# House Republicans Pursue Contempt Charges Against Attorney General Garland Over Audio Recordings Dispute



On November 27, 2023, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland met with U.S. Attorney Damian Williams and other federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders at the Southern District of New York offices in New York City. The meeting comes amid House Republicans' efforts to hold Garland in contempt of Congress for not providing audio recordings of special counsel Robert Hur's interviews with President Joe Biden.

House Republicans, led by the Oversight and Judiciary Committees, plan to discuss a contempt of Congress resolution on Thursday. This resolution stems from Garland's refusal to comply with a congressional subpoena for the audio records, despite already providing transcripts of the interviews. The recordings are seen by Republicans as crucial for their stalled impeachment inquiry into Biden. They argue that auditory nuances such as tone and pauses in the recordings are essential for understanding the context fully, beyond what is captured in the transcripts.

DOJ insists the release of audio recordings is unnecessary and could deter future cooperation from witnesses, stressing that the provided transcripts sufficiently address the Republican allegations. Assistant Attorney General Carlos Uriarte also highlighted potential privacy concerns and criticized the request as politically motivated, noting that the constitution does not allow the executive branch to dictate Congress' oversight operations.

If the committees approve the contempt resolution, it will go to the House floor for a vote, though the timeline and likelihood of approval remain uncertain. Even if passed, past precedents suggest that the Biden administration is unlikely to prosecute Garland. This ongoing debate highlights continuing tensions between the legislative and executive branches over transparency and oversight.