

Journalist Appears in Federal Court in Leg and Belly Chains to Face Jan. 6 Misdemeanors

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Submitted by Gail Farrace – Co-Chair of National Legislation with Margaret Hobbie

Blaze Media journalist Steve Baker was arrested by the FBI and brought to a Texas federal courtroom in handcuffs, a belly chain and foot shackles to face four nonviolent misdemeanor charges for being at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Accompanied by defense attorneys James Lee Bright and Edward Tarpley Jr., Mr. Baker surrendered at the FBI field office in Dallas at 7 a.m. on March 1.

On the lapel of his suit jacket, he wore a pin with an upside-down FBI badge that forms the logo of “the Suspendables,” a group of FBI whistleblowers that includes Kyle Seraphin, Steve Friend, and Garret O'Boyle. He had been advised by the FBI to show up in shorts and sandals, but instead came dressed in a suit.

After being walked out of the FBI building in handcuffs, Mr. Baker was taken to the The Earle Cabell Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse to appear before U.S. Magistrate Judge Clinton Averitte. He was turned over to U.S. Marshals.

Mr. Baker was charged in a criminal complaint in Washington D.C. with knowingly entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds without authority, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building.

“I had to march in, in front of everybody with leg chains on,” Mr. Baker told The Epoch Times after his release. “That was not my favorite moment in life. Just a deliberate humiliation. It was something they didn’t have to do.”

When he appeared in court in belly and leg chains, Mr. Baker said there was a non-Jan. 6 felony defendant in the courtroom also scheduled to appear before Judge Averitte. She had no handcuffs or leg restraints.

“Absolutely, stunningly ridiculous on misdemeanor charges,” William Shipley, who heads Mr. Baker’s six-attorney legal team, wrote on X after a video of Baker being led away in handcuffs went viral. The video has more than 7 million views on X. “I could not get an

explanation for why it was necessary for Steve to go to the FBI. “We considered defying that demand and have him simply appear at the courthouse and go to the U.S. Marshal’s Office for processing,” Mr. Shipley said.

After the court hearing, Mr. Baker was released on standard conditions, with no restrictions on his travel or communications, except he is not allowed to text his FBI case agent, Craig Noyes, according to defense attorney Brad Geyer.

Mr. Baker said the 16-page statement of facts produced by the FBI to support his charges contained “a couple” of lies and **focused almost exclusively on what he said** about things related to Jan. 6 **rather than what he did** that day.

Agents quoted from a YouTube video he posted the night of Jan. 6 in which Mr. Baker told a friend that his reaction to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office being ransacked, “It couldn’t happen to a more deserving [expletive].”

“There’s nothing in there about my behavior,” Mr. Baker told The Epoch Times. “It’s all about my words. Everything. It’s all about stuff I said before, stuff I said after, and that’s it. No more complicated than that.”

Mr. Geyer said his client’s arrest shows an “unprecedented shift in Department of Justice policy [after it] had spent decades adhering to special protections for journalists.”

Mr. Baker previously told The Epoch Times that when the FBI first contacted him in July 2021, agents had to reschedule the voluntary session because they needed permission from the attorney general to interview a journalist.

“Without Steve Baker’s early reporting, crucial aspects of events, such as unlawful force, the Capitol breach, and the role of suspicious actors in influencing events of the day might have gone unnoticed,” Mr. Geyer told The Epoch Times.

“Moreover, his reporting since January 6 proved two crucial government witnesses in the Oath Keeper prosecutions provided outrageously false testimony,” Mr. Geyer said. “His investigation has raised disturbing questions about the origin and earnestness of the investigations of the ‘pipe bombs.’”

“Free Press is dead in America when the government jails journalists who refuse to report the regime’s political agenda and lies,” Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) stated on X.

‘They didn’t have to go this route’: FBI hauls Blaze Media reporter who was covering J6 away in cuffs

BPR Business and Politics - | [Terresa Monroe-Hamilton](#) March 1, 2024

Link to Full Story - <https://www.bizpacreview.com/2024/03/01/house-republicans-begin-release-all-j6-footage-amid-blaze-reporters-arrest-1441652/>

Steve Baker, an investigative reporter for Blaze News, has officially been taken into custody by the FBI after being singled out for reporting on the Jan. 6 riot.

“JUST IN: Blaze Media Investigative Journalist Steve Baker (@TPC4USA) has been taken into FBI custody, allegedly for his J6 reporting. Baker previously said he didn’t know what the charges were against him but was told they were non-violent misdemeanors. ‘The prosecutor informed my attorney that I am to arrive at the FBI field office wearing ‘shorts and sandals,’ Baker said,” Investor Collin Rugg posted on X.

“‘They didn’t have to go this route, as we’ve been told that my charges are non-violent misdemeanors. They seem to feel the need to give me a dose of the personal humiliation treatment.’ Baker was reportedly present at the J6 riot as an independent journalist. Absolutely insanity,” Rugg added.

A Blaze Media video shows Baker cuffed and being perp-walked by two FBI agents to a car which seems excessive since he turned himself in. He is reportedly being charged with four misdemeanors.



The charges include:

- Knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority.
- Disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds.
- Disorderly conduct in a capitol building.
- Parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a capitol building.

Radio host Glenn Beck refers to Baker as being a mild-mannered wonderful person and is gobsmacked over how he is being treated three years after covering the Jan. 6 event. It appears he’s being made an example of considering reporters from major leftist outlets were also there that day covering the story and have not been charged.

So, mentally... how are you?" Beck asked Baker before he turned himself in.

"I have my moments. Um, I'm okay. I'm, you know... I've had over two years to prepare for this. I've game-planned it all out in my head. Um, I'm not gonna sleep tonight. I'm not even gonna try. Uh, it is my way, anyway. And so, I'm just gonna, you know, prepare, pray, and um, then I'm gonna put on my suit and tie and walk in with my head up," Baker responded. Beck said, "Good for you."

Glenn Beck, the founder of [Blaze Media](#), went on to say in a post, "Baker is the guy who has gotten a lot of the tape out about January 6, the guy who has been putting the pieces together before anybody else was putting them together. This man is a journalist — and an excellent one. And that's why they're after him. On Friday, the FBI arrested this journalist and put him in handcuffs without even telling him what he's charged with in advance. He could serve prison time — because he is a journalist doing his job."

[Chris Bray](#) over at Blaze Media also wrote, "Today the Biden administration takes a right-leaning journalist into custody for covering a political event, and the caterwauling adult children who told you that Donald Trump was a lot like Hitler for posting mean tweets about CNN are silent as Steve Baker is handcuffed." This is coming about right after veteran journalist Catherine Herridge was fired from CBS News for covering a story about Chinese American scientist Yanping Chen and spying allegations. She is now being held in contempt by a judge for not revealing her sources.

CEO and co-founder of The Federalist Sean Davis wrote on X, "The free country you grew up in no longer exists. You now live in a country run by the American Stasi. You are subjects, not citizens. Only the regime's allies have rights. Wake up and realize where we are and what was taken from you."

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) was incensed over the persecution of Baker, especially three years out, writing on X, "The Biden regime just arrested journalist Steve Baker for covering Jan6. Owen Shroyer was locked up as well. Free Press is dead in America when the government jails journalists who refuse to report the regime's political agenda and lies."

Users on X were outraged over Baker's treatment:

