

Trump Claims Campaign Was 'Spied On,' Calls It 'Treason'

The former president, the Justice Department and the FBI have all vigorously denied any such activities occurred.

President Donald Trump on Friday revived his repeatedly debunked claim that his 2016 campaign was the target of illegal government spying.

Trump, on Twitter, said his campaign "conclusively" was monitored, and suggested those responsible be jailed for treason.

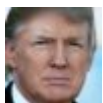


Donald J. Trump@realDonaldTrump

My Campaign for President was conclusively spied on. Nothing like this has ever happened in American Politics. A really bad situation. TREASON means long jail sentences, and this was TREASON!

Trump has for years accused former President Barack Obama of wiretapping Trump Tower, among other spying allegations. He has provided no evidence. The former president, the Justice Department and the FBI have vigorously denied any such activities occurred.

Attorney General William Barr last month rekindled the claim, telling a Senate committee that he believed the Justice Department was "spying" on Trump's campaign. Barr has since appointed a prosecutor to investigate the inception of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference and Trump's campaign.



Donald J. Trump@realDonaldTrump

How low has President Obama gone to tapp my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!

Denials of Trump's previous spying claims have been emphatic.

"As part of that practice, neither President Obama nor any White House official ever ordered surveillance on any U.S. citizen," an Obama spokesman said in a March 2017 statement following Trump's first accusation. "Any suggestion otherwise is simply false."

"Both FBI and NSD confirm that they have no records related to wiretaps as described by the March 4, 2017 tweets," Justice Department lawyers said in September 2017 court filing that refers to the DOJ's National Security Division. "FBI again confirmed that they do not have any such records by consulting with personnel knowledgeable about Director Comey's statements and the surveillance activities of the FBI."

Trump himself admitted last month that he had no evidence to back up his claims.

"I said that just on a little bit of a hunch and a little bit of wisdom maybe [and] it blew up because [people] thought maybe I was wise to them," he told Fox News' Sean Hannity.

Trump's wiretapping claims have paralleled various stories about Mueller's investigation into his campaign's contact with Russia. On Thursday, Mueller's office released information that former national security adviser Michael Flynn provided to the investigation. Flynn in 2017 pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russia.

The Mueller report, released last month, did not find evidence that Trump colluded with Russia. Mueller did not charge Trump with obstruction of justice, though he did not exonerate the president. In addition to Flynn, five other former Trump advisers or officials have been implicated in the probe.

Do you have information you want to share with HuffPost? Here's how.

Source:

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-obama-wiretapping_n_5cdea74ae4b00735a915117c

[Disclaimer]