

Mueller Report Comes to a Close

Following many months of anticipation, special counsel Robert S. Mueller III is soon expected to finally hand over his report to Attorney General William P. Barr, detailing his research and findings surrounding Russia's suspected interference in the 2016 United States presidential election.

In January of this year, Mueller lengthened the grand jury for a supplementary six months due to uncharged crimes, subpoenas that had not yet been dealt with, and unresolved cases; however, recent reports indicate that the investigation is expected to come to an end in the near future.

Late last year, Mueller released a sentencing report on Michael Flynn, former National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump, which summarized Flynn's participation in the Russia investigation. This memo came as a surprise to many, as there were rumours the investigation had closed circulating the media just before the report was issued.

Mueller's report of his nearly two-year-long probe is expected to contain a confidential explanation as to why he decided to charge certain individuals, in addition to an account of other individuals he investigated and why he decided to not charge those people. The attorney general will then present the information to Congress.

Advisers to President Trump have expressed concerns that the report may possess particulars about the president that could be politically damaging, although they have not shown worry surrounding the possibility that the details will result in criminal charges against Trump. Contrary to the beliefs of many, the termination of the Russia

investigation would not signify the end of criminal investigations linked with the President Trump.

Mueller's lengthy probe has resulted six Trump associates and advisers pleading guilty, as well as criminal charges against 34 people. Among the various individuals who have pleaded guilty are Flynn, former deputy campaign manager Rick Gates, former campaign chairman for Trump Paul Manafort, former lawyer for Trump Michael Cohen, and former campaign adviser George Papadopoulos. The majority of people charged in this case are Russian; however, the 26 Russians charged are unlikely to find themselves in an American courtroom due to the fact that there is no extradition treaty with Russia. None of the American individuals charged by Mueller are being accused of plotting with Russia to disrupt the 2016 election.

Trump has continually referred to the investigation as nothing other than a "witch hunt," and some congressional Republicans who back the president have also denounced Mueller's work, claiming that the probe was weakened by a bias against Trump held by Comey and his senior advisers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Despite these opinions put forth by Trump and his supporters, many Americans have expressed approval of the case, as well as anticipation surrounding its pending release.



Source: NBC News