

Chairman Thompson, Members of the Committee, Committee Staff, and all else present:

I want to be crystal clear at the outset. I had nothing to do with any violence or lawbreaking that happened on January 6.

I had nothing to do with the planning. I had nothing to do with the preparation. And I had nothing to do with the execution.

Any suggestion to the contrary is factually false. Anyone who suggests I had anything to do with the unlawful activities on January 6 is wrong. They're either mistaken or lying.

Period.

It is not uncommon in the aftermath of historic chaos and disruption to look for a bogeyman. After all, someone must be held accountable, right?

As a Black and Arab man, it is common for people who look like me to be blamed for things we didn't do. On top of that, my birth name can sound scary to the uninformed and uneducated. It's often used against me as a weapon. Ali Abdul-Razaq Akbar. Someone with a name that terrifying must have done SOMETHING wrong, right?

Again, I want to be perfectly clear. I did absolutely nothing wrong.

But I don't hide from who I am. I AM the American dream.

About 15 years ago or so, I was arrested on two different occasions for petty crimes. I won't re-litigate the merits of the offenses in this short time, but two arrests in your early twenties often sets people back so far they never again find firm footing upon which to succeed.

My mother was a Black single mother in Section 8 housing. My father was an Arab who disappeared at a young age. I managed to collect those two criminal charges as I was just starting out as an adult.

I had every reason to fail in life.

But I refused to fail. Christ refused to allow me to fail. Instead, I worked to change a system people insisted was supposed to hold me down. I got involved in politics and started putting together coalitions and rallies and raising awareness for a variety of candidates and issues.

I went from riding in a cop car as 'the accused' to advising a presidential administration on criminal justice reform.

I used a silhouette of my most tragic youthful mugshot on a t-shirt to raise money for fatherless Black boys, boys who are growing up like I grew up.

I've hosted hundreds of rallies with millions of participants in all fifty states. Not one single rally of mine turned violent. Not one. Ever.

That's not a coincidence.

I demand non-violence at my events. I demand non-violence among my membership and leadership. I demand non-violence among my associates.

My leadership and I work closely with law enforcement at every event to ensure peace and order. We obey rules and commands. We treat officers and officials with respect.

Those principles were not compromised on January 6. In fact, I've stated on numerous occasions I support the production of legislative solutions and recommendations on how to avoid future collapses of civil order and violence at the Capitol.

I've also stated on numerous occasions I support the work of law enforcement agencies to prosecute those who committed violent acts on January 6.

There are a number of videos of my associates and me arriving at the Capitol on January 6 after the violence had begun but in the early stages of the lawbreaking. In those videos, our group can be seen working with police to try to end the violence and lawbreaking. We can be seen yelling and screaming at people to *STOP* trying to enter the Capitol and *STOP* violent lawbreaking in general.

I believe those videos have been provided to the committee. If they have not, I will be happy to share them.

While I was actively trying to de-escalate events at the Capitol and end the violence and lawlessness, it's important to note that certain people were nowhere to be found, including Amy Kremer, Kylie Kremer, and Katrina Pierson; essentially, the Women for America First leadership of the Ellipse Rally that was originally titled the "March for Trump" in their National Park Service permit application. Press reports suggest they may have had their feet up drinking donor-funded champagne in a War Room in the Willard. I don't know where they were. But they weren't working with police trying to de-escalate the chaos like I was.

It is my belief there may not have been a problem had that same leadership at the Ellipse event not intentionally removed instructions from the program that were supposed to be included to provide clarity on exactly where to go following the Ellipse event. When I protested the removal of those instructions, I was barred from participating as an organizer at the Ellipse event that preceded the Capitol riot. Ultimately, I was a VIP guest at the Ellipse event.

As a result, civil authority collapsed before the Ellipse Rally was over, before I arrived, and before my event was scheduled to begin.

To clarify: My permitted event at Lot 8 never took place. The “One Nation Under God” event that Stop the Steal was a part of did not start the chaos. The chaos was well underway before our event was scheduled to begin.

We never held our event. We weren't allowed to.

In closing, I want to reiterate my posture of compliance. Over the past few weeks, I have spent more than 100 hours personally searching through my archives looking for relevant and responsive documentation to this committee's requests. I've probably spent another 100 hours preparing to answer your questions. I have hired attorneys and computer consultants to be as responsive as possible and provide as much as I could find within the short amount of time I had to produce documents.

I did all of this despite not being accused of a crime. I did all of this despite being a private citizen with Constitutional rights protecting me from unreasonable searches and seizures and without a warrant entitling anyone to the documents I've voluntarily provided.

It's prevented me from working. It's prevented me from sleeping, at times. It's been extremely difficult and burdensome.

But I am voluntarily here to do the *patriotic* thing.

If this committee thinks of anything I haven't turned over to which you believe I may have access, I ask you please to let me know and help refresh my memory. I receive at times hundreds or even thousands of texts and emails a day. I appear at all hours of the day and night on media and social media and do interviews and livestreams and chats. I can't possibly remember everything I've seen, I've heard, I've read, or I've said.

I went from living the American Dream to experiencing an American Nightmare where my skin color, birth name, party affiliation, ability to earn a living, belief that Christ is King, and concerns about election irregularities have been weaponized against me.

But I can assure you I have nothing to hide because I've done nothing wrong.

We may disagree politically. They call politics a contact sport. People say all manners of harsh things about political opponents and those with whom we disagree. I don't hold against anyone anything they've said about me in order to score political points.

Because—at heart—we are all Americans. We all stand before God and our fellow man in a great social contract where we promise to do our best to get it right. May God have mercy on us and grant us peace for how we treat each other at times in the world of politics.

I thank you for your time. I look forward to answering questions you may have.