FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

THE LEDGER

Appeals court killed the order keeping one 'old, expensive, and dirty' coal plant open; 90 plants got $950m

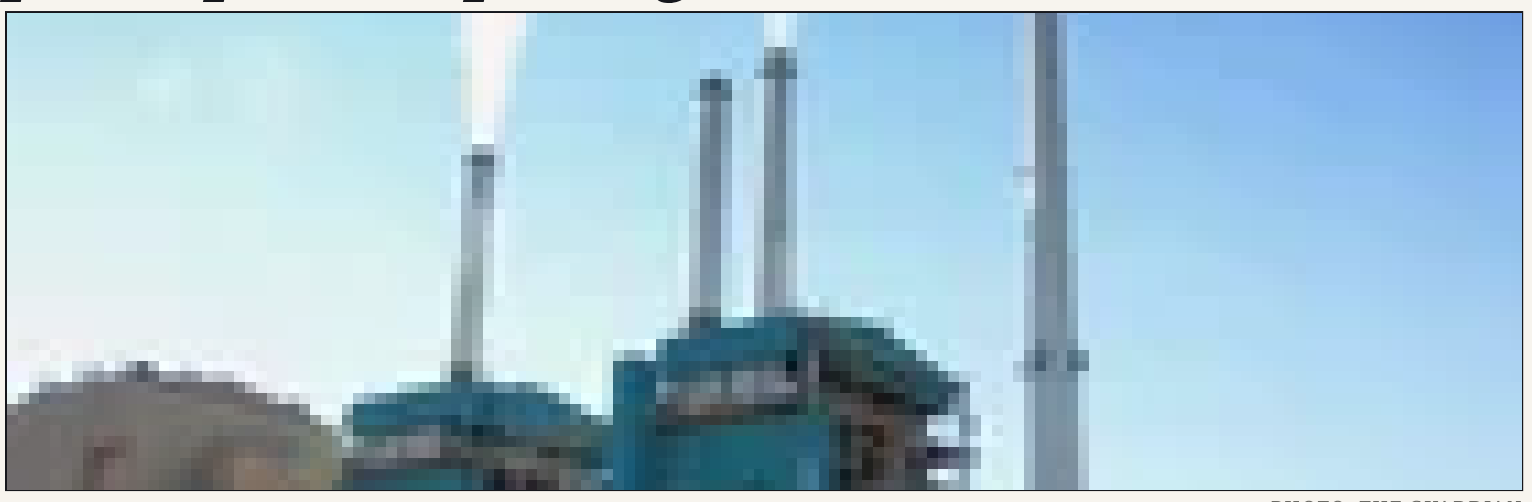


PHOTO: THE GUARDIAN

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Start with the court file, because somebody already did the arithmetic for us.

On September 11 a federal appeals court threw out the Energy Department's use of emergency powers to hold open a coal plant in Michigan. Ted Kelly, the Environmental Defense Fund's lead counsel for US clean energy, said the court had rejected the administration's nationwide push forcing unreliable, aging coal plants that are bleeding money to stay online. The phrase that traveled was old, expensive, and dirty. That is not name-calling. Old is a date. Expensive is a number. Dirty is a measurement. A court looked at all three and said an emergency is not the line item you use to keep the lights on at a business that cannot pay for its own lights.

Seven weeks later the same organization stopped arguing and started counting, which is the part of this job I like. …

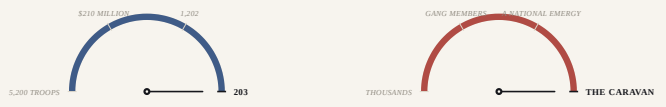
… Continued on Page F131

THE WORD

§78 — 31 OCTOBER 2026

On the caravan

DEMOCRAT — REPUBLICAN



203 — *THE CARAVAN*

"My granddaughter asked me what the scariest costume was, and I said, well, in 2018 it was a caravan. October 22nd: "a National Emergy," with the typo. October 29th: "This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!" Fifty-two hundred troops sent the same day. Then I found a count of how often one network said the word: twelve hundred two times the week before the election. Two hundred three the week after. And the people in it were at the border in Tijuana, about a hundred asylum claims a day, three thousand names on a list. Sorry, the kids are at the door. If it was an emergency on November 5th, where was it on the 13th?" — Lou

… Continued on Page W78

THE SCORECARD

Super PAC for the senator who delivers to every corner of Maine buys attack ads in Oregon



PHOTO: THE NEW YORK TIMES

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Every corner of Maine, the profile says. Every corner — mind the word, because a corner is a thing a state has and a constituency is a thing a senator keeps. The millions are real. They are congressionally directed spending,

… Continued on Page A226

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A super PAC long associated with Senator Susan Collins ran ads attacking her Maine opponent in Oregon.

WHO GETS PAID. Collins keeps the seat and the committee post that lets her name which Maine projects get money; the ad sellers kept the thousands.

WHAT SLIPS. Spending aimed at a Maine election answers to no Maine voter, and the group that bought it broke no rule.

WHAT'S NEXT. No rule was broken, so nothing stops the next buy or the next round of senator-named spending. The only date left in this story is the election.

On Super PAC for the senator who delivers to every corner of Maine buys attack ads in Oregon — the column, by Sterling. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

Ukrainians escape 'hell' in Oleshky through Russia and Belarus, Guardian seeks Melania Trump a peace prize for it.

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

The evacuees came home this weekend, and the record should say how. The ceasefire that let them leave did not start Saturday. It started October 11, when the White House announced an 'energy ceasefire' between Russia and Ukraine by social media post. The next day, Zelenskyy said the deal was 'news to me,' and the Washington Examiner reported Russia was still hitting Ukrainian energy sites despite it. By October 23, the New York Post was crediting a narrower, local version of the same ceasefire — this one covering Oleshky specifically — to the first lady, and the Hill

… Continued on Page A226

The outlet that carried the push to remove Omar reports only Congress may do it.

BY MITCH
Investigations

The file on Rep. Ilhan Omar keeps growing by the attachment, so take it in the order it was stapled. On 16 October, Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told CBS News the investigation was a "strong case," headed toward a grand jury. On 17 October, the New York Post reported federal agents had searched Omar's Washington home and that officials were building toward deportation. On 18 October, Barack Obama called the search "so appalling." On 21 October, the Washington Examiner reported the deportation case was complicated by proce-

… Continued on Page A226

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE RESCUE IS A LOAN

Chapter 2: Mode of Living

Take out your wallet and find the card you use most. Not the library card — that one, we've established, has no power over you. The other one. Somewhere behind it, in a building you will never visit, is a file with your name on it, and the file is allowed to say certain things about you and forbidden to say others, and the list of what it may and may not say was written in 1970, inside a law about something else entirely.

… Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

ASK VIVIAN

"Hey Viv, love the column. If I were the next Democratic president, I'd revoke every federal firearms license in the…" She answers on E5.

— this paper

PULL UP A STOOL

Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.

— this paper

Moving the ballots is impossible, Alaska says; a straight answer about them is too.

BY LOU
One More Question

Here is what is in the file, in the order it arrived. On October 24th, the Department of Justice asked a court to block certification of Alaska's Senate race, but only if the Republican loses, naming zero ballots in the complaint. On October 28th, Senator Lisa Murkowski endorsed the Democratic candidate for governor, passing over the president's own pick. On Friday, at a rally, Mary Peltola denied any involvement in the "Decoy Dan" ballot-stacking scheme her campaign stands accused of, and did not bring up the federal investigation into it — a denial The Hill says she has now made in two straight weeks. On Saturday, Alaska's attorneys filed their answer to the request that the state set aside those ballots, calling it "disturbing and impossible" without violating voter privacy. That same Saturday, former FEC chair Hans von Spakovsky said the DOJ's criminal probe into the scheme has a precedent: the indictment Jack Smith's office brought against Donald Trump, by then a former president.

That's the list. I'm not adding anything to it yet.

There's one line in that file I keep going back to, and before I start, I should say I'm going to come back to it more than once tonight. I don't do it to be stubborn. It just won't hold still for me.

… Continued on Page B49

No decision on new Iran strikes, Rubio says, same day Iran's leader vows 'unrestricted response' anyway.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The promise was born September 1st, the day American forces resumed bombing Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps targets and the president warned Tehran of a response "at a much harder and higher level" if it answered back. A promise to end a war is usually survived by the war. This one has spent two months surviving itself.

Tehran offered it an exit that same week. President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran would return to June's ceasefire if Washington did. Whatever the report described, the denial made sure

… Continued on Page B49

Bolsonaro threatens to annul the election he lost, flees instead, declares himself leader anyway.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a non-concession, which is not a dish you can get over here, so I will go slowly. You will need a presidential runoff held on a Sunday, a candidate who refuses to accept he lost it, a flight to Miami, and a president in Washington who has not yet said who won; there is no quick substitute for an actual concession.

Clive *Won. I am, if we are keeping score, the only person in this house who has ever actually won an argument, and I believe Gary will confirm it was Tuesday.*

Gary *Confirm nothing. The only thing settled on a Tuesday in this house is the boiler going off, and Clive conceding that was not a win, it was a draught.*

Begin with the forty-eight hours. Flavio Bolsonaro, who lost a dramatic runoff Sunday to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, spent them refusing to concede, then threatening to annul the result outright; that part went back in the pan before it was finished, and by

… Continued on Page A226

FROM THE CORNER

DUTCH

THE ONLY ROAD OUT OF OLESHKY RAN THROUGH RUSSIA AND BELARUS before it ever touched Ukraine, and the ceasefire that opened it was credited by the White House to the Russia sanctions the same White House had just waived. That is not a ceasefire, it is a toll: the sanctions regime collects passage money and calls the receipt peace. Because the credit for that road went into a Nobel nomination instead of a sanctions review, the sanctions stay waived; because they stay waived, the ceasefire stays a courtesy instead of a policy; and the next family that needs out still has to walk through Russia and Belarus to reach home.

⁂

On Ukrainians escape 'hell' in Oleshky through Russia and Belarus, Guardian seeks Melania Trump a peace prize for it. *— the column, by Chip*

THE COUNTDOWN

Washington Examiner reports the same $994 payment five times this month, each time with fewer days left

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 7th the Washington Examiner reported that a Social Security payment worth $994 would arrive in 23 days. On October 10th, the same payment, the same $994, was reported arriving in 20 days. On October 11th it was 19 days. On October 28th, the same $994, now two days out. Four headlines, four editions, one number: $994. The only figure that moved, each time, was the one anybody holding a calendar could have supplied without a byline.

That payment went out.

… Continued on Page F131

Today

News, continued	A2
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Finance	F1
The Ledger	F2
The Business Desk	F3
The Money Pages, continued	F4

SOURCED OR SILENT

Open any fold. Every claim linked, every link dated.

— this paper

FREE, FOREVER

No paywall, no login, no exceptions. Read the paper.

— this paper

THE RECORD

When we fix a line, the strikethrough stays. See the fixes.

— this paper

"Nothing up there is a conspiracy. That's the part that should worry you — it's all on the record, filed, stamped, and in a couple of cases notarized."

— Sal

FOR SALE Eight straight failed Pentagon audits, one careful owner. *Payment plan: another budget increase.* — **Classifieds**

FOR SALE Reflecting Pool, painted flag-blue, now algae-green, $14 million. *Drains sold separately, repeatedly.* — **Classifieds**

FOR SALE Fiftieth consecutive year of deficit panic, lightly used in Democratic administrations only. *Free with any tax cut.* — **Classifieds**

"Nothing here is a scandal. A scandal requires surprise, and I can assure you nobody involved was surprised."

— Chip

Snow held the fox's prints till the thaw,
while the farmer mended the door.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

THE SCORECARD

Super PAC for the senator who delivers to every corner of Maine buys attack ads in Oregon

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Susan Collins Is Always Keeping Score", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A super PAC long associated with Senator Susan Collins ran ads attacking her Maine opponent in Oregon.

WHO GETS PAID. Collins keeps the seat and the committee post that lets her name which Maine projects get money; the ad sellers kept the thousands.

WHAT SLIPS. Spending aimed at a Maine election answers to no Maine voter, and the group that bought it broke no rule.

WHAT'S NEXT. No rule was broken, so nothing stops the next buy or the next round of senator-named spending. The only date left in this story is the election.

Every corner of Maine, the profile says. Every corner — mind the word, because a corner is a thing a state has and a constituency is a thing a senator keeps. The millions are real. They are congressionally directed spending, the Senate's own phrase for money a member names, delivers, and is thanked for by name, which is rather the point of naming it. Nothing was broken here. You are thinking of the super PAC. On the twelfth of October, Defending Main Street, long associated with Collins, spent thousands attacking Troy Jackson in Portland ... Oregon. Wrong Portland. Not wrong rules — wrong Portland. The money went out, the invoice cleared, and the committee that spent it owes nothing to any voter in Maine. And what does Maine get for the arrangement? On the seventh of October Jackson called her "an arsonist who helped set the fire, and then she wants credit for bringing a cup of water to put it out." She had touted her role in securing fifty billion dollars. Jackson priced the delivery at a cup.

Under the road the fox dens now.
A man counts eggs, not hens.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They tell you there's no money for your kid's clinic, and then a committee with her name all over it torches thousands on ads in the wrong Portland — that's how closely anybody's watching Maine. She helps light the fire in committee, shows up with a cup of water, and the paper calls it keeping score. The seat is what's on the ballot, and a cup is what's on offer."
— Sal

"Look, a buy is a buy, a vendor made a geographic error, it happens, and anyway it's an independent group, which I have always said. Did I say independent? "Long associated" is a phrase reporters use, that doesn't sound like me. The point is she secured fifty billion dollars, and I notice nobody in Maine is mailing the check back."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Susan Collins Is Always Keeping Score
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *16:06 EDT*

The long-serving senator has delivered millions of dollars to every corner of her state. But in Maine, people say, it's best to avoid getting on her bad side.

· Susan Collins-Aligned Super PAC Buys Attack Ads in Portland... Oregon *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· In Senate Debate, Troy Jackson Calls Susan Collins an 'Arsonist' Who Brings a 'Cup of Water' to the Fire *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· 'Corruption of the Highest Order,' Says Troy Jackson After Explosive Susan Collins Report *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

U krainians escape 'hell' in Oleshky through Russia and Belarus, Guardian seeks Melania Trump a peace prize for it.

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER

"Hundreds evacuated from Russian-occupied town of Oleshky arrive in safe Ukrainian land", 31 October 2026 (REPORTS VIA NEW YORK POST · THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

The evacuees came home this weekend, and the record should say how. The ceasefire that let them leave did not start Saturday. It started October 11, when the White House announced an 'energy ceasefire' between Russia and Ukraine by social media post. The next day, Zelenskyy said the deal was 'news to me,' and the Washington Examiner reported Russia was still hitting Ukrainian energy sites despite it. By October 23, the New York Post was crediting a narrower, local version of the same ceasefire — this one covering Oleshky specifically — to the first lady, and the Hill and CBS both reported she had secured it directly. Two days after that, this page reported the White House crediting the whole arrangement to Russia sanctions it had itself waived the week before — the same White House that called enforcing those sanctions the thing that would have prevented an American's release, and that praised Vladimir Putin, the man it had just un-sanctioned, as a humanitarian. I want to be fair to the mechanism here, because it is almost — it is not elegant, I will just say it is not elegant. A government waives the penalty, calls the resulting calm a win, and keeps the penalty waived. That is the diplomacy. Which brings us to Saturday and the twenty-four hours it took people to get out alive. The Guardian marked the day by proposing Norway award Melania Trump the Nobel Peace Prize denied to her husband in October, running the pitch the same day as the evacuee homecomings it praises. It is a genuinely argued piece. It also runs through Trump FIFA peace prize, his self-described Michigan 'Man of the Year' award, a prize that does not exist, for a state he has not lived in, and his line trashing Norway as an 'outhouse country,' the one the Norwegian tourism board answered by advertising its public restrooms. I defend the nomination. I do. The ceasefire worked, people got out, and someone should get the credit. I just cannot find the paragraph where this page explains why the penalty had to be lifted first.

▾ FROM THE COLUMN ▾
IN USE

THE ONLY ROAD OUT OF OLESHKY HAS THROUGH RUSSIA AND BELARUS BEFORE IT EVER TOUCHED UKRAINE, AND THE CEASEFIRE THAT OPENED IT WAS CREDITED BY THE WHITE HOUSE TO the Russia sanctions the same White House had just waived. That is not a ceasefire, it is a toll: the sanctions regime collects passage money and calls the receipt peace. Because the credit for that road went into a Nobel nomination instead of a sanctions review, the sanctions stay waived; because they stay waived, the ceasefire stays a courtesy instead of a policy; and the next family that needs out still has to walk through Russia and Belarus to reach home.

"They waived the sanctions, called the quiet a miracle, and now they want a medal for it. The same White House that says enforcing those sanctions would've kept an American in Russia longer is out here collecting Nobel buzz for lifting them off Putin instead. Lift the penalty, take the praise — that's the whole racket, not diplomacy." — Sol

"The ceasefire worked, people got out, that's not nothing — it's not nothing! And sure, we waived some sanctions, but that's leverage, you give a little to get the talks moving, you get it back later — okay, that's not actually what happened here, we just waived it. Anyway, go ask Norway why the first lady doesn't have a prize yet." — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *White House credits Melania Trump's ceasefire for evacuating civilians it reported were eating grass*, by Marx · the-afternoon-edition, 30 October 2026
- *Trump likens Senate candidate to Flight 93 hijackers; his commentariat reviews the delivery as pedal to the metal*, by Chip · the-afternoon-edition, 26 October 2026
- *White House credits Ukraine's third ceasefire of the month to the Russia sanctions it waived the week before*, by Chip · the evening edition, 31 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Hundreds evacuated from Russian occupied town of Oleshky arrive in safe Ukrainian land

New York Post | REPORT | *17:27 EDT*

Hundreds of Ukrainians arrived in their homeland Saturday afternoon, after the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky was evacuated under a ceasefire First Lady Melania Trump helped broker.

Hear me out: maybe Norway should give Melania Trump a peace prize

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *08:00 EDT*

The first lady has been praised for 'singlehandedly' brokering a ceasefire in a Ukrainian city – though she might have had some help Haters be damned: Donald Trump just hangs on winning. He won the inaugural Fifa peace prize last year and was presented with the completely real, totally not made-up "Man of the Century" award at a recent...

'We Are Coming From Hell': A Ukrainian City's Evacuees Tell Survival Stories

The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *17:44 EDT*

Safely out of Oleshky after enduring years in the combat zone and a harrowing 24-hour journey, weary civilians reunited with family and friends.

Russia and Ukraine ready to resume trilateral talks with the US

Le Monde | MAINSTREAM | *10:46 EDT*

Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters on Wednesday that Russia was 'in principle, ready to resume' the talks in mid-November, following a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US envoy Steve Witkoff in Saint Petersburg. Ukraine quickly backed the proposal.

Evacuees from Russia controlled Oleshky arrive back in Ukraine amid U.S.-brokered ceasefire

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *15:32 EDT*

Residents evacuated from the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky arrived back in Ukraine on Saturday amid a localized U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement. The halt in fighting, which was secured earlier this month by first lady Melania Trump, went into effect on Tuesday and is set to last through Saturday. Residents were given the choice of...

Russia frees retired US schoolteacher Stephen Hubbard

RTE | MAINSTREAM | *09:54 EDT*

Stephen Hubbard, a 74-year-old retired US schoolteacher in Russian custody since 2022, was freed from prison today and taken to St Petersburg's Pulkovo airport, President of Russia Vladimir Putin said.

- Zelenskyy blindsided after Trump announces 'energy ceasefire' in Ukraine war *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- White House says Melania Trump brokered truce for Ukraine city 'on brink of disaster' *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Melania Trump secures "temporary ceasefire" in Ukrainian city *from the morgue, 24 Oct 2026*
- Melania Trump brokers localized Russia-Ukraine ceasefire, White House says *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Melania Trump says she's secured ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine in Oleshky *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Melania Trump valiantly secures cease-fire in Ukrainian city on brink of humanitarian catastrophe *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Trump announces immediate 'energy ceasefire' between Russia and Ukraine *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*
- Russia still hitting Ukrainian energy sites despite Trump claim of ceasefire, Zelensky says *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Trump calls Ukraine's renewed strikes on Russian oil refineries a 'disgrace' *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*
- Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Trump's diesel deal derailed Ukraine-Russia peace progress, says Czech president *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*
- Russia bombards Kyiv with missiles – hours after agreeing to resume talks with Ukraine *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky unleashes on Trump as Russia diesel deal rallies Ukraine's supporters *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky unleashes on Trump over Russia diesel deal *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky shrugs off Trump's call for him to be replaced *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*
- US gave us no warning of Russian strikes on Kyiv power plants, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*
- Putin orders release of jailed American as he meets Trump envoy for Ukraine talks *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*
- Former U.S. ambassador says Putin is a war criminal, calls Witkoff's comment "fatuous" *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Russia frees US citizen Stephen Hubbard, state media reports *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- The Guardian view on Trump and Putin: Ukraine's future is not theirs to bargain away *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*
- Putin proposing summit with Trump, Xi in push to end Ukraine war: WSJ *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*
- Witkoff says he hopes Ukraine included in U.S., Russia talks *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky says he'll be open to freezing front lines to end Russia war *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Democrats call for investigation into Musk over reported Starlink slowdown order *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Peter Zalmayev: 'Ukraine was showing all sorts of cards that Trump took away and gave to Putin' *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine's Zelenskyy open to freezing front lines in ceasefire with Russia *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Putin agrees to trilateral talks with Ukraine, US to end war *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine's Zelensky says he'd accept peace deal with Russia that 'freezes' front lines: 'Real way to end war' *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- 'We're done': Ukraine resumes strikes on Russian oil refineries as only 'leverage' for peace talks *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Trump says Ukraine and Russia have agreed to energy target ceasefire *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Rep. Turner calls for congressional probe into Starlink slowdown that disrupted Ukraine drones *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*
- Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Russia Releases American Stephen Hubbard From Prison, State Media Reports *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Witkoff blasted for calling Putin a "humanitarian" *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Witkoff lauds 'humanitarian' Putin as Russia releases detained American *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*
- Witkoff calling Putin a humanitarian is "cringeworthy," former U.S. ambassador says *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Witkoff faces backlash after calling Putin a 'humanitarian' *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Trump envoy Steve Witkoff praises Putin as 'humanitarian' as Ukraine peace talks hang in the balance *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Stephen Hubbard released by Russia after years in prison *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Editor Daily Rundown: Russia Releases American Prisoner Without A Swap *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Who Is Stephen James Hubbard, the American Released From Russian Jail? *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Live updates: Trump lauds Russia's release of American; Vance to campaign with Ramaswamy in Ohio *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- American Stephen Hubbard released by Russia, Trump confirms *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*
- Trump: Implementing Russia sanctions would have halted Stephen Hubbard release talks *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Pence calls on Trump to restore sanctions, scrap Russia diesel deal *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*
- Sen. Graham on Trump waiving Russia sanctions: 'I look forward to talking to him' *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*
- Trump and Putin held call over Witkoff-Kushner meeting and state of Ukraine war, Russia says *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Trump Offers Putin Economic Relief in Hopes That Russia Will Return the Favor *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Graham Breaks With Trump Over Russia Sanctions Law Her Brother Championed *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*
- Easing sanctions on Russia only helps fund Putin's killing machine *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Massie offers rare praise for Trump on waiving Lindsey Graham's Russia sanctions *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- U.S. Floats Lifeline to Russia: Allowing More Gas Sales to Europe *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Schumer: 'Trump just gave Putin the best birthday gift he'll get this year' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Trump signs Russia sanctions bill named after Lindsey Graham *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*
- Tillis says Trump's Russia deal 'is tarnishing Lindsey Graham's efforts' at sanctions *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky says US-Russia diesel deal is a 'birthday gift' to Putin to 'kill us, kill our children' *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky on Trump waiving Russia sanctions: 'This Act could have helped enormously' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky blasts 'unfortunate' decision to pause Russia sanctions as Moscow hits power plants *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- GOP lawmakers bash Trump decision to waive Russia sanctions: 'Beyond irresponsible' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Trump waives several Russia sanctions as row with Zelensky intensifies *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*
- Trump signs executive order waiving new Russia sanctions *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- War in Ukraine: Europe stands united behind Kyiv but must revisit how to finance its support *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*
- Lawmakers in bipartisan statement push back on Trump over Russian oil *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky bashes Trump over diesel deal with Russia *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*
- Trump rips Zelensky amid Russia diesel deal feud: 'I suggest they get a new leader' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*
- Europe blasts Russian finance minister's attendance at Asheville G20 *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Trump Signs Order Exempting Russia From Sanctions Legislation *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Trump waives tariffs on largest buyers of Russian oil *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*
- Trump waives Russia sanctions ordered by law named for Lindsey Graham *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Trump puts new Russia sanctions passed by Congress on hold amid deepening row with Ukraine *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Trump doubles down after waiving new Russia sanctions, calling it a 'very good decision' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Trump says Russia will export diesel, lifts sanctions *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*
- Trump rips into Volodymyr Zelensky — insisting it's time for Ukraine to 'get a new president' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine hit by deadly Russian strikes as 'thanks' for Trump diesel deal, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*
- Trump calls for Ukraine to replace Zelenskyy after clash over Russia diesel deal: 'Get a new president' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*
- Rebuking Ukraine Over Oil Strikes, Trump Says It Should 'Get a New President' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*
- 'Time for Ukraine to get new president,' says Trump after Zelensky condemns diesel deal *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*
- Trump says Ukraine needs new president, blames Zelensky for diesel prices *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor; how this is made.

Moving the ballots is impossible, Alaska says; a straight answer about them is too.

By [Lou](#)
ONE MORE QUESTION



Peltola repeats denial of ballot-stacking reports, says silent on federal probe, 31 October 2026 [PHOTO BY THE BELL — SEE ORIGINAL REPORT]

◆ THE SHORT VERSION
LISTEN to this
WHAT HAPPENED Alaska's attorneys called a federal request to toss contested Senate ballots impossible, and Peltola repeated her denial of the ballot scheme.
WHO GETS PAID Republican Senator Dan Sullivan keeps his Senate seat if the probe knocks Peltola's campaign out of the race.
WHAT ALIAS The vote-count slips behind a federal investigation that could settle the race before the ballots are even certified.
WHAT'S NEXT If the push continues, expect courts to stop in before certification; that is what the 2025 election order got a partial injunction within thirty days, then more of it blocked that June.

LAST DAY OF THE FIGHT

Here is what is in the file, in the order it arrived. On October 24th, the Department of Justice asked a court to block certification of Alaska's Senate race, but only if the Republican loses, naming zero ballots in the complaint. On October 28th, Senator Lisa Murkowski endorsed the Democratic candidate for governor, passing over the president's own pick. On Friday, at a rally, Mary Peltola denied any involvement in the "Decoy Dan" ballot-stacking scheme that campaign stands accused of, and did not bring up the federal investigation into it — a denial The Bell says she has now made in two straight weeks. On Saturday, Alaska's attorneys filed their answer to the request that the state set aside those ballots, calling it "disturbing and impossible" without violating voter privacy. That same Saturday, former FEC chair Hans von Spakovsky said the DOJ's criminal probe into the scheme has a precedent: the indictment Jack Smith's office brought against Donald Trump, by then a former president.

That's the list. I'm not adding anything to it yet.—

...[cont.] There's one line in that file I keep going back to, and before I start, I should say I'm going to come back to it more than once tonight. I don't do it to be stubborn. It just won't hold still for me.

I'm sorry, but the first time, it's about the calendar. The record gives us one rally, on a Friday, with one quote. It tells us this is the second time Mary Peltola has said it. It doesn't tell us when the first time was — not the date, not how many days ago. That is a hand I can number. I don't have one.

I'm sorry — second time now — but this one's about what's missing. "I am so deeply offended," Mary Peltola says, by any suggestion of involvement. The federal investigation into the scheme is not mentioned in that sentence. I want to tell you it wasn't mentioned the first time either. That's not something the file gives me for the first time, so I'll leave it alone.

Third time, and I apologize, but this one's the garage. I had a board out there I needed cut to a length. I measured it, cut it, and it came up short. I carried it back across to the saw, measured the same spot again, and cut it a second time. Measuring a thing twice doesn't change what the first cut was. It tells you where somebody went back to.

One more, and I'm sorry, because this is about who else was talking that same Saturday. While that second denial sits in the record, Alaska's own attorneys are telling a court, in writing, that doing what was asked of them — setting aside ballots tied to this scheme — cannot be done without violating voter privacy. One office says a thing can't be done. A campaign says a thing didn't happen. Doses either filing say whether the federal investigation answers the question the other one raises?

Excuse me — before you go. Mr. von Spakovsky's precedent is Jack Smith's indictment. Jack Smith indicted a former president — a man that had left office, not while he held it. So does the record show this probe following that same order, after the fact, or does it show something running now, while the campaign it concerns is still sitting on a ballot that hasn't certified? I don't know, and I can't. I do know that file has given me the words "second straight week" exactly once, and the gone back has turned up on own three more times without meaning to. Second.

> "They call it "impossible" when it's your ballot and your privacy on the line, and they call it "no comment" when it's her campaign and a federal probe on the line. Same lawyers' logo, two different clients. The Senate seat gets decided once and again, and the question of who stacked those ballots doesn't."
>
> — *Ed*

> "Look, if Jack Smith could indict a sitting president — wait, a former president, that's what I meant, the precedent holds either way — then obviously the DOJ can look into Alaska, that's just equal treatment under the law. Ballots, probe, whatever, the point is consistency, which is exactly what everybody said they wanted back when it was the other indictment. Did I say "whatever"? I didn't mean the ballots don't matter. Forget I said that."
>
> — *Chip*

RABBLED IN THIS STORY

- *Trump's 700-foot arch for augurs and drones, built for America's 250th anniversary, drawn [second lawsuit this month](#)* In Law · The afternoon edition, 31 October 2026
- *[Justice Department sues to block Alaska's certification, surges agents, then says it is not](#) [mounting a crime scene](#)* By Sterling · The evening edition, 31 October 2026
- *[Four federal and state probes into Alaska's two Dan Sullivans yield zero charges, zero ballots,](#) [one denial](#)* By Mitch · The afternoon edition, 30 October 2026
- *[Alaska's four-agency probe into a same-name candidate has produced zero charges, one en](#) [ner clarification, not illegal](#)* By Mitch · The evening edition, 30 October 2026
- *[Bolsonaro loses Brazil's election, flees to US with Trump's help, declares himself 'in leader'](#)* By The Ledger · The evening edition, 30 October 2026
- *[Sullivan tells Alaskans to mark 'Decoy Dan,' the candidate at the center of Thursday's grand](#) [jury subpoenas](#)* By Sterling · The evening edition, 29 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Peltola repeats denial of ballot stacking reports, stays silent on federal probe
The Bell · MASTHEAD · 10:30 EDT

Alaska's Democratic Senate candidate Mary Peltola denied once again any involvement in the alleged ballot-stacking scheme that it was recently reported her campaign engaged in during a rally on Friday, but did not mention the ongoing investigation into the scheme "I am so deeply offended by these accusations about having any involvement...

Warning says Murkowski endorsement 'flying under the radar'
DOJ would block Alaska's Senate count only if the Republican loses.
Politico · MASTHEAD · 09:00 EDT

The memo by the Justice Department to try and preemptively block Alaska's Senate results if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses stunned officials in both parties.

Trump prosecution under Biden set precedent for DOJ's Alaska 'Decoy Dan' probe, ex-FEC chair says
Fox News · NEWS · 11:00 EDT

Hans Von Spakovsky says Jack Smith's Trump indictment set the precedent for the DOJ's criminal probe into Alaska's "Decoy Dan" Senate race scheme.

Trump ask to set aside 'Decoy Dan' Alaska Senate ballots 'not even possible': attorneys
New York Post · NEWS · 11:00 EDT

In its Saturday filing, Alaska said this was "both disturbing and impossible." It added there would be no way to do that without violating voter privacy.

But: **Republican reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department** [NPR News, May 2026]
County Reject Trump's Attempt at Deploying ICE to Intimidate Voters
Truthout · 09:18 EDT

A judge ordered Homeland Security to stop sending agents door to door in nine bay states to hunt for "voter fraud."

- **Murkowski snubs Trump-backed Alaska candidate, endorses Democrat for governor** *from the morning edition, 28 Oct 2026*
- **DOJ sues to block Alaska Senate certification if Sullivan loses** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **Alaska Election Gambit Shows Justice Dept. Has Bowed to Trump's Demands** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **Donald Trump challenges Alaska Senate race** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **The controversy surrounding convicted former election official Tina Peters** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **Alaska Senate race featuring two Dan Sullivans is 'blatantly corrupt' | Joe Concha** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **Trump officials abandon effort to investigate election threats, experts warn** *from the morning, 1 Oct 2026*
- **Tina Peters turns down job with California county's registrar of voters** *from the morning, 1 Sep 2026*
- **Election deniers stoke Trump-driven ballot security fears before midterms** *from the morning, 4 Oct 2026*
- **Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **Sabato's Crystal Ball shifts Alaska and South Carolina Senate races in favor of Democrats** *from the morning, 6 Oct 2026*
- **Appeals Court Rejects 'Likely Unlawful' Trump Push to Undermine Mail-In Voting as Supreme Court Looms** *from the morning, 18 Sep 2026*
- **US justice department sues California over alleged noncitizen voting** *from the morning, 15 Oct 2026*
- **Trump knocks Alaska voting system: 'How stupid are we to do this?'** *from the morning, 9 Oct 2026*
- **Corey Lewandowski Always Found His Way Back to Trump. Until Now.** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Trump announces $6.6bn defense shipyard owned by top Republican donor's firm** *from the morning, 6 Oct 2026*
- **Companies Backed by Trump Sons Have Scored Over $6 Billion in Pentagon Contracts: Analysis** *from the morning, 7 Oct 2026*
- **DOJ demands that California counties help identify noncitizen voters** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **DOJ demands that some California counties set aside alleged noncitizen ballots** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **California officials ordered by DoJ to set aside 'likely' noncitizen ballots** *from the morning, 24 Oct 2026*
- **LA feds move to halt ballot counting over 20K suspected noncitizen voters** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Trump 'Laying the Groundwork for Election Meddling' With DHS Hunt for Noncitizen Voters** *from the morning, 2 Sep 2026*
- **California has no real safeguards for voting and voter registration** *from the morning, 21 Oct 2026*
- **Federal efforts over alleged noncitizen voting escalate with California arrests** *from the morning, 20 Oct 2026*
- **Federal voter fraud arrests intensify in California days after DOJ warning** *from the morning, 19 Oct 2026*
- **Trump DOJ issues stark warning to California ballot counters after suing state over 20K suspected noncitizen voters** *from the morning, 17 Oct 2026*
- **Intel Democrats on how they'll react if Trump alleges election meddling** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Trump told DOJ to sue to block Alaska Senate results if Republican narrowly loses** *from the morning, 26 Oct 2026*
- **Trump says he personally ordered DOJ lawsuit intervening in Alaska Senate election** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Ramaswamy accuses Acton of 'lying' about attack ad, but court records contradict mother's claim – live** *from the morning, 14 Oct 2026*
- **DoJ sues to block certification of Alaska Senate results if Republican incumbent loses** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Trump-Ordered DOJ Lawsuit in Alaska Seen as First Salvo in GOP Effort to Undermine Midterm Elections** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Trump on the Alaska election lawsuit: 'I'm the one that said, "do it"'** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Trump administration sues to block certification of upcoming Alaska election** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **DOJ files lawsuit to block results in Alaska Senate race after two Dan Sullivans land on November ballot** *from the morning, 23 Oct 2026*
- **Trump previews trip to Alaska to campaign for Dan Sullivan, ripping into the other Dan Sullivan** *from the morning, 2 Sep 2026*
- **Trump urges Alaskans to vote for the 'real' Dan Sullivan in tight midterms battle** *from the morning, 14 Oct 2026*
- **Sullivan trails Peltola in Alaska Senate contest: AARP poll** *from the morning, 17 Sep 2026*
- **Trump vows to probe other Dan Sullivan in alleged Dem plot to sabotage 'real' Alaska GOP senator** *from the morning, 14 Oct 2026*
- **Trump administration sued over plans to send election monitors to voting sites** *from the morning, 7 Oct 2026*
- **AGs v. Trump: How an AWOL Congress made hundreds of lawsuits possible** *from the morning, 16 Oct 2026*
- **The Electoral College meets in the state capitals to officially elect the next President. Joe Biden, the presumptive president-elect, is officially elected president after securing California's 55 ele** *from the morning, 14 Dec 2020*
- **US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar** *from the morning, 12 Oct 2026*
- **Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats** *from the morning, 12 Oct 2026*
- **Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar** *from the morning, 13 Oct 2026*
- **Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ** *from the morning, 13 Oct 2026*
- **Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. home searched by Homeland Security investigators** *from the morning, 12 Oct 2026*
- **Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork** *from the morning, 12 Oct 2026*
- **Homan confirms criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on'** *from the morning, 13 Sep 2026*
- **WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation** *from the morning, 18 Sep 2026*
- **Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down** *from the morning, 29 Sep 2026*
- **Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained** *from the morning, 22 Sep 2026*
- **Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers" in fiery UN tirade** *from the morning, 26 Sep 2026*
- **Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches** *from the morning, 26 Sep 2026*
- **U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba** *from the morning, 26 Sep 2026*
- **The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican** *from the morning, 14 Aug 2026*
- **U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners** *from the morning, 15 Aug 2026*
- **In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists** *from the morning, 23 Sep 2026*
- **Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website** *from the morning, 27 Sep 2026*
- **Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website** *from the morning, 22 Sep 2026*
- **GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat** *from the morning, 22 Sep 2026*
- **Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season** *from the morning, 9 Sep 2026*
- **U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes** *from the morning, 22 Sep 2026*
- **Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran** *from the morning, 18 Sep 2026*
- **Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy** *from the morning, 17 Sep 2026*
- **Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs** *from the morning, 17 Sep 2026*
- **Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities** *from the morning, 10 Sep 2026*
- **Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms** *from the morning, 9 Sep 2026*
- **Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight'** *from the morning, 28 Aug 2026*
- **CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate** *from the morning, 13 Sep 2026*
- **Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go'** *from the morning, 18 Sep 2026*
- **Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders** *from the morning, 15 Sep 2026*
- **Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth** *from the morning, 11 Sep 2026*
- **Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military** *from the morning, 2 Sep 2026*
- **Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management'** *from the morning, 2 Sep 2026*
- **Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode"** *from the morning, 18 Sep 2026*
- **Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs** *from the morning, 18 Sep 2026*
- **Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition** *from the morning, 16 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it read, on the evening news. The current edition is at the front. The byline in a yen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the reporter. [how this is made.](#)

The outlet that carried the push to remove Omar reports only Congress may do it.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Who are Ilhan Omar's lawyers? Meet the high-powered Dem attorneys the embattled rep hired", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A congresswoman under federal investigation hired the lawyers who defended Joe Biden and E. Jean Carroll.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The Constitution's rule that only Congress can expel one of its own members is being tested by a president who keeps saying she must go.

WHAT'S NEXT. The case is headed toward a Supreme Court test of that fifty-year-old rule; no hearing date is set yet, so the next real move is the Court's calendar.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The file on Rep. Ilhan Omar keeps growing by the attachment, so take it in the order it was stapled. On 16 October, Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told CBS News the investigation was a "strong case," headed toward a grand jury. On 17 October, the New York Post reported federal agents had searched Omar's Washington home and that officials were building toward deportation. On 18 October, Barack Obama called the search "so appalling." On 21 October, the Washington Examiner reported the deportation case was complicated by procedural factors, the kind of sentence that means more paperwork, not less. On 31 October, the adjective moved: Mullin told the Post the case was now "large" and named more than one target. The docket moved with it — the matter sits with Judge Boasberg, who is already overseeing the administration's deportation flights and California's voter rolls. The same day, Fox News reported the push to expel Omar is now aimed at a Supreme Court test of a precedent fifty years untested.

That is the file as it stood before the two newest pages. Both are dated 31 October. Both are from Fox News. Both are about the same congresswoman, and both move the story forward....

...(cont) The first page is a roster. Omar has hired Amy Jeffress and Joshua Matz — the attorneys who represented Joe Biden, who represented House Democrats through the Trump impeachment, and who represented E. Jean Carroll. All together now — follow the roster: this is not a first-time retainer. It is the team assembled when the opposing party is the federal government itself.

The second page is a concession, and it comes from the outlet that has carried every adjective in this file since the secretary's first one. Fox News's own explainer, filed the same day as the roster, states plainly that the power to expel a sitting member of Congress belongs to the Constitution and to the House it created — not to the president who keeps saying she must resign. Nineteen days after agents searched her home, the publication that has carried the administration's case has also carried, under its own byline, the sentence the case cannot get around.

"They ran "strong case," then "large case," like it's a drive-thru order, and today their own network has to admit the Constitution picks who fires a congresswoman, not the president. Omar didn't hire a public defender — she hired the same lawyers who stood up for Biden, for the House during impeachment, and for E. Jean Carroll. The same judge now holding this file is already running the deportation flights and the voter rolls, and that's not a coincidence, that's one docket doing a lot of work."
— *Sal*

"Hiring Amy Jeffress and Joshua Matz just shows how rattled the — hold on, those are the lawyers who defended Biden and E. Jean Carroll, that's not exactly a reassuring résumé for us. Fine, the Constitution gives expulsion to Congress, not the president, but raising the question is basically governing too. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Homeland Security upgraded the Omar case from strong to large in the nineteen days since searching her home.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 31 October 2026
- *Trump revives the Omar probe Obama's FBI opened in 2016, calls her claim to constitutional rights "arrogance"* By Mitch · the evening edition, 29 October 2026
- *Probe Obama opened in 2016, Biden's appointee closed in 2021, Trump reopened six days before the vote* By Mitch · the morning edition, 29 October 2026
- *DOJ's noncitizen-voter dragnet produces its first charges: the two men who faked being noncitizen voters.* By Chip · the evening edition, 28 October 2026
- *Judge Trump wanted impeached takes over fight to unseal warrant in zero-charge Omar probe, six days before vote.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 28 October 2026
- *Judge discusses 'serious consequences' for Omar probe that has filed zero charges, six days before vote.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Who are Ilhan Omar's lawyers? Meet the high-powered Dem attorneys the embattled rep hired

Fox News RIGHT · *13:18 EDT*

Ilhan Omar has hired Amy Jeffress and Joshua Matz, attorneys who represented Biden, House Democrats in Trump impeachment, and E. Jean Carroll.

~~Why the Ilhan Omar saga isn't going away~~

Trump says Omar must resign - only the House can do that

Fox News RIGHT · *12:07 EDT*

Trump claims Ilhan Omar must resign from Congress over alleged immigration fraud, but the Constitution grants that power solely to the House itself.

· Feds building case to deport 'squad' member Rep. Ilhan Omar as new details emerge about DHS raid *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

No decision on new Iran strikes, Rubio says, same day Iran's leader vows 'unrestricted response' anyway.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"Iranian supreme leader vows 'unrestricted response' to any US or Israeli strikes", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The administration says no decision has been made on resuming the Iran war, October 31.

WHO GETS PAID. The White House, which is holding its strike decision until after Tuesday's midterms, keeping any political cost off this week's ballot.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters go to the polls Tuesday without knowing whether the war restarts the next day, so their only chance to weigh in comes before the decision is even made.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, the war resumes without a congressional vote; that is what happened over Libya in 2011, when a resolution to authorize the war failed 123 to 295 and the bombing ran four more months, over 26,000 sorties in all.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The promise was born September 1st, the day American forces resumed bombing Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps targets and the president warned Tehran of a response "at a much harder and higher level" if it answered back. A promise to end a war is usually survived by the war. This one has spent two months surviving itself.

Tehran offered it an exit that same week. President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran would return to June's ceasefire if Washington did. Whatever the report described, the denial made sure no outside observer ever saw a draft, a term sheet, or a signature....

...(cont) By October 28th the promise had a new due date. The president told reporters Americans would "see Iran in a couple of weeks" — not peace, a preview. That date is still eleven days off. Three days into the wait, the file is thicker, not thinner.

Saturday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said no decision had been made on resuming hostilities. The same day, Iran's supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, made the decision look academic, vowing an "unrestricted response" and ordering Iran's target list "updated comprehensively" to include, in his own words, "all physical and non-physical assets" of the United States and Israel. Non-physical assets. The promise to end the war has outlived its own vocabulary.

Israel, for its part, is reportedly drafting a different kind of ending. Sources describe a plan styled on last year's pager campaign, aimed this time at the four military hard-liners running Iran — targets on their backs, the Post reports, and explosives in their pockets, if strikes resume after Tuesday. Washington is, at the same time, racing to rejoin indirect talks in Qatar. Over the weekend, Saudi, Pakistani and Turkish officials met their Iranian counterparts in Tehran, reticent, Truthout reports, to watch the war come back.

The promise is survived by a ceasefire nobody returned to and a sanctions offer nobody admitted making. It is preceded in death by nothing — it has never actually died, only paused long enough for an obituary and then declined to stay in the ground.

In lieu of flowers, a vote. Tuesday's returns decide less than they are advertised to, but they are the only ledger entry left that voters, rather than diplomats, get to sign.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON RESUMING THE WAR, THE SAME WEEK IT REJOINS THE QATAR TALKS AND LETS WORD SPREAD THAT ISRAEL HAS A PLAN TO KILL IRAN'S FOUR RULING GENERALS ONCE MIDTERMS ARE OVER. That isn't a peace process with a deadline, it's an ultimatum with a press hold until the polls close. Because the strike list is already updated and the assassination plan is already drafted, your Tuesday vote decides nothing about whether the war restarts; it only decides whether it restarts before or after the sample ballot on your counter goes in the recycling.

"They keep saying no decision's been made while the other side's already updated the kill list and Israel's reportedly drafting another pager-style hit — that's not diplomacy, that's a countdown clock with a press release taped to it. Vote Tuesday and the war can start Wednesday morning like it's got a calendar app synced to your ballot. The people who get to say when it starts are not the people who have to go fight it."
— Sal

"Look, nobody's rushing into anything — the Secretary of State himself said no decision's been made, that's restraint, that's statesmanship. Sure, the ayatollah's updating his target list and we've reportedly got a hit plan that reads like a sequel, but that's their rhetoric, that's not us — we're the diplomatic ones racing back to Qatar. ...did I just call an assassination plan a sequel? That's not — that's not how I meant that."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Administration vows Iran war ends 'soon,' then threatens Iran with 'consequences.'* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 31 October 2026
- *The promise that the Iran war will end "soon" turns thirty-nine days old, no details added* By Mort · the evening edition, 31 October 2026
- *Trump vows Iran war ends "whenever I want," tells Gulf allies when: after the vote.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 28 October 2026
- *Senators demand the Iran war's accounting; Pentagon's reply is a bigger bill.* By Mort · the morning edition, 28 October 2026
- *Netanyahu predicts cheaper gas once the war ends, the war that already made Trump $4.4 million.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
- *Trump endorses Netanyahu to keep from finishing his own war alone* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Iranian supreme leader vows 'unrestricted response' to any US or Israeli strikes~~

Trump teased renewing the Iran war once midterms are over

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *12:51 EDT*

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Saturday escalated his rhetoric against the United States after President Donald Trump teased a renewal of Washington's war against Tehran following the midterm elections. Khamenei said Iran's military target list would be "updated comprehensively" to include "all physical and non-physical...

~~As US and Israel Plot Iran Escalation, Regional Powers Scramble to Avert It~~

US and Israel are plotting an Iran escalation. The region is scrambling to stop it.

Truthout | *11:53 EDT*

Saudi, Pakistani, and Turkish leaders met with Iranian officials in Tehran, signaling their reticence to renew the war.

If Iran war erupts, Israel may be plotting another 'Operation Grim Beeper' style attack: sources

New York Post | RIGHT | *16:44 EDT*

The four military hard-liners ruling Iran could soon find targets on their backs—and explosives in their pockets—if strikes resume after the midterms.

US, Iran race to revive Qatar talks as Trump weighs new strikes after midterms

New York Post | RIGHT | *11:59 EDT*

The US is set to rejoin indirect talks with Iran in Qatar, local media reported, after a series of signals that the US could resume military action immediately after the midterm elections Tuesday.

But: 'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' - Trump, 10 May 2023; CNN counted 53 such promises *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Iran's supreme leader warns U.S., Israel against new attacks

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *15:00 EDT*

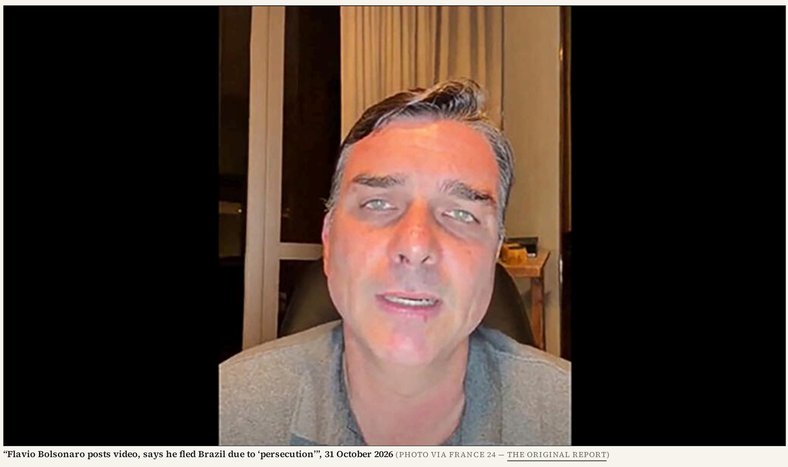
Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday no decision has yet been made on whether to renew hostilities with Iran.

· Iran's president says Iran would return to ceasefire deal if the US does *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

Bolsonaro threatens to annul the election he lost, flees instead, declares himself leader anyway.

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK



"Flavio Bolsonaro posts video, says he fled Brazil due to 'persecution'", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Flavio Bolsonaro, Brazil's defeated presidential candidate, fled to Miami and declared himself the country's leader.

WHO GETS PAID. Flavio Bolsonaro and his political movement gain a legitimacy claim Brazilian voters denied them, backed by Trump's refusal to recognize the result.

WHAT SLIPS. Brazil's election result stops being final, now hostage to whether Washington agrees.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, Flavio returns to Brazil as his father did; Jair Bolsonaro got a return home after 2022, followed by prison time over the attack on Brazil's Congress.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making a non-concession, which is not a dish you can get over here, so I will go slowly. You will need a presidential runoff held on a Sunday, a candidate who refuses to accept he lost it, a flight to Miami, and a president in Washington who has not yet said who won; there is no quick substitute for an actual concession.

Clive *Won. I am, if we are keeping score, the only person in this house who has ever actually won an argument, and I believe Gary will confirm it was Tuesday.*

Gary *Confirm nothing. The only thing settled on a Tuesday in this house is the boiler going off, and Clive conceding that was not a win, it was a draught.*

Begin with the forty-eight hours. Flavio Bolsonaro, who lost a dramatic runoff Sunday to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, spent them refusing to concede, then threatening to annul the result outright; that part went back in the pan before it was finished, and by Wednesday he was on a plane to Miami instead.

Rob *Plane. Of course it's a plane. Does nobody else wonder who's left doing the washing up when the person who caused the mess just leaves?*

He landed in Miami on Wednesday, the twenty-eighth of October; the Morning Star reported that same day that Trump had rejected Brazil's election result outright. Washington has still not said who actually won.

Keith *Won. There's money in won. If nobody's saying who won, somebody should be selling tickets to the wait, and I know a man with a lanyard printer.*

France 24, reporting the arrival, called it the start of a 'self-imposed exile,' and said his defiance 'signaled continued upheaval for Brazil.' On Friday he posted his own video from that exile and gave it a different name: 'persecution,' he said, without saying how he had actually left the country.

Gary *Self-imposed. That's a laugh. The exile I'd self-impose is upstairs, away from Keith's lanyard scheme, and I wouldn't need a passport, just a lock.*

None of this is new. In 2022, Jair Bolsonaro, his father, lost to the same Lula da Silva and also fled to Florida, before he eventually returned to Brazil. France 24, previewing this October's vote, had already noted that the father was in prison over what it called 'the Brazilian version of the January 6th storming of the US Capitol.' You will be looking for the court that settles who actually leads a country; there is no court here, only a telephone call from Washington that has not yet come.

Brazilian voters elected Lula da Silva on Sunday. Flavio Bolsonaro is in Miami calling himself the country's leader anyway, and the head of state in Washington has not said he is wrong.

Keith *Leader anyway. I like that. If nobody's checking, I'm landlord anyway, and the rent's gone up accordingly.*

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

Flavio Bolsonaro threatened to annul the election he lost, then flew his family to Miami the same week Trump refused to recognize Brazil's results. That isn't a candidate in exile, it is a second government on standby, waiting for Washington to pick it over the one Brazilians actually elected. Because Washington can simply withhold the call that makes an election final, a loser with a plane and the right friends can keep his claim alive indefinitely, and the next count stuck waiting on your own county clerk's desk.

"Losing candidate flies to Miami, cries persecution, never explains how he got out, and the President of the United States still won't say who actually won the election. His father ran the same play after he lost in 2022, same city, same silence from Washington. This isn't foreign policy, it's a franchise."
— Sal

"The administration isn't refusing anything, it's exercising caution before endorsing a foreign tally — that's due diligence, not a snub. And Bolsonaro didn't flee, he relocated, citing a persecution he still hasn't detailed, including how he left the country. Did I just call "no comment" a travel itinerary? That's not landing like I wanted."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Flavio Bolsonaro posts video, says he fled Brazil due to 'persecution'

France 24 MAINSTREAM 02:25 EDT

Brazil's defeated right-wing presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro posted a video message on social media late Friday to declare he had fled to the US because he was a victim of 'persecution'. Bolsonaro, who lost Sunday's election runoff to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, gave no details of how he left the country.

~~Defeated Brazilian presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro lands in Miami~~

Bolsonaro fled Brazil after refusing to concede his election defeat

France 24 MAINSTREAM 12:28 EDT

Defeated Brazilian presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro and his family landed in Miami on Wednesday (October 28) after fleeing Brazil. The stunning move came after 48 hours in which Bolsonaro refused to concede to Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and then threatened to attempt to annul the election result. Details by...

Flavio Bolsonaro claims he is Brazil's true leader after fleeing to US

France 24 MAINSTREAM 18:15 EDT

Brazil's defeated far-right presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro insisted on Wednesday he is his country's rightful leader after arriving in the United States to start a self-imposed exile. Bolsonaro's defiance on fleeing to Florida signalled continued upheaval for Brazil, where leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won a...

· Defeated Bolsonaro flees to Miami as Trump rejects Brazil election result *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

· Return of the Bolsonaros: Why the far-right surge in Brazilian elections? *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

THE COUNTDOWN

Washington Examiner reports the same $994 payment five times this month, each time with fewer days left

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"December Social Security direct payment worth $994 goes out in 31 days", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Washington Examiner published the same $994 Social Security payment amount five times this month, each time citing a different number of days until it arrives.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The press's own job here — telling readers something new — slips into recycling one fixed number as if each countdown were news.

WHAT'S NEXT. The December $994 payment is due around December 1, and the retirement payment capped at $5,181 is due around November 10; both are already on the calendar.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 7th the Washington Examiner reported that a Social Security payment worth $994 would arrive in 23 days. On October 10th, the same payment, the same $994, was reported arriving in 20 days. On October 11th it was 19 days. On October 28th, the same $994, now two days out. Four headlines, four editions, one number: $994. The only figure that moved, each time, was the one anybody holding a calendar could have supplied without a byline.

That payment went out. On October 31st the Examiner opened a new clock: a December payment, worth $994, arriving in 31 days. The number that had just finished counting down to zero started over at the top, unchanged. Five headlines this month, one amount, carried from November into December without so much as a comma's difference....

...(cont) The October 31st edition also carried a second countdown, running on its own clock: a Social Security retirement payment, capped at $5,181, arriving in 10 days. Two countdowns, two numbers, one masthead, neither requiring a reporter so much as a calendar and the payment schedule the Social Security Administration already publishes.

A reconciliation, then, hon. The December headline calls the payment "Social Security." The body copy, in its first sentence, names it correctly: Supplemental Security Income.

None of the five articles changes the $994. None changes the rule that produces it — the first of the month, pushed to the last business day of the one before when the first falls on a weekend. What changes, edition to edition, is the number of days between the reader and a figure that was never in motion. That is not five stories. That is one fact, filed five times, with the countdown doing the work a single sentence could do: the payment is $994, it arrives on the first of the month, next.

The retirement payment capped at $5,181 will presumably get its own run of editions before it arrives, each one subtracting a day. The arithmetic is not the news. The number of times the arithmetic gets billed as news is.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

The Washington Examiner ran the same $994 figure in five headlines this month, each one naming a different number of days until it arrives. That is not reporting, that is a countdown clock wearing a byline, selling the reader the same fact back one subtraction at a time. Because the number never moves, the only thing the reader needed was the calendar nailed to the kitchen wall, where the first of the month was already circled before the paper ever ran it.

"They don't call it a rerun, they call it an update. Same $994, five headlines, each one just subtracting a day off a number the reader could get from a calendar nailed to the wall. That's a countdown clock wearing a press badge, counting down to a check that doesn't move while they count."
— *Sal*

"This is basic constituent service — people need to know when their check arrives, and Social Security already publishes the payment calendar, so we're just reporting it. Five times. For the same payment. That does sound like a lot of times to report a date that's printed on a government website. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."
— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Judge pauses plan to speed children through an asylum system already denying 94 percent of claims* By Mitch · the evening edition, 31 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

December Social Security direct payment worth $994 goes out in 31 days
Washington Examiner RIGHT | *09:00 EDT*

The December 2026 Supplemental Security Income payments, worth up to $994, will be sent to recipients in 31 days. SSI payments are typically issued on the first day of each month. If the first day falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the payment is sent on the last business day of the previous month [...]

First round of November Social Security payments goes out in 10 days
Washington Examiner RIGHT | *06:00 EDT*

The first round of November Social Security payments for retirees, now capped at $5,181, will be issued in 10 days. When will payments arrive? Retirees born on or before the 10th of a month will receive this payment on Tuesday, Nov.

· November Social Security direct payment worth $994 goes out in two days *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

· November Social Security direct payment worth $994 goes out in 19 days *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· November Social Security direct payment worth $994 goes out in 20 days *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· November Social Security direct payment worth $994 goes out in 23 days *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

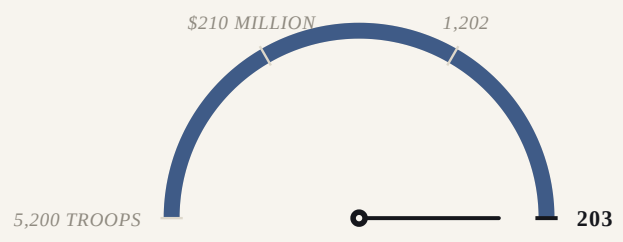
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§78 — 31 OCTOBER 2026

On the caravan

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



203

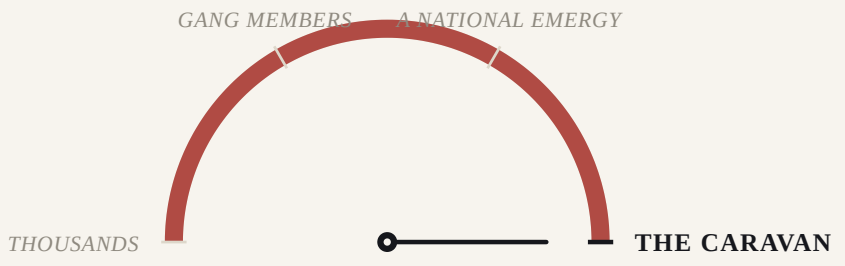
The response. On October 29, 2018, the Pentagon announced 5,200 troops for the border in "Operation Faithful Patriot" [1]. Its report to Congress put the cost at $210 million: $72 million for about 5,900 active-duty troops through December 15, and $138 million for 2,100 Guard troops [2].

The attention. By Grabien's count, Fox News said "caravan" 1,202 times from October 30 to November 5, the week before the election, and 203 times from November 7 to 13, the week after — a drop of 83 percent; CNN went from 834 to 75, MSNBC from 586 to 110 [3]. The people themselves were in Tijuana by mid-November, with about 100 asylum claims processed a day and more than 3,000 names on the wait list [4]. The emergency ended on Election Day. The caravan was still there.

SOURCES

1. 5,200 troops for "Operation Faithful Patriot" — NBC News, 29 October 2018 ↑
2. $210 million total: $72 million for about 5,900 active-duty troops through 15 December and $138 million for 2,100 Guard troops, per the Pentagon's report to Congress — 10News, November 2018 ↑
3. Fox News said "caravan" 1,202 times the week before the election and 203 times the week after, an 83 percent drop; CNN 834 to 75; MSNBC 586 to 110 — TheWrap via Yahoo News, citing Grabien, 14 November 2018 ↑
4. About 100 asylum claims processed a day at San Ysidro; more than 3,000 names on the wait list — CBS News, 16 November 2018 ↑

REPUBLICAN



THE CARAVAN

The alarm, in his words. October 22, 2018: "Sadly, it looks like Mexico's Police and Military are unable to stop the Caravan heading to the Southern Border of the United States. Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in. I have alerted Border Patrol and Military that this is a National Emergy. Must change laws!" [1]. October 29: "This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!" [2].

The caravan was real, and it was large. The United Nations counted about 7,200 people as of October 22; Mexico's government said about 3,630 two days later; the AP estimated 4,000 to 5,000 on October 28 [3]. Several thousand people walking north toward the border is a genuine event for the agencies that meet them, and a president who calls attention to it is describing something that existed. What happened to the attention is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in. I have alerted Border Patrol and Military that this is a National Emergy. Must change laws!" — tweet, 22 October 2018 — Newsweek ↑
2. "This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!" — tweet, 29 October 2018 — Roll Call ↑
3. About 7,200 people per the UN (22 October); about 3,630 per Mexico's government (24 October); 4,000 to 5,000 per the AP (28 October) — PolitiFact, 29 October 2018 ↑

“My granddaughter asked me what the scariest costume was, and I said, well, in 2018 it was a caravan. October 22nd: "a National Emergy," with the typo. October 29th: "This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!" Fifty-two hundred troops sent the same day. Then I found a count of how often one network said the word: twelve hundred two times the week before the election. Two hundred three the week after. And the people in it were at the border in Tijuana, about a hundred asylum claims a day, three thousand names on a list. Sorry, the kids are at the door. If it was an emergency on November 5th, where was it on the 13th?” — Lou

“Halloween's the right day for this one. October 2018, a week before the midterms: the caravan. "Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in." Fifty-two hundred troops, two hundred ten million dollars. Fox said the word twelve hundred and two times the week before the election. The week after: two hundred three. Eighty-three percent of the monster went home the minute the polls closed. It's four days to another midterm. Check the closet.”

— Sal

“Coverage of the caravan declined after the election because the caravan had been successfully deterred by the coverage, which is the most cost-effective border security ever devised.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎