



[Trump's Conversation with Foreign Leader Prompts Complaint](#)

A telephone conversation between U.S. President Donald Trump and newly elected Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in July is at the center of an intelligence community whistleblower complaint. According to reports, Trump pressured Zelensky “about eight times” to work with his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, on an investigation into the business dealings of Democratic Presidential frontrunner Joe Biden’s son, Hunter Biden. Hunter Biden was hired by the Ukrainian gas company Burisma Holdings back in April of 2014 and there is no evidence of any wrongdoing by either him or the former Vice President. The whistleblower complaint regarding Trump’s phone call with Zelensky has raised concerns that the U.S. President may have abused his powers to try and dig up dirt on a political rival.

Trump has acknowledged that he discussed the former Vice President on the call, but has accused the whistleblower of being “partisan” despite the fact that he has admitted not knowing their identity. Trump added that his exchange with the Ukrainian leader was “perfect” and did not involve any improper behavior. The President seemed to suggest that he was open to the prospect of releasing the transcript of the conversation, however Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated that there’s no evidence such an action would be appropriate at this time. While some senior administration officials like Pompeo are opposed to releasing a transcript of the call, other officials are soliciting opinions from outside advisers regarding the possibility of doing so.

Former Vice President Joe Biden responded to the news of this story by also calling for the release of the President’s phone call transcript. In a statement, Biden stated that “if these reports are true, then there is truly no bottom to President Trump’s willingness to abuse his power and abase our country.” He also called for an investigation into the President’s conduct and asserted that he has never spoken to his son about his overseas business dealings. Biden is the current frontrunner in the race to win the Democratic Presidential nomination and face Trump in the November 2020 election.

The whistleblower complaint process began back in mid-August, when a member of the U.S. intelligence community submitted a complaint to Intelligence Community Inspector General Michael Atkinson which referenced a disturbing interaction between the U.S. President and a foreign leader. After reviewing the complaint, Atkinson found it to be “credible” and of “urgent concern” and forwarded it to the Acting Director of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire. Maguire has refused to turn over the complaint to the House Intelligence Committee, but agreed to testify this week in an open session before the committee. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi set this scheduled hearing on Thursday, September 26th as a deadline for Maguire to turn over the full whistleblower complaint to Congress.

Until now, Pelosi had resisted some internal calls from within the House Democratic Caucus to begin formal impeachment proceedings against President Trump. However, on Tuesday, in the lead up to the aforementioned Thursday hearing, she announced a formal impeachment inquiry in the wake of this whistleblower scandal.