

SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS' GREATEST LIES AS A WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

Highlights

- Sarah Huckabee Sanders repeatedly lied about Donald Trump.
 - Sanders lied about Trump paying Stormy Daniels through his lawyer Michael Cohen.
 - Sanders lied about Trump's history of sexual abuse.
 - Sanders lied that the Mueller report exonerated Trump.
 - Sanders lied about Trump being wiretapped.
 - Sanders lied about Trump's pattern of promoting and encouraging violence.
- Sarah Huckabee Sanders lied about administration policy and the law.
 - Sanders lied that "countless" FBI agents said they wanted FBI Director James Comey fired.
 - Sanders lied about the vetting diversity visa recipients received.
 - Sanders lied that thousands of suspected terrorists were crossing the southern border.
 - Sanders lied that Trump created more jobs than during the Barack Obama administration.
- Sarah Huckabee Sanders used a doctored video to justify pulling the White House press credential from CNN reporter Jim Acosta.
 - A judge ruled that Acosta had to get his pass back.

Sanders Lied About Donald Trump

MARCH 2018: SANDERS LIED ABOUT THE STORMY DANIELS HUSH MONEY PAYMENTS

March 2018: Sanders Denied That Trump Paid Michael Cohen \$130,000 To Reimburse Cohen For Buying Stormy Daniels' Silence. According to a transcript of Sanders' March 7, 2018 White House Press Briefing, "[Q] Sarah, you've said repeatedly that we've addressed our feelings on that situation, in regards to the Stormy Daniels payment. But specifically, can I ask, did the President approve of the payment that was made in October of 2016 by his longtime lawyer and advisor, Michael Cohen? [MS. SANDERS] Look, the President has addressed these directly and made very well clear that none of these allegations are true. This case has already been won in arbitration. And anything beyond that, I would refer you to the President's outside counsel. [Q] When did the President address, specifically, the cash payment that was made in October of 2016 to — [MS. SANDERS] The President has denied the allegations against him. And, again, this case has already been won in arbitration. Anything beyond that, I would refer you to outside counsel." [Trump White House Archives, [3/7/18](#)]

- **Trump Did Reimburse Michael Cohen For Paying Stormy Daniels.** According to Politico, "White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Thursday that she learned President Donald Trump had reimbursed his longtime attorney for a 2016 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels at the same time most Americans did — when Rudy Giuliani revealed it in an interview on Wednesday night. 'The first awareness I had was during the interview last night,' Sanders told reporters at the White House. Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City who is now a member of Trump's legal team, told Sean Hannity of Fox News that the president repaid Michael Cohen — who Giuliani said was not doing any work for Trump's 2016 presidential campaign — in several installments via a retainer. 'They funneled through a law firm, and the president repaid it,' Giuliani said. 'He didn't know about the specifics of it, as far as I know, but he did know about the general arrangement — that Michael would take care of things like this.'" [Politico, [5/3/18](#)]

OCTOBER 2017: SANDERS LIED ABOUT TRUMP'S SEXUAL ACCUSERS

October 2017: Sarah Huckabee Sanders Said All The Women Who Accused Trump Of Sexual Harassment Were Lying. According to the Daily Beast, "Asked by Jacqueline Alemany of CBS News on Friday if the 'official White House position' is that all of the at least 16 women who have accused Donald Trump sexual harassment or assault are 'lying,' press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders did not hesitate with her answer. 'Yeah, we've been clear on that from the beginning, and

the president's spoken on it,' Sanders said before quickly moving on to call on the next reporter in the briefing room." [Daily Beast, [10/27/17](#)]

- **May 2023: Trump Found Liable For Sexual Abuse Of E. Jean Carroll.** According to the Associated Press, "A jury found Donald Trump liable Tuesday for sexually abusing advice columnist E. Jean Carroll in 1996, awarding her \$5 million in a judgment that could haunt the former president as he campaigns to regain the White House." [Associated Press, [5/9/23](#)]

MARCH 2019: SANDERS LIED ABOUT THE MUELLER REPORT

March 2019: Sarah Huckabee Sanders Said The Mueller Report Showed A "Total And Complete Exoneration Of The President Of The United States." According to NBC News, "White House press secretary Sarah Sanders echoed his remarks earlier Sunday afternoon, 'The Special Counsel did not find any collusion and did not find any obstruction. AG Barr and DAG Rosenstein further determined there was no obstruction. The findings of the Department of Justice are a total and complete exoneration of the President of the United States.'" [NBC News, [3/24/19](#)]

- **The Mueller Report: This Report "Does Not Exonerate Him."** According to Volume I of the Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election (also known as the Mueller Report), "Fourth, if we had confidence after a thorough investigation of the facts that the President clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would so state. Based on the facts and the applicable legal standards, however, we are unable to reach that judgment. The evidence we obtained about the President's actions and intent presents difficult issues that prevent us from conclusively determining that no criminal conduct occurred. Accordingly, while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him." [Volume I of the Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election, [March 2019](#)]

MARCH 2017: SANDERS LIED ABOUT TRUMP BEING WIRETAPPED

March 2017: Sanders Said That Trump's Claims That Barack Obama Wiretapped Him Came From Multiple News Outlets. According to PolitiFact, "President Donald Trump's White House offered dubious explanations on the Sunday shows to defend Trump's Twitter accusation that former President Barack Obama wiretapped phones at Trump Tower before the 2016 election. The president, a spokeswoman said on ABC's This Week, didn't come up with the storyline out of thin air. He was echoing reports from 'multiple news outlets.' 'Everybody acts like President Trump is the one that came up with this idea and just threw it out there,' said deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on March 5. 'There are multiple news outlets that have reported this.'" [PolitiFact, [3/5/17](#)]

- **September 2017: The Justice Department Said It Had No Evidence Supporting Trump's Claim That He Was Wiretapped By Obama.** According to CNN, "The Justice Department said in a court filing Friday evening that it has no evidence to support President Donald Trump's assertion in March that his predecessor, Barack Obama, wiretapped the phones in Trump Tower before last year's election. 'Both FBI and NSD confirm that they have no records related to wiretaps as described by the March 4, 2017 tweets,' the department's motion reads. NSD refers to the department's national security division." [CNN, [9/2/17](#)]
- **In Fact, The Root Of Trump's Claim Was An Uncorroborated 2016 Blog Post.** According to PolitiFact, "Trump's team cited multiple reports to back up this claim, but it's clear only one is at the root of Trump's claim: a November 2016 blog post based on anonymous sources that has not been corroborated by independent U.S. journalists. Trump's spokeswoman made it sound as if Trump was merely following a well-documented string of reports, but that is not the case. A few of the reports allude to the FBI requesting permission from FISA to eavesdrop on Trump's associates, but none (minus the anonymously sourced website) definitively said the probes centered on Trump himself or came directly from Obama." [PolitiFact, [3/5/17](#)]

JULY 2017: SANDERS LIED ABOUT TRUMP'S PROMOTION OF VIOLENCE

July 2017: Sanders Falsely Said Trump Had Never "Promoted Or Encouraged Violence." According to PolitiFact, "Garrett said that 'some have suggested' that Trump's tweets have 'misconstrued one of the messages that should have been gathered' after the shooting of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., and several others at a congressional baseball practice. 'Do you have any reaction to that sentiment, that conversations like this create an atmosphere that is either dangerous or one we need to avoid?' Garrett asked. Huckabee Sanders responded, 'The president in no way, form or fashion has ever

promoted or encouraged violence. If anything, quite the contrary. And he was simply pushing back and defending himself.” [PolitiFact, [7/5/17](#)]

- **February 2016: Trump Promised To Pay The Legal Fees If Anyone Would “Knock The Crap Out Of” Anyone That Looked Like They Were Going To Throw A Tomato At Trump.** According to PolitiFact, “In February 2016, during his campaign for president, Trump told a crowd in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, ‘So I got a little notice. We have wonderful security guys. It said, ‘Mr. Trump, there may be somebody with tomatoes in the audience.’ So if you see somebody getting ready to throw a tomato, knock the crap out of them, would you? Seriously. Just knock the hell I promise you, I will pay for the legal fees. I promise. I promise.’ As a review of the video shows, Trump is not smiling or chuckling as if this was intended as a joke.” [PolitiFact, [7/5/17](#)]

Sanders Lied About Trump’s Policies

MAY 2017: SANDERS LIED ABOUT THE FIRING OF FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY

May 2017: Sanders Falsely Claimed That “Countless” FBI Officials Told Her They Were Grateful For Trump’s Decision To Fire Director Comey. According to Vanity Fair, “‘What led you in the White House to believe James Comey had lost the confidence of the rank and file members of the F.B.I when the acting director says it’s exactly the opposite?’ the first asked. ‘I can speak to my own personal experience, I’ve heard from countless members of the F.B.I. that are grateful and thankful for the president’s decision,’ Sanders replied. Clearly not buying it, another reporter asked, incredulously, ‘You personally have talked to ‘countless’ F.B.I. officials, employees, since this happened?’ ‘Correct,’ Sanders said, her voice breaking.” [Vanity Fair, [4/18/19](#)]

- **March 2019: Sanders Told Federal Investigators That Her Comment That “Countless” FBI Agents Told Her They Had Lost Confidence In The FBI Director Were Not Founded On Anything.** According to Volume I of the Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election (also known as the Mueller Report), “Following the press conference, Sanders spoke to the President, who told her she did a good job and did not point out any inaccuracies in her comments. Sanders told this Office that her reference to hearing from ‘countless members of the FBI’ was a ‘slip of the tongue.’ She also recalled that her statement in a separate press interview that rank-and-file FBI agents had lost confidence in Comey was a comment she made ‘in the heat of the moment’ that was not founded on anything.” [Volume I of the Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election, [March 2019](#)]

NOVEMBER 2017: SANDERS LIED ABOUT IMMIGRATION

November 2017: Sanders Falsely Claimed That Immigrants Coming Into The U.S. Through The Diversity Visa Program Were Not Vetted. According to PolitiFact, “White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that immigrants coming to the United States through the diversity visa program are not vetted before their arrival. Her remarks came a day after a terrorist attack in New York City left eight people dead and about a dozen injured. President Donald Trump said the suspect came to the country via the diversity visa program, which allows up to 50,000 people a year from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Program participants are selected through a random, computer-generated lottery. ‘One of the best things that we have in this country is the fact that everybody wants to be here, and to give that away randomly, to have no vetting system, to have no way to determine who comes, why they are here and if they want to contribute to society is a problem,’ Sanders said in a Nov. 1 press briefing.” [PolitiFact, [11/2/17](#)]

- **Diversity Visa Immigrants Have To Go Through Background Checks And Security Screenings.** According to PolitiFact, “There are concerns about potential vulnerabilities related to the admission of diversity visa immigrants, and there are difficulties in verifying documents of individuals from certain countries. But vetting mechanisms exist, including additional in-depth review of applicants who need additional scrutiny. Not all who are awarded the lottery end up getting a visa, but individuals who do make it to the visa application process must undergo background checks and security screenings.” [PolitiFact, [11/2/17](#)]

AUGUST 2018: SANDERS LIED ABOUT TRUMP’S ECONOMIC IMPACT

August 2018: Sanders Falsely Claimed Trump Created More Jobs For African-Americans During His Administration Than Obama. According to PolitiFact, “During a testy White House daily briefing that included discussion of former White

House aide Omarosa Manigault Newman and her new tell-all book, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders offered a series of favorable statistics about the economy under President Donald Trump. At one point, Sanders said, ‘This president, since he took office, in the year and a half he’s been here, has created 700,000 new jobs for African-Americans. ... When President Obama left, after eight years in office — eight years in office — he had only created 195,000 jobs for African-Americans. President Trump in his first year and a half has already tripled what President Obama did in eight years.’ Sanders recounted the numbers under Trump accurately, but she vastly undercounted the number under Obama, leading to a misfire on the comparison between the two presidents.” [PolitiFact, [8/15/18](#)]

- **Sanders Was So Wrong, The White House's Council of Economic Advisers Issued A Correction And An Apology.** According to PolitiFact, “Sanders dramatically undercounted African-American employment gains under Obama. In reality, the correct Obama-Trump comparison shows the opposite of what Sanders indicated: African-American employment gains under Obama were four times higher than the gains to date on Trump’s watch. The White House's Council of Economic Advisers later tweeted a correction and apology.” [PolitiFact, [8/15/18](#)]

JANUARY 2019: SANDERS LIED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF TERRORISTS CROSSING THE SOUTHERN BORDER

January 2019: Sanders Said That About 4,000 Known Or Suspected Terrorists Came Into The U.S. Illegally And That The Southern Border Was The Most Vulnerable Entry Point. According to the Huffington Post, “White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Sunday continued to push the Trump administration’s false claims that terrorists pour into the U.S. across the border with Mexico. But Fox News’ Chris Wallace wasn’t having it. Sanders had a heated exchange with the host of ‘Fox News Sunday’ as she discussed President Donald Trump’s threat to continue the partial government shutdown if his demand for \$5 billion to fund a U.S.-Mexico border wall isn’t met by Democrats. ‘Let’s talk about the wall,’ Wallace said. ‘The president talks about terrorists potentially coming across the border.’ He then showed a clip of Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen stating Friday that ‘over 3,000 special interest aliens’ trying to enter the U.S. from the southern border had been stopped by Border Patrol agents. ‘But special interest aliens are just people who have come from countries that have ever produced a terrorist, they’re not terrorists themselves,’ Wallace said. He also cited State Department reports that found ‘no credible evidence of any terrorist coming across the border from Mexico.’ Sanders responded, ‘We know that roughly nearly 4,000 known or suspected terrorists come into our country illegally, and we know that our most vulnerable point of entry is at our southern border.’” [Huffington Post, [1/6/19](#)]

- **Those 4,000 People Were “Special Interest Aliens” That Were Stopped At Airports, Not At The Southern Border.** According to the Huffington Post, “Wallace, ready to pounce, interrupted Sanders with a blistering fact-check. ‘Wait wait, ’cause I know the statistic,’ he said. ‘I didn’t know if you were going to use it, but I studied up on this. Do you know where those 4,000 people come or where they’re captured? Airports.’ ‘Not always but certainly a large number,’ Sanders said as Wallace continued to hammer his point. ‘The state department says there hasn’t been any terrorists found coming across the southern border from Mexico,’ he added. Sanders, seemingly ignoring the facts laid out before her, said terrorists enter the U.S. ‘by air, it’s by land, it’s by sea’ and that the southern border is the country’s ‘most vulnerable point of entry.’ ‘But they’re not coming across the southern border, Sarah,’ Wallace persisted. ‘They’re coming and they’re being stopped at airports.’” [Huffington Post, [1/6/19](#)]

Sanders Lied About A White House Reporter

NOVEMBER 2018: SANDERS USED A DOCTORED VIDEO TO JUSTIFY PULLING CNN REPORTER JIM ACOSTA’S WHITE HOUSE PRESS CREDENTIAL

November 2018: Sanders Tweeted A Doctored Video Which Was Made To Look As If CNN Reporter Jim Acosta Physically Restrained A White House Intern. According to Newsweek, ‘White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders posted a video to Twitter of the clash between CNN’s Jim Acosta and President Donald Trump that appears to be a doctored version shared previously by an editor for conspiracy website InfoWars. Acosta had his White House pass revoked after an incident in which he sparred verbally with the president and refused to hand over the microphone to a staffer. Acosta is CNN’s Chief White House Correspondent. The edited footage is speeded up so it looks like Acosta forced the woman’s arm down as she went to grab the mic. Moreover, the audio of Acosta saying ‘pardon me, ma’am,’ is also removed. Paul Joseph Watson, a far-right conspiracy theorist and editor-at-large of InfoWars, wrote for the Alex Jones-run website that ‘Acosta clearly uses his left arm to physically resist/restrain the woman.’ On Twitter, Watson accused Acosta of using his arm ‘to overpower her’ and shared the doctored footage, which zooms in on the reporter’s arm. He also denied editing the footage

himself. The original clip shows the staffer grabbing the mic and attempting to pull it away as Acosta holds on. Her arm meets with Acosta's hand, which drops with his arm as she tries to pull the mic and turn to hand it to another reporter.” [Newsweek, [11/8/18](#)]

Sanders Pulled Acosta’s Press Pass Because Of The “Inappropriate Behavior Clearly Demonstrated In This Video.”

According to Newsweek, “‘We stand by our decision to revoke this individual's hard pass. We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video,’ Sanders tweeted along with the misleading InfoWars version of the footage.” [Newsweek, [11/8/18](#)]

- **A Federal Judge Ruled That The White House Had To Return Acosta’s Pass.** According to CNBC, “A federal judge on Friday granted CNN’s request for a court order that would temporarily reinstate network correspondent Jim Acosta’s White House press pass, which had been suspended indefinitely in the wake of a fiery exchange between the reporter and President Donald Trump a week earlier. The ruling from Judge Timothy Kelly, who was appointed by Trump, gave CNN a victory in the ongoing case.” [CNBC, [11/16/18](#)]