



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on March 16, 2021

## Post Correction Means House Impeachment Memo Contained a Second Major Falsehood

Yet another leftist media narrative has collapsed with the *Washington Post's* correction of its false claim that President Trump ordered a Georgia election official to “find the fraud” to help him overturn Joe Biden’s victory in Georgia on November 3.

Trump said no such thing, we now know. But more importantly, the correction also means that the House impeachment trial brief used to try President Trump for “[incitement of insurrection](#)” contains not one but at least two major falsehoods.

Those falsehoods are in the memorandum because House impeachment managers relied on leftist mainstream-media accounts of Trump’s actions and statements before and after the election to build their case.



B4LLS/iStock/Getty Images Plus

### What Trump Did Not Say

The original story claimed that Trump called Frances Watson, an investigator for Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, and appeared on January 9, three days after the so-called “insurrection” at the U.S. Capitol, which the impeachment memo and resolution falsely claimed Trump inspired.

The false story ran under a false headline: “‘Find the fraud’: Trump pressured a Georgia elections investigator in a separate call legal experts say could amount to obstruction.”

**The Washington Post***Democracy Dies in Darkness*

# ‘Find the fraud’: Trump pressured a Georgia elections investigator in a separate call legal experts say could amount to obstruction

By **Amy Gardner**

Jan. 9, 2021 at 12:20 p.m. EST

President Trump urged Georgia's lead elections investigator to “find the fraud” in a lengthy December phone call, saying the official would be a “national hero,” according to an individual familiar with the call who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the conversation.

Trump placed the call to the investigations chief for the Georgia secretary of state's office shortly before Christmas — while the individual was leading an inquiry into allegations of ballot fraud in Cobb County, in the suburbs of Atlanta, according to people familiar with the episode.

The president's attempts to intervene in an ongoing investigation could amount to obstruction of justice or other criminal violations, legal experts said, though they cautioned a case could be difficult to prove.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger had launched the inquiry following allegations that Cobb election officials had improperly accepted mail ballots with signatures that did not match those on file — claims that state officials ultimately concluded had no merit.

In an interview with The Washington Post on Friday, Raffensperger confirmed that Trump had placed the Dec. 23 call. He said he was not familiar with the specifics of what the president said in the conversation with his chief investigator, but said it was inappropriate for Trump to have tried to intervene in the case.

“That was an ongoing investigation,” Raffensperger said. “I don't believe that an elected official should be involved in that process.”

The Post is withholding the name of the investigator, who did not respond to repeated requests for comment, because of the risk of threats and harassment directed at election officials.

The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

Since Election Day, Trump has made at least three calls to government officials in Georgia in an attempt to subvert President-elect Joe Biden's victory, beginning with a [conversation](#) with Gov. Brian Kemp (R) in early December to berate him for certifying the state's election results.

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The first paragraph of the false story under the false headline claimed that “President Trump urged



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Georgia's lead elections investigator to 'find the fraud' in a lengthy December phone call, saying the official would be a 'national hero,' according to an individual familiar with the call who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the conversation."

In other words, the reporter did not hear audio of the conversation.

The [Wall Street Journal published](#) the audio last week. [The Post corrected](#) its story yesterday.

Correction: Two months after publication of this story, the Georgia secretary of state released an audio recording of President Donald Trump's December phone call with the state's top elections investigator. The recording revealed that The Post misquoted Trump's comments on the call, based on information provided by a source. Trump did not tell the investigator to "find the fraud" or say she would be "a national hero" if she did so. Instead, Trump urged the investigator to scrutinize ballots in Fulton County, Ga., asserting she would find "dishonesty" there. He also told her that she had "the most important job in the country right now." A story about the recording can be found [here](#). The headline and text of this story have been corrected to remove quotes misattributed to Trump.

The falsehood would be bad enough on its own. But like the falsehood that rioters at the U.S. Capitol killed a police officer with a fire extinguisher, it made its way in the House impeachment brief.

"President Trump's campaign to reverse the election results — and to keep himself in the White House — lasted through the days immediately preceding the assault on the Capitol," the [brief says](#):

On December 23, for instance, President Trump reportedly called one of Georgia's lead election investigators, urging him to "find the fraud" and claiming that the official would be a "national hero" if he did so.

That claim footnoted the false claim in the *Post*.

### **Cop Had a Stroke**

But that falsehood wasn't the only one House leftists used to try Trump for high crimes and misdemeanors he did not commit. And the first one might have been the more egregious because House impeachment managers could and should have known it was false, as [The New American reported](#).

"The insurrectionists killed a Capitol Police officer by striking him in the head with a fire extinguisher," the House memo claimed. The source: A [story in](#) the *New York Times* headlined "A Capitol Police officer dies from injuries sustained during the pro-Trump rampage." That story followed this one: "He Dreamed of Being a Police Officer, Then Was Killed by a Pro-Trump Mob."



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That officer was Brian Sicknick.

But long before the House trial brief went to the Senate, ProPublica had reported that Sicknick did not die “from injuries sustained during the pro-Trump rampage,” and that “insurrectionists” did not kill him by “striking him in the head with a fire extinguisher.”

In fact, after the riot, Sicknick told his brother that he felt fine. Next day, “the family got word that Brian Sicknick had a blood clot and had had a stroke,” ProPublica reported.

The *Times* was also forced [to correct](#) its falsehood.

The House impeachment memorandum cites law-enforcement affidavits in just six of nearly 292 footnotes.

H/T: [Mediaite](#), [Breitbart](#)



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