

# Trump calls for ‘termination’ of 60 Minutes in fresh attack on US media

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Donald Trump has called for the “termination” of 60 Minutes, a long-established fixture of US journalism, in a fresh onslaught against the media that also included baseless claims that money from the country’s beleaguered foreign aid body had been illicitly funding news organisations.

The demand that 60 Minutes be taken off the air came in a [post](#) on Trump’s Truth Social platform. It was the latest salvo in his long-running dispute with the CBS program over its editing of an interview with Kamala Harris, last year’s defeated Democratic presidential candidate, over which Trump has lodged a \$10bn suit alleging “election interference”.

“CBS should lose its license, and the cheaters at 60 Minutes should all be thrown out, and this disreputable ‘NEWS’ show should be immediately terminated,” Trump wrote, alleging that the program and the network had “defrauded the public” to an extent “never seen before.”

The diatribe followed 60 Minutes’ release of an unedited transcript of Harris’s interview to the Federal Communications Committee in an effort to parry Trump’s accusations. The transcript was also posted on its website.

“[The transcripts] show – consistent with 60 Minutes’ repeated assurances to the public – that the 60 Minutes broadcast was not doctored or deceitful,” read an accompanying note on the site.

The original controversy arose after the transmitted interview featured a different segment of Harris’s answer to a question about Israel from the version screened as a trailer. Trump’s supporters claimed that the final version was more polished than the original, which was mocked as a “word salad”. Trump followed up by accusing the show of editing Harris’s answer to portray her in a more positive light, thus boosting her election chances.

Employees of 60 Minutes have denied claims of bias and say such edits are standard practice. However, CBS's owner, Paramount Global – which is currently seeking an \$8bn merger with Skydance Media – has opened negotiations with Trump's lawyers over the \$10bn lawsuit [amid reports](#) of pressure from the newly appointed FCC chair, Brendan Carr.

In an interview with Fox News, Carr said he shared Trump's opinion about the 60 Minutes interview with Harris.

“This is a rare situation where we have extrinsic evidence that CBS had played one answer or one set of words and then swapped in another set. And CBS's conduct through this, frankly, has been concerning,” he [said](#).

Trump – who frequently branded journalists “the enemy of the people” in his first term – broadened Thursday's attack to other outlets by [amplifying false claims](#) that USAid, the currently shuttered foreign assistance agency, had been funding Politico and other news outlets to the tune of \$8m.

“With the new Democrat scandal that just arose with respect to USAID illegally paying large sums of money to Politico and other media outlets, the question must be asked, was CBS paid for committing this FRAUD?” he wrote.

The accusation – denied by Politico and subsequently debunked – was first made by Trump-supporting social media influencers, who tried to establish a link between a glitch that caused a payment delay to Politico staff and the freezing of USAid's funding by Elon Musk's so-called “department of government efficiency” (Doge), whose agents have accessed the federal government's payments system.

It was later repeated by the White House press secretary, Karoline Leavitt.

In fact, payments to Politico's subscriptions services have been made throughout the vast government bureaucracy – including from staff of Republican members of Congress, [the Washington Post reported](#). Politico said in a statement that just two separate subscription payments totalling less than \$43,000 came from subdivisions within USAid in 2023 and 2024.

In a statement to staff, Politico's chief executive officer, Goli Sheikholeslami, and editor-in-chief, John Harris, wrote that the site “has never been a beneficiary of government programs or subsidies – not one cent, ever, in 18 years”.