# Trump slams 'partisan' whistleblower



The identity of the whistleblower and the nature of the complaint have not been publicly revealed

### Washington

S President Donald Trump on Friday vigorously reto investigate the son of Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden.

The whistleblower's secret complaint has triggered a tense that," Trump said. showdown between Congress, whose Democratic leaders are demanding to review the complaint, and the executive branch which has barred them from doing so.

Trump sought to strong-arm abase our country." Ukraine into providing damaging information on the presi-

According to a report by The Washington Post, which cited two unnamed former US officials, the complaint stemmed from Trump's communications with Ukraine, and a "promise" allegedly made by the president.

Trump slammed the story as "ridiculous" and attacked the "partisan whistleblower," even though he said he does not know the person's identity.

Trump insisted he had a "totally appropriate" conversation, without detailing with whom, or what was said, and suggested it was Biden and his son who should be investigated for their actions in Ukraine.

Biden shot back forcefully, demanding Trump immediately release the transcript of the call and saying the reports that Trump sought to coerce his Ukrainian counterpart, if true, amounted to "clear-cut corruption."

Suspicions have focused on a July 25 call between Trump and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, a former comedian who was elected in May.

Trump's Democratic opponents have been probing that call in connection with allegations Trump and his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani tried to pressure the Ukrainian administration.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Trump pressed Zelensky about eight times on

corruption involving Biden's son Hunter, who worked with a investigate Biden. Ukrainian natural gas company.

When asked by reporters whether he discussed the Bidens with Zelensky, Trump said curtly: "It doesn't matter what I disdone so.

Instead he urged media to "look into"

jected a whistleblower's Ukraine, and his videotaped claim of wrongdoing in a call comments last year in which with a foreign leader, amid re- the former US vice president ports he used the conversation said the Obama administration guarantees unless Kiev did not fire its top prosecutor.

## 'Political favour?'

Biden, who according to most head matchup, said the reports It has also raised concerns ness to abuse his power and

"It means that he used the in Friday with a sharp critique. power and resources of the Unitdent's possible 2020 challenger, ed States to pressure a sovereign power to help him win an elecwhich would represent danger- nation -- a partner that is still tion. Again," she tweeted. ous foreign meddling in the US under direct assault from Russia election similar to the interfer- -- pushing Ukraine to subvert ton on edge, with House Speaker ence blamed on Russia in 2016, the rule of law in the express Nancy Pelosi saying the whistlewhen Trump defeated Hillary hope of extracting a political blower complaint raises "grave, Amid the swirling allegations, security."

"of course I did" ask Ukraine to

Giuliani said he did not know whether Trump brought up First meeting Biden, but said he would have "every right" to do so.

Adding yet another layer to cuss." But he did not deny having the controversy, congressional policymakers were concerned the Trump administration had been holding back military aid Biden's involvement in to Ukraine at the time. The aid was finally released last week.

Zelensky inherited an armed conflict against pro-Russian rebels that has killed nearly 13,000 to pressure Ukraine's president would freeze \$1 billion in US loan in five years and caused serious economic difficulties.

Democratic lawmakers say a "Somebody ought to look into president conditioning foreign aid on providing dirt on a US election rival would amount to grounds for impeachment.

"The president can't use US polls leads Trump in a head-to- aid as a weapon to serve his own political purposes," House Demshow the president's "willing- ocrat Seth Moulton tweeted. "This is an impeachable offense if true." Clinton herself weighed

"The president asked a foreign

The scandal has set Washingfavor," Biden said in a statement. urgent concerns for our national



the call to investigate possible Giuliani told CNN Thursday that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky -- a former comedian -- inherited an armed conflict against pro-Russian rebels that has killed nearly 13,000 in five years

As the crisis swells, Trump acting Director and Zelensky will meet for the of National Intelfirst time Wednesday, during the ligence, Joseph UN General Assembly.

Their talk will focus in part to hand over the on the "incredible energy and complaint to Consuccess President Zelensky has gress. Maguire is put forward in implementing scheduled to publicly testify beanticorruption efforts," said a fore Schiff's committee Thurs-

mushroomed this week when den from lawmakers. House intelligence chairman

Adam Schiff revealed that the Maguire, refused

senior US administration official. day about why the executive The whistleblower scandal branch wants the complaint hid-

Virtually anytime I speak on the phone to a foreign leader, I understand that there may be many people listening from various US agencies, not to mention those from the other country itself. Knowing all of this, is anybody dumb enough to believe that I would say something inappropriate with a foreign leader while on such a potentially 'heavily populated' call. I would only do what is right anyway, and only do good for the USA!

**DONALD TRUMP** 

# What we know

n August 12, an unknown ty (ICIG), regarding a matter of rival. "urgent concern."

The identity of the whistle- joined the board of Burisblower and the nature of the ma Holdings, a Ukrainicomplaint have not been pub- an gas firm accused of licly revealed

After reviewing the com- he has not been perplaint, Atkinson determined it sonally accused of any was "credible" and forwarded wrongdoing. it on August 26 to the acting Director of National Intelligence, Trump urged Zelen-Joseph Maguire, a Trump ap- sky "about eight times" pointee.

The Democratic-led House with Rudy Giuliani, his Intelligence Committee is personal attorney, on a demanding that the whistle- probe into Hunter Biden. blower's complaint be turned over but Maguire has declined conversation, the Unitto share it. According to The ed States was holding up Washington Post, the complaint \$250 million in military aid concerned a "promise" Trump for Ukraine, but the Journal made in a recent phone call said Trump did not mention with a foreign leader.

# Phone call

ports, was a July 25 conver- manded that the White House

sation between Trump and Ukraine's newly elected President Volodymyr Zelensky.

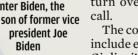
According to The Wall Street whistleblower in the US Journal, Trump repeatedly intelligence community pressured Zelensky in the call filed a complaint with Michael to investigate Hunter Biden, Atkinson, the Inspector Gener- the son of Joe Biden, Trump's al of the Intelligence Communi- main potential 2020 reelection

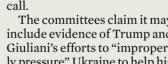
Hunter Biden in 2014 corrupt practices, but

The Journal said during the call to work

At the time of the the assistance during the con-

Three committees in the The phone call in question, Democratic-controlled House according to US media re- of Representatives have de-





Ukraine, in exchange for military assistance, into conducting leader while on such a potena "politically motivated" investigation into Hunter Biden.

to pressure Ukraine into good for the USA!" choosing between defending itself from Russian aggression without US asends of the Trump campaign, this would reprecommittee chairmen said.

The US military aid package for Ukraine, which is battling pro-Russian separatists, was finally approved by the White House last week.

# Trump and Giuliani fight back

"Virtually anytime I speak doing his job," he tweeted.

turn over a transcript of the on the phone to a foreign leader, I understand that there may be The committees claim it may many people listening from varinclude evidence of Trump and ious US agencies, not to mention Giuliani's efforts to "improper- those from the other country ly pressure" Ukraine to help his itself," he tweeted on Thursday.

"Knowing all of this, is any-They accused Trump and body dumb enough to believe Giuliani of trying to coerce that I would say something inappropriate with a foreign tially 'heavily populated' call," he said. "I would only do what "If the President is trying is right anyway, and only do

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday, Trump described the story as a "politsistance or leveraging its ical hack job" and said former judicial system to serve the vice president Joe Biden is the one who should be investigated.

"It was a totally appropriate sent a staggering abuse of conversation," he said of the power," the Democratic telephone call. "It was actually a beautiful conversation."

Trump claimed he didn't know the identity of the whistleblower but said he was a "partisan person."

Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, also took to Twitter to defend Trump.

"A President telling a Pres-Trump for his part has insist-ed there was nothing unto-country he better investigate ward about the telephone call. corruption that affects US is

