrations, including Trump I.²⁴ This refusal to prosecute those accused of white-collar crimes allows guilty parties to get off scot-free, keeping their ill-gotten wealth earned by cheating hard-working Americans.

The reports of Mr. Adani's offer to the DOJ last month appear to represent an egregious quid-pro-quo offer and a blatant attempt by a wealthy individual to buy his way to leniency – and the DOJ's decision to seek to drop all criminal charges against him weeks later gives the appearance that the DOJ is an equal partner in corrupt behavior. To better understand the full extent of the DOJ's actions and its current operating practices, we request answers to the following questions no later than June 25, 2026:

1. Did Mr. Adani, or his representatives, make an offer, implicitly or explicitly, to invest \$10 billion in the United States if the DOJ dropped its prosecution of him? If yes, provide:
 - a. The date(s) on which such an offer was made;
 - b. The names and titles of the DOJ employees present when the offer was made;
 - c. The precise wording and terms of the offer(s);
 - d. The explanation provided by Mr. Adani or his representative, if any, as to why he could not make this investment before the DOJ dropped its charges;²⁵
 - e. A description of how the DOJ employees present in any such meeting reacted to the offer; and
 - f. A description of how any other DOJ employees aware of the offer reacted to the offer.

2. How did the DOJ come to the decision to drop the charges against Mr. Adani?
 - a. Who made the final decision to drop the charges? Provide the names of all DOJ employees who this individual consulted with when making this decision.
 - b. Did any DOJ employees advise against ceasing the prosecution? If yes, provide the rationale such employee(s) gave for moving forwards with the prosecution.
 - c. On what date did the DOJ internally decide to seek to end its prosecution?

²² AP, "Convicted of bilking investors, Nikola founder and Trump donor gets a presidential pardon," Matt Ott, March 28, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/nikola-trevor-milton-fraud-trump-pardon-3fceb0a3820cecb205656f2dc3f6764>; The Washington Post, "Trump's pardons wipe out payments to defrauded victims," Beth Reinhard and Aaron Schaffer, December 19, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/12/19/donald-trump-pardons-trevor-milton-nikola/>; United States v. Trevor Milton, 1:21-cr-00478-ER, Document 361, (S.D.N.Y., March 14, 2025), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.nysd.564174/gov.uscourts.nysd.564174.361.0.pdf>.

²³ The New York Times, "Trump Pardoned Tax Cheat After Mother Attended \$1 Million Dinner," Kenneth P. Vogel, May 27, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/us/politics/trump-pardon-paul-walczak-tax-crimes.html>.

²⁴ ProPublica, "Trump's Justice Department Dropped 23,000 Criminal Investigations in Shift to Immigration," Ken B. Morales and David Armstrong, March 31, 2026, <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-doj-immigration-bondi-declinations-criminal-investigations>.

²⁵ Reuters, "US set to drop criminal fraud case against India's Gautam Adani, sources say, as deal reached in civil case," Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff and Andrew Goudsward, May 14, 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-set-drop-criminal-fraud-case-against-indias-gautam-adani-sources-say-deal-2026-05-15/>.

- d. Why did the DOJ decide to terminate its prosecution? Provide all factors considered in its decision-making process.
 - e. Did any DOJ employee consult with the White House in coming to the decision to cease its prosecution? If yes, provide the names of the individual(s) at the White House who were consulted.
 - f. Were you involved in any aspect of the decision? If yes, describe his role in the decision to cease prosecution.
 - g. Was President Trump or Vice President Vance involved in any aspect of the decision? If yes, describe the role the President and/or Vice President played in the decision to cease prosecution.
 - h. Did the DOJ give anyone at the White House, SEC, or Treasury Department forewarning that it was intending to cease its prosecution? If yes, provide the dates of DOJ's forewarning and the names of the individual(s) given forewarning.
3. Did anyone from the White House have any communications related to Mr. Adani's case with any member of the DOJ, including the prosecutorial team handling Mr. Adani's case or any member of DOJ leadership? If yes, provide the date of such communications, the parties involved in each communication, and a detailed description of each communication, including copies of any relevant documents or emails.
 4. Did anyone from the White House have any communications related to Mr. Adani's offer to make an investment in the United States with any member of the DOJ, including the prosecutorial team handling Mr. Adani's case or any member of DOJ leadership? If yes, provide the date of such communications, the parties involved in each communication, and a detailed description of each communication, including copies of any relevant documents or emails.
 5. Did anyone from the DOJ have any communication with any individual from the SEC or Treasury Department related to the agencies' decisions to settle with Mr. Adani? If yes, provide the date of such communications, the parties involved in each communication, and a detailed description of each communication, including copies of any relevant documents or emails.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator