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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY**

September 9, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Request for a Joint Hearing to Investigate Reports of What May Be Extrajudicial Killings (lynchings) of Black Americans Found Hanging from Nooses in the United States

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Democratic Leader Jeffries, and Democratic Leader Schumer:

I write to request that the United States House of Representatives and Senate hold a joint hearing to investigate reports of what may be extrajudicial killings (lynchings) of Black Americans found hanging from nooses in the United States.

Recent reports of Black Americans found hanging across the country have raised serious concerns. According to an August 27, 2026, article published by The Washington Informer, there have been at least eight deaths involving hangings, including several cases in which Black individuals were found hanging from trees.¹ Among these victims are 18-year-old Javion Magee, a truck driver from Chicago; 21-year-old Kyle Basalinga, a student at Georgia State University; 16-year-old Juliana Nzita, a teenager originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo; and 29-year-old Tasia Fortune, a mother of four. Many of these deaths have been ruled suicides or otherwise reported as finding no evidence of foul play. However, in some cases, family members have challenged those conclusions and called for further investigation into the circumstances surrounding their loved ones' deaths.

¹ Brown, Stacy M. "Found Hanging: Black Deaths, Unanswered Questions and an American Terror That Refuses to Stay in the Past." The Washington Informer, August 27, 2026. <https://www.washingtoninformer.com/modern-lynching-suspicions-black-deaths/>.

These reports are particularly concerning given the painful history of lynching and racial violence in the United States. White supremacists have historically used lynchings to terrorize Black communities, enforce hateful supremacist ideology, and preserve white political and social power. While the similarities to this history do not prove these deaths were racially motivated, they highlight the need for transparent and thorough investigations. These investigations are especially urgent given the prevalence of anti-Black hate crimes. FBI data shows that from August 2021 to August 2026, more than half of reported racially motivated hate crimes were driven by anti-Black bias.² These statistics remind us that racial hatred and violence continue to pose a threat to Black Americans today.

The painful history of lynching and the continuing prevalence of anti-Black hate crimes demonstrate that these reports of Black Americans being found hanging from trees cannot be treated casually. I respectfully request that the House and Senate convene a joint hearing to ensure these deaths are thoroughly and transparently investigated and to ensure that Black Americans are protected from racial violence and intimidation.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you require additional information, please contact Congressman Green's Chief of Staff, Raphael Cohen-Fuentes, by email at Raphael.Cohen-Fuentes@mail.house.gov or phone at 202-225-7508.

Sincerely,



Al Green
Member of Congress

***Scion of the Enslaved Africans –
Sacrificed to Make America Great***

***Progenitor of August and August 20th
as Slavery Remembrance Month and Day***

² Federal Bureau of Investigation. "Hate Crime in the United States." Cde.ucr.cjis.gov.
<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#!/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>.