



**THREAT ANALYSIS**

# **2024 US Presidential Election: Politically Motivated Threats Target Range of Stakeholders**

**August 2024**

**RESEARCH**



# Table of Contents

<b>2024 US Presidential Election: Politically Motivated Threats Target Range of Stakeholders</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Government Employees</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Election Workers</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Courtroom Participants</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Judges and Attorneys</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Jurors</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>How Can Nisos Help</b>	<b>16</b>

## **DISCLAIMER:**

The reporting contained herein from the Nisos research organization consists of analysis reflecting assessments of probability and levels of confidence and should not necessarily be construed as fact. All content is provided on an as-is basis and does not constitute professional advice, and its accuracy reflects the reliability, timeliness, authority, and relevancy of the sourcing underlying those analytic assessments.



# 2024 US Presidential Election: Politically Motivated Threats Target Range of Stakeholders

Thomas Matthew Crook's attempt to assassinate former president and current presidential candidate Donald Trump during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on 13 July 2024 highlights the escalating risk of physical harm targeting political figures during the 2024 election cycle; however, politicians are not the only high-risk targets of politically motivated threats. In the joint FBI/DHS intelligence bulletin highlighting concern for possible retaliatory attacks in response to the assassination attempt on former president Trump, the agencies stated "election-related targets" could become victims of politically motivated acts of violence, as individuals in online communities incite, discuss, and post threats directed at political targets amid worsening political polarization in a fraught election cycle.<sup>1 2</sup>

In this report, Nisos focused on politically motivated actors using threatening language on social media to target government employees, members of law enforcement, elections officials, members of the judiciary, and even individuals carrying out their civic duties. Nisos assesses that politically motivated threats and harassment directed at these sets of high-risk individuals will continue throughout the 2024 election cycle, putting significant pressure on social media platforms and executive protection and security teams to maintain a comprehensive awareness of a rapidly shifting threat landscape. Nisos leverages cross-platform visibility and analytical expertise to provide comprehensive reporting on social media threats and threat actors that target high-risk individuals and groups. Our ability to quickly identify physical and narrative threats and unmask the threat actors behind them aids security teams in minimizing the risk of harassment and violence that high-risk individuals face.

## Law Enforcement

Law enforcement members, from uniformed officers up to the Attorney General, have faced increased threats and intimidation as potential threat actors perceive law enforcement—particularly at the federal level—to be politically motivated.<sup>3</sup> Nisos identified several vague threats against federal law enforcement in online forums associated with potentially violent actors, such as statements that the "feds are welcome to bleed" if they target white nationalist groups.<sup>4</sup> However, such threats are not exclusive to such communities but are present across a range of platforms; traditional social media users called for Attorney General Merrick Garland's arrest and also included the Attorney General's

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/16/politics/fbi-dhs-warning-trump-shooting/index.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.politico.com/news/2024/07/15/fbi-dhs-possible-retaliation-trump-shooting-00168549>

<sup>3</sup><https://8kun.com/top/qnotables/res/52914.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://patriots.win/p/16c1py5uSP/patriot-front-is-so-2022--the-fe/c>



son-in-law in various calls for arrest, demonstrating that these harmful narratives and calls to action can evolve and include family members.



Graphics 1-3: X users call for the arrest of Attorney General Garland and his son-in-law.<sup>5 6 7</sup>

<sup>5</sup><https://x.com/ShanniLilbit70/status/1811198358712688646>

<sup>6</sup><https://x.com/BreezeBear1/status/1801073136181411994>

<sup>7</sup><https://x.com/WARLAW007/status/1817033089593332170>



Following last month's assassination attempt on former president Trump, individuals and politicians across the political spectrum are highlighting the US Secret Service's (USSS) alleged oversights and lapse in coverage, which they believe led to the security breach. However, some proponents of this narrative are specifically blaming the female agents who responded to the event, claiming the agents were "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)" hires—an initiative allegedly pursued by Democrats—and insinuating they were not hired based on merit.<sup>8 9 10</sup> USSS Director Kim Cheatle stated in a May 2023 interview that the agency's goal was to have 30% female recruits by 2030, which is fueling the narrative that the USSS agents providing Trump's detail at the rally were DEI hires.<sup>11</sup> These claims very likely increase the physical security risk for female and minority members of law enforcement, as politically motivated actors place the blame for injuries and loss of life on these female USSS agents, providing possible justification for threat actors or extremist groups to target them with acts of violence. Female and minority federal agents of other agencies will possibly become targets of threats, as DEI hire narratives continue to proliferate.

## Government Employees

Politically motivated threats directed at government employees are likely to continue throughout the 2024 presidential election cycle based on recent events and the rapidly evolving political landscape.<sup>12</sup> Threats typically follow divisive political statements, controversial policy changes or lack of policy changes, public engagements, and acts of violence. Following the Trump rally shooting, Butler County employees, including law enforcement officers, received a significant amount of threats, with the majority coming in the form of harassing phone calls and emails.<sup>13 14 15</sup> As the public seeks to ascribe responsibility for the security breach, government employees and local law enforcement officials are facing criticism for their handling of the incident and are becoming targets of harassment. Individuals looking to assign blame for the shooting have turned to social media to express their frustrations, leading to possible incitement to violence, coordination of retaliatory attacks, and the spread of false or misleading narratives.

---

<sup>8</sup><https://www.wired.com/story/right-wing-conspiracy-dei-secret-service-women-blame-trump-shooting/>

<sup>9</sup><https://x.com/MatchPoint/status/1812488154634412117>

<sup>10</sup><https://x.com/CommieGibberish/status/1813401121337033032>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.cbsnews.com/news/secret-service-director-kimberly-cheatle-controversies-challenges/>

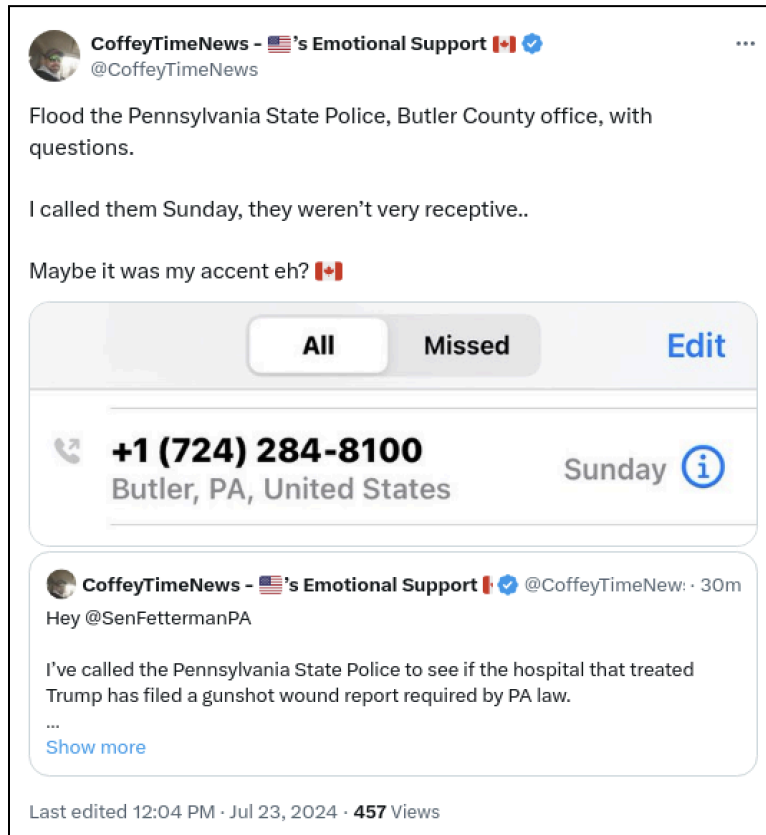
<sup>12</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/07/politics/threats-us-public-officials-democracy-invs/index.html>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/government-workers-butler-county-target-of-threats-harassment>

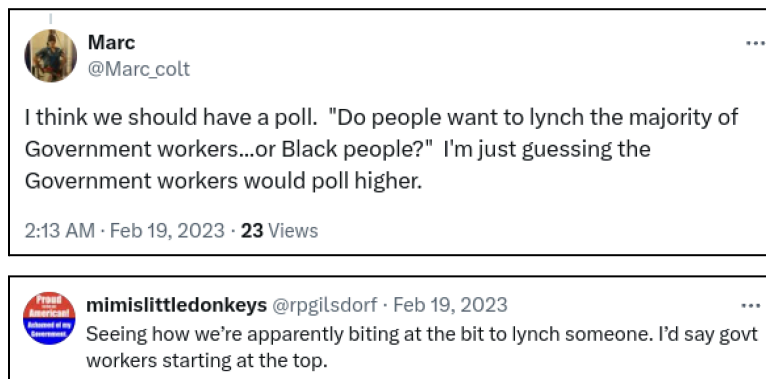
<sup>14</sup><https://www.butlereagle.com/20240716/threatening-phone-calls-emails-overwhelm-butler-agencies/>

<sup>15</sup><https://x.com/RyanSchmelzFOX/status/1813319779752579156>





**Graphic 4: Example of a user encouraging others to “flood” Pennsylvania State Police and Butler County offices with calls following the Trump rally shooting.<sup>16</sup>**



**Graphics 5 and 6: X posts pushing hateful and violent content against government workers and black people.<sup>17 18</sup>**

## Election Workers

Since the 2020 US presidential election, election workers have encountered significant threats and harassment. In response, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) created the Election Threats Task Force in 2021. As of May 2024, the DOJ has announced 16 enforcement actions involving threats to election and

<sup>16</sup><https://x.com/CoffeyTimeNews/status/1815795088095686748>

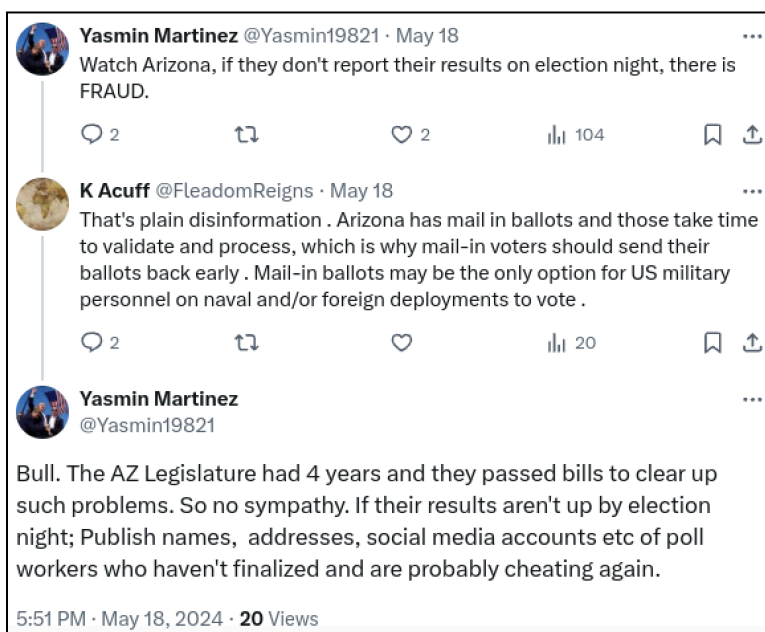
<sup>17</sup>[https://x.com/Marc\\_colt/status/1627204615908515843](https://x.com/Marc_colt/status/1627204615908515843)

<sup>18</sup><https://x.com/rpgilsdorf/status/1627356188395417600>



public officials as well as poll workers, along with their families.<sup>19</sup> Given the dynamics of this year’s election cycle, election workers are likely to continue to face similar threats leading up to and following election day.

More than a third of local election officials reported experiencing threats, harassment, or abuse in a survey conducted by The Brennan Center for Justice between 23 February and 28 March 2024, with 70% feeling that threats have increased since 2020.<sup>20</sup> The majority of officials encountered threats in person; 31% responded that they received threats on social media, according to the same survey.<sup>21 22</sup> Threats to election workers are likely associated with distrust and perceived election fraud. In August 2023, Colorado’s Secretary of State noted that threats come in “waves” and typically follow social media posts by prominent figures claiming that the 2020 election was stolen or blog posts on “far-right” websites.<sup>23</sup>



**Graphic 7: X user advocating for doxxing Arizona poll workers if voting results do not air by election night.<sup>24</sup>**

<sup>19</sup><https://www.justice.gov/voting/election-threats>

<sup>20</sup><https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/local-election-officials-survey-may-2024>

<sup>21</sup><https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/local-election-officials-survey-may-2024>

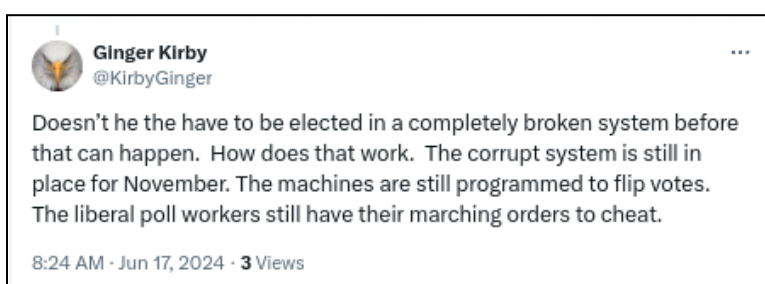
<sup>22</sup><https://www.politico.com/news/2024/05/01/2024-election-poll-workers-00154953>

<sup>23</sup><https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/election-workers-are-being-bombarded-with-death-threats-the-u-s-government-says>

<sup>24</sup><https://x.com/Yasmin19821/status/1791949808309068067>



**Graphic 8: X user promoting distrust of poll workers based on a post from a parody account of Georgia Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene.<sup>25</sup>**



**Graphic 9: X user claiming that poll workers receive “marching orders” to switch votes.<sup>26</sup>**

While the majority of social media threats directed at election workers feature general negative sentiment and distrust, threats of doxxing, and calls for arrest, poll workers have also encountered threats of violence. In July 2024, an individual received a 14-month prison sentence for a voicemail threatening to kill a Michigan election worker.<sup>27</sup> Another individual who advocated for "a mass shooting of poll workers and election officials" was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison in August 2023.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup><https://x.com/MelLynch24/status/1731147325484228989>

<sup>26</sup><https://x.com/KirbyGinger/status/1802678789601718285>

<sup>27</sup><https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/man-sentenced-sending-death-threat-michigan-election-worker>

<sup>28</sup><https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/pr/texas-man-who-threatened-elections-official-county-attorney-sentence-d-3-12-years>





**Graphics 10 and 11: Sample of posts calling for poll workers to be arrested, a common theme amongst social media posts directed at poll workers.<sup>29 30</sup>**

## Courtroom Participants

A recent increase in physical security threats directed at judges, attorneys, jury members, and their family members has accompanied high-profile court cases involving Trump and Hunter Biden.<sup>31</sup> Politically motivated threats and harassment directed at judges, attorneys, and their family members extend across the political spectrum, and we assess this activity will continue throughout the 2024 election cycle. Social media platforms and political activism websites host users employing violent rhetoric, such as harassment, calls for arrest, doxxing attempts, and incitement of violence.

<sup>29</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/paw8265/status/1803527326686388562](https://x[.]com/paw8265/status/1803527326686388562)

<sup>30</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/robert\\_tacy/status/1803529160054174175](https://x[.]com/robert_tacy/status/1803529160054174175)

<sup>31</sup>[https://www.reuters\[.\]com/investigates/special-report/usa-election-judges-threats/](https://www.reuters[.]com/investigates/special-report/usa-election-judges-threats/)



## Judges and Attorneys

Individuals and groups across the US political spectrum view the judiciary as increasingly politicized.<sup>32</sup> Judges—particularly those overseeing cases involving former president Trump—are likely to be continued targets for harassment, threats, and doxing during the 2024 election cycle. Judges saw a 400% increase in threats from 2015 through 2021, and even Supreme Court justices have faced increased threats and assassination plots.<sup>36 37</sup> The rise in threats directed at judges and attorneys is possibly in response to political leaders' rhetoric and social media posts that include inflammatory language about and directed at these individuals. According to a Reuters report, at least 152 posts on three pro-Trump websites (TruthSocial, Gateway Pundit, and Patriots[.]Win) in March and April of this year urged the beating or killing of Juan Merchan and Arthur Engoron, two New York judges who oversaw Trump trials, and Scott McAfee, the judge assigned to a Trump court case in Georgia.<sup>38 39</sup>

Nisos identified social media content featuring physical security threats, including threats of doxing directed towards judges—and in some cases, their family members—involved in Trump's various legal cases. Some judges have received death threats, some of which detail theories alleging their connections to Hunter Biden and conspiracies about their appointments to the bench.<sup>40 41 42 43</sup> Prosecutors involved with cases against Trump and his associates have also been the targets of online derision, conspiracy theories, racism, threats, and calls for arrest and are likely to continue to encounter politically motivated threats throughout the 2024 election cycle.<sup>44 45</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup><https://blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2021/09/how-did-the-courts-become-so-politicized/>

<sup>33</sup><https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/04/03/the-supreme-court-has-never-been-apolitical-00022482>

<sup>34</sup><https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2022/08/can-courts-avoid-politicization/>

<sup>35</sup><https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/the-politicization-of-scotus-threatens-its-legitimacy>

<sup>36</sup><https://time.com/6227754/political-violence-us-states-midterms-2022>

<sup>37</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/14/politics/roske-sister-kavanaugh/index.html>

<sup>38</sup><https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-election-threats-courts/>

<sup>39</sup><https://www.vice.com/en/article/wxjgb/trump-supporters-are-threatening-civil-war>

<sup>40</sup><https://www.wltx.com/article/news/crime/texas-woman-federal-judge-threat/285-c1f9e1e0-bb1d-4682-8cd7-e10bebf5b5c3>

<sup>41</sup><https://thenationalpulse.com/2023/08/02/trumps-jan-6-judge-trial-is-foreign-born-blm-apologist-obama-don-or-who-has-over-sentenced-jan-6-prisoners/>

<sup>42</sup><https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2023/08/02/exclusive-jim-jordan-biden-brand-is-joe-biden/>

<sup>43</sup><https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2023/08/04/exclusive-kash-patel-no-coincidence-donald-trump-drew-most-partisan-j6-judge/>

<sup>44</sup><https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2023/07/06/trump-documents-case-prosecutor-threats>

<sup>45</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/aug/16/trump-attack-georgia-prosecutor-slur>



**Graphics 12 and 13: An X user threatens to dox and harass New York County Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan, who oversaw Trump’s hush money court case.<sup>46 47</sup>**



**Graphic 14: An X user directs threatening rhetoric at Judge Merchan.<sup>48</sup>**

<sup>46</sup><https://x.com/LloydMarshallJ1/status/1797064137232482597>

<sup>47</sup><https://x.com/LoneWolfPblshng/status/1784090210755625151>

<sup>48</sup><https://x.com/XrealJacobSmith/status/1798145254086123888>



US District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee who has issued several rulings that are favorable to Trump, is another example of a judiciary target for online threats and harassment. Social media mentions frequently refer to Judge Cannon as “corrupt,” contain implicit threats directed at her, feature possible misinformation narratives, and suggest she be removed from office.<sup>49 50 51 52</sup> Misinformation narratives are likely to fuel threats directed at public officials, putting potential victims like Judge Cannon at higher risk.<sup>53</sup> For instance, Tiffani Shea Gish was sentenced to 37 months in prison for sending death threats to Aileen Cannon via voicemail.<sup>54 55</sup>



**Graphics 15 and 16: Sample of threatening social media rhetoric directed at Judge Cannon.<sup>56 57</sup>**

<sup>49</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/JosePere0911/status/1801040012365946928](https://x[.]com/JosePere0911/status/1801040012365946928)

<sup>50</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/Michael58297897/status/1800636272030966140](https://x[.]com/Michael58297897/status/1800636272030966140)

<sup>51</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/calif\\_liberal/status/1796010323314438364](https://x[.]com/calif_liberal/status/1796010323314438364)

<sup>52</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/mylovee1201/status/1795530923326558234](https://x[.]com/mylovee1201/status/1795530923326558234)

<sup>53</sup>[https://www.icfj\[.\]org/news/how-disinformation-fuels-online-violence-storms-targeting-women-journalists](https://www.icfj[.]org/news/how-disinformation-fuels-online-violence-storms-targeting-women-journalists)

<sup>54</sup>[https://s3.documentcloud\[.\]org/documents/24415866/gish-sentence.pdf](https://s3.documentcloud[.]org/documents/24415866/gish-sentence.pdf)

<sup>55</sup>[https://lawandcrime\[.\]com/high-profile/stand-the-f-down-or-get-shot-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails-about-nukes-and-trump-assassination-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails/](https://lawandcrime[.]com/high-profile/stand-the-f-down-or-get-shot-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails-about-nukes-and-trump-assassination-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails/)

<sup>56</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/faridghalili/status/1801004147661033880](https://x[.]com/faridghalili/status/1801004147661033880)

<sup>57</sup>[https://x\[.\]com/GOPNoMor/status/1800998516489163080](https://x[.]com/GOPNoMor/status/1800998516489163080)



Court documents said in the first voicemail message Gish said:

Hi, yes, this message is for Aileen Cannon, this is Evelyn Salt, I'm in charge of nuclear for the United States Government. Again, Donald Trump has been disqualified long ago, and he's marked for assassination, you're helping him ma'am. So, here's what we're going to do, we're going to let you disarm f— live nukes off your coffee table....how about you sit on an electric chair a couple times over...you think you've got the magical ability to pop up from the dead...pretending that you're on the team of justice. Again, I told you he's disqualified, he's marked for assassination and so are you, you stupid botch, stand the f— down or get shot...and guess what, I'm also Trump's hitman, so consider it a bullet to your head from Donald Trump himself...

**Graphic 17: Gish's voicemail sent to Judge Cannon's phone.<sup>58</sup>**

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and other individuals involved in prosecuting Trump's criminal case about falsifying business records received a significant number of death threats, harassing messages, and racist comments following Trump's guilty verdict.<sup>59 60</sup> Hateful and harassing social media content will possibly incite a potential threat actor to escalate to more directly threatening activity.

---

<sup>58</sup>[https://lawandcrime\[.\]com/high-profile/stand-the-f-down-or-get-shot-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails-about-nukes-and-trump-assassination-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails/](https://lawandcrime[.]com/high-profile/stand-the-f-down-or-get-shot-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails-about-nukes-and-trump-assassination-woman-who-threatened-mar-a-lago-judge-in-bizarre-voicemails/)

<sup>59</sup>[https://nypost\[.\]com/2024/06/21/us-news/manhattan-da-details-new-death-threats-oks-letting-trump-rip-hush-money-case-witnesses/](https://nypost[.]com/2024/06/21/us-news/manhattan-da-details-new-death-threats-oks-letting-trump-rip-hush-money-case-witnesses/)

<sup>60</sup>[https://www.nydailynews\[.\]com/2024/06/20/da-alvin-bragg-deluged-with-death-threats-racist-harassment-since-trumps-hush-money-trial-conviction/](https://www.nydailynews[.]com/2024/06/20/da-alvin-bragg-deluged-with-death-threats-racist-harassment-since-trumps-hush-money-trial-conviction/)



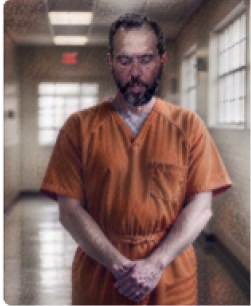


**PJ Texas**  
@PJTx1966 · 5d

Let's add Alvin Bragg to that orange outfit!

**National Divorce**  
@Derucky · 5d

[americanthinker.com/blog/2024/...](https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2024/...)



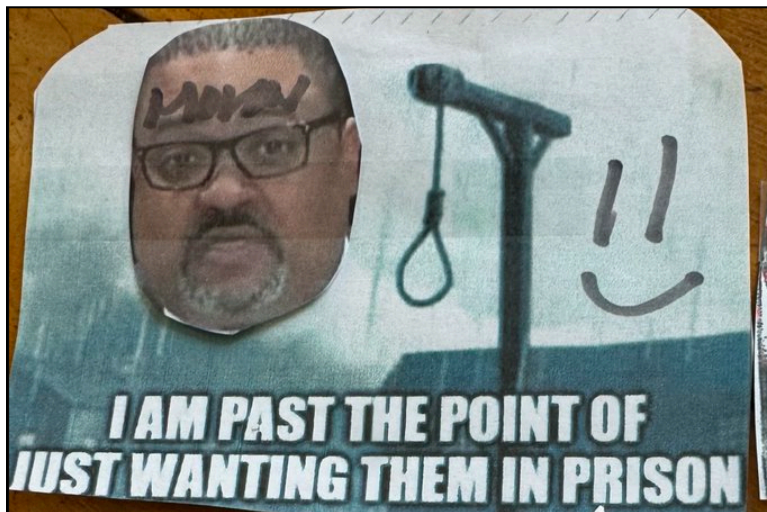
[www.americanthinker.com](https://www.americanthinker.com)  
**The beginning of the end of lawfare—one hopes**  
The legal brilliance of Justice Thomas was evident when he absolutely nailed the fatal flaw in the Biden administration's lawfare appointment of Jack Smith as special counsel in his opinion on the scope...

Q 1    ↻ 1    ❤️ 1    ...

**National Divorce**  
@Derucky

Replying to @PJTx1966

At LEAST prison for them.



Graphics 18 and 19: Sample of threats directed at District Attorney Bragg.<sup>61 62</sup>

### Jurors

Jurors are likely to continue to face threats of doxxing and harassment throughout the 2024 election cycle, as several cases against Trump are still ongoing.<sup>63</sup> Individuals doxxed Georgia grand jury

<sup>61</sup>[https://truthsocial\[.\]com/@Derucky/posts/112804252644222892](https://truthsocial[.]com/@Derucky/posts/112804252644222892)




<sup>62</sup>[https://pbs.twimg\[.\]com/media/GQiujsWXEAAf7UY](https://pbs.twimg[.]com/media/GQiujsWXEAAf7UY)

<sup>63</sup>[https://www.cnn\[.\]com/2023/08/17/politics/fulton-county-grand-jurors-far-right-internet](https://www.cnn[.]com/2023/08/17/politics/fulton-county-grand-jurors-far-right-internet)







members who returned indictments against Trump, which possibly foreshadows similar doxxing attempts and harassment against jury members and prosecutors involved with Trump’s various criminal trials.<sup>64 65</sup> Doxxing puts victims at high risk of other threatening behavior, such as harassment, acts of violence, and death threats.

**World Mapping**    **#Trump2024** ...  
 @WorldMappingIII


We WILL dox the Trump Jurors, and you WILL like it.


10:55 PM · Jun 1, 2024 · 723 Views

**Jack Poso**    
 @JackPosobiec · Jun 7

BREAKING: Judge Merchan notifies parties in NYC Trump case of Facebook comment boasting of conviction day before verdict




[thepostmillennial.com/breaking...](https://thepostmillennial.com/breaking...)



 thepostmillennial.com

BREAKING: Judge Merchan notifies parties in NYC Trump case of Facebook comment boasting of conviction before verdict

“My cousin is a juror and says Trump is getting convicted. Thank you folks for all your hard work!!!!”

 3.05k  5.16k  8.77k ...

**@golf9to5**  
 @golf9to5

Replying to @JackPosobiec

Dox the jurors.

1 ReTruth 1 Like Jun 07, 2024, 6:48 PM

**Jerry “Boston” Allen**  
 @xbostonguyx

Replying to @JackPosobiec

I hope those jurors are exposed and doxed.

Jun 07, 2024, 5:06 PM

**Graphics 20-22: Sample of posts encouraging the doxxing of Trump case jurors.**<sup>66 67 68</sup>

<sup>64</sup><https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-supporters-try-dox-jurors-violent-threats-convictio-n-rcna154882>

<sup>65</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/17/politics/fulton-county-grand-jurors-far-right-internet>

<sup>66</sup> <https://x.com/WorldMappingIII/status/1797099662039535804>

<sup>67</sup> <https://truthsocial.com/@golf9to5/posts/112578011202183529>

<sup>68</sup> <https://truthsocial.com/@xbostonguyx/posts/112577610345456068>



## How Can Nisos Help

Politically motivated threats present a challenge for security teams given the rapidly shifting dynamics of this year's election season. As new misinformation narratives emerge and evolve in response to political developments, users are very likely to continue to find new targets against which to direct their frustrations and ire. Monitoring mainstream social media, alternative communities, and other online forums and communications platforms is time-consuming and complex; Nisos' expertise in identifying and analyzing threatening activity and emerging narratives across the information ecosystem uniquely positions us to help Trust & Safety, law enforcement, and security partners identify violative and violent content and develop risk assessments and security plans to protect high-risk individuals.

### About Nisos

Nisos is The Managed Intelligence Company®. Our customized, scalable services enable cybersecurity, corporate security, intelligence, and trust & safety teams to leverage a world-class intelligence capability tailored to their needs. We fuse robust data collection with a deep understanding of the adversarial mindset delivering smarter defense and more effective response against advanced cyber attacks, disinformation, and abuse of digital platforms.

For more information visit: [nisos.com](https://nisos.com) email: [info@nisos.com](mailto:info@nisos.com) | 703-382-8400