



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

NOV 17 2021

The Honorable Mark Brnovich
Attorney General
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Dear Attorney General Brnovich:

This responds to your letter dated October 14, 2021 to the Attorney General regarding Facebook and its policies and practices regarding potential use of the platform by human smugglers and sex traffickers. Thank you for sharing your views and letter from Facebook.

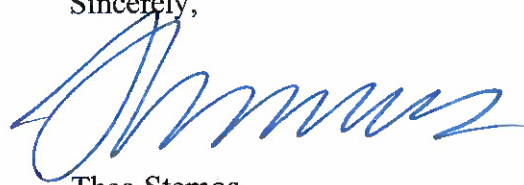
Like you, the Department of Justice (Department) is committed to the rule of law and the Department fights human smuggling and trafficking using all available tools to investigate and prosecute such offenses. For example, earlier this year, the Attorney General announced the establishment of Joint Task Force Alpha, a law enforcement task force marshalling the investigative and prosecutorial resources of the Department to enhance U.S. enforcement efforts against the most prolific and dangerous human smuggling and trafficking organizations. Joint Task Force Alpha builds upon the Department's longstanding response to trafficking networks operating across the U.S.-Mexico border. Additionally, the Department, together with the Department of Homeland Security, launched the U.S.-Mexico Bilateral Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative in 2009. The initiative seeks to enhance collaboration with Mexican law enforcement to combat trans-border trafficking threats and exchange criminal intelligence to strengthen investigations and prosecutions, provide compassionate victim services, and dismantle trafficking networks on both sides of the border.

With respect to your specific concerns about Facebook, the Department takes allegations of criminal wrongdoing seriously. Although we appreciate having the benefit of your views, as you may know, longstanding policy and practice of the Department prevents us from discussing allegations further or confirming the existence or commencement of any investigation. As such, please do not interpret this letter as a confirmation or a denial of an investigation of any of the matters in your letter.

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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stamos', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Theo Stamos
Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison