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Ex-FBI officials charged with lying to Congress



Former President Joe Biden and son Hunter Biden step out of a bookstore while shopping in Nantucket, Massachusetts on Nov. 29, 2024. MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Case tied to inquiries into Hunter Biden

Natalie Neysa Alund
USA TODAY

The U.S. Justice Department on Oct. 23 announced the arrest of two former FBI officials for allegedly lying to Congress about their knowledge of investigations into former President Joe Biden’s son, Hunter.

Nikki Floris, 46, and Bradley Benavides, 56, are accused of misleading a House panel about the role of the FBI’s

since-dissolved Foreign Influence Task Force probing Hunter Biden during the 2020 election, federal officials said.

Floris, of Alexandria, Virginia, and Benavides, of Aiken, South Carolina, were each charged with a single count of making false statements stemming from testimony before lawmakers in 2023, according to a criminal complaint released Oct. 23.

U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro, in a post on X, said Floris and Benavides surrendered on arrest warrants earlier in the day.

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Netanyahu is touting Trump’s backing on eve of vote

Steven Scheer and Emily Rose
REUTERS

JERUSALEM – Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted of his endorsement from President Donald Trump on the eve of Israel’s election, suggesting the two leaders could restart their war against Iran if he wins, after Trump said they should “finish the job.”

“U.S. President Donald Trump has come with a friendship that has never existed before between an Israeli prime minister and an American president. And it is doubtful we will ever have such a friendly president again,” Netanyahu said in a televised appearance late on Oct. 25. “He has another two years, and he says he is calling on you to vote for me.”

In his own social media post on Oct. 25, Trump, who launched the Iran war jointly with Netanyahu in February, said: “Vote for Bibi Netanyahu for Prime Minister, we have to finish the job that we started!”

Netanyahu said Trump was willing to take action “that would finally, finally, remove the Iranian threat,” but only as long as Netanyahu himself remains in power.

“And I have already instructed the Mossad and the IDF (military) to bring down this regime, to bring down this regime because that is the only way to put an end to this threat,” Netanyahu said, referring to Israel’s main intelligence service and military.

Netanyahu’s leading opponent, centrist former military Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot, posted his own comments on social media, praising Trump as “a true

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Work on proposed arch project could start soon

Saman Shafiq
USA TODAY

Construction on a 250-foot arch in the nation’s capital may get underway soon, just over a year after President Donald Trump announced plans for the structure.

Work on the proposed Triumphal Arch could begin as early as Nov. 5, Trump’s lawyers said in an Oct. 21 court filing in the federal District Court for the District of Columbia reviewed by USA TODAY.

The White House also recently shared an update on the construction of the East Wing ballroom.

White House deputy chief of staff Dan Scavino Jr. shared an aerial view of construction underway on the ballroom, taken from Marine One. Scavino said the footage was captured while Trump was on his way to South Carolina

to campaign for Sen. Darline Graham, R-SC, in a tightening Senate race ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

Footage shared by Scavino shows scaffolding around the ballroom as Marine One flies over the White House lawn on Oct. 21.

The ballroom and arch each have faced legal challenges.

Trump’s 20,000-square-foot White House ballroom is part of a 90,000-square-foot renovation of the East Wing, which will also include a new office for the first lady and a movie theater.

The ballroom comes with a price tag of \$400 million, paid for by private funds, and is expected to accommodate about 1,000 people.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation challenged the ballroom plan, alleging it had not gone through a legally

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Construction on the White House ballroom, at right, is seen from the top of the Washington Monument on Oct. 22 in Washington, DC. SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

