



Trump wants to meet whistleblower in Ukraine scandal

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U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out Monday at House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, questioning if the high-profile Democrat should be arrested for treason.

Worsen it did, as on Sunday evening, just a day after the letter would have been sent, Trump demanded to meet his "*accuser*, especially when this *accuser*, the so-called 'Whistleblower,' represented a flawless conversation with a foreign leader in a totally inaccurate and fraudulent way".

The attorney representing the whistleblower who filed a complaint against President Donald Trump scolded CBS' "*60 Minutes*" over the weekend for inaccurate reporting.

The whistleblower has not been publicly identified.

But the summary enraged the president, who on Friday called for Schiff to resign.

"In the days following the phone call, I learned from multiple USA officials that senior White House officials had intervened to "lock down" all records of the phone call, especially the official word-for-word transcript of the call that was produced-as is customary-by the White House situation room", the whistleblower said.

"It bore NO relationship to what I said on the call", Trump said before asking "Arrest for Treason?"

Schiff did not immediately respond to Trump's comments on Monday.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who defended Trump on Sunday, raised a similar claim in a Saturday tweet.

Democrats accuse Trump of pressuring a vulnerable USA ally to get dirt on a rival for personal political gain. The aid was later provided.

The Intelligence Committee is leading the inquiry in the Democratic-led House which could lead to approval of articles of impeachment against the Republican president and a subsequent trial in the Republican-led Senate on whether to remove Trump from office.

Julian Sanchez of the libertarian Cato Institute tweeted: 'Nothing in the relevant statute (ICWPA) or directives (PPD-19, ICD-120) has ever required that protected whistleblower disclosures

contain "firsthand" information, and said the passage in question directs the Inspector General to only forward information to Congress deemed credible.

The California congressman was subsequently chastised by fellow members of his committee.

Also tellingly, the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, which issued a detailed memo arguing for why the Ukraine whistle-blower's complaint should not be treated as an *urgent concern* and should therefore be withheld from Congress, did not raise the matter of second-hand information being out of bounds.

House investigators are set to take the first witness testimony from two people mentioned in the whistleblower's complaint.

The whistleblower's complaint, made public last week, alleged a frantic effort by the White House to cover up Trump's conversation with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky, in which the US president asked Zelensky to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden.

The whistleblower filed a complaint over the contents of the conversation back in August, saying Trump had tried to get a foreign power to interfere in a U.S. election for his own gain.