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Dear Assistant Attorney General, Harmeet K. Dhillon

*I am writing to express deep concern about the prosecution of **Georgia Fort** and other members of the press for simply covering a protest in Minneapolis on 18 January 2026. It is evident that the arrest and subsequent prosecution of Georgia Fort and others from the press underscores a disturbing escalation of a systemic disregard for human rights.*

As I am sure you are aware, Article 19 of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which the United States has ratified, enshrines the right to freedom of expression, which protects a free press and the right of journalists to seek and share information. However, for the Department of Justice to prosecute Georgia Fort and other individuals from the press with criminal charges, including a hate crime, for reporting on a protest inside Cities Church in St. Paul, Minnesota — where one of the pastors was an acting ICE field office director at the time— is to target them for simply doing their job as journalists and breaches their human rights.

Reporting is not a crime. Rather, ensuring the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and of press freedom is integral to holding government officials and leaders accountable for their actions. These charges deliver a chilling and intimidating effect on journalists who are covering issues that are most pressing to communities.

I therefore strongly urge that you drop the charges against Georgia Fort and the other press individuals in the case of United States v. Levy Armstrong (0:26-cr-00025) in the District Court of Minnesota.

Yours sincerely,