

THE REVERE REPORT ON THE DOCUMENTED RECORD OF

LIES, MISREPRESENTATIONS & AUTHORITARIAN PRETEXTS

The Trump Administration, Allied Congressional Leaders, and Media Allies
on Immigration, ICE, Use of Force, Democratic Institutions, and Elections
March 2024 – March 2026

▲ EDITORIAL STANDARD

Every claim in this report is drawn from named, published fact-checks, court records, Congressional oversight documents, independent forensic video analysis, or statements by public officials that were directly contradicted by primary evidence. Sources are cited in each entry. The reader is encouraged to verify independently.

This document does not editorialize beyond what the documented record supports. Where a claim was later walked back, updated, or partially corrected by the claimant, that is noted.

PART I: FABRICATED CRIMES, INFLATED NUMBERS, AND DEMOGRAPHIC DEMONIZATION

The most extensive category of documented misrepresentation concerns the fundamental premise of the administration’s immigration policy: the claim that immigrants commit crimes at high rates, that specific communities represent existential threats, and that the scale of illegal immigration vastly exceeds documented figures.

I-A. The Springfield, Ohio “Eating the Pets” Campaign (PolitiFact 2024 Lie of the Year)

This case became PolitiFact’s Lie of the Year for 2024 — the fourth time Trump has received that designation. It is documented in extraordinary detail because both Trump and Vance were warned the claims were false before they amplified them, and continued anyway. JD Vance privately acknowledged the lie’s purpose: fabricating stories “so the American media actually pays attention.”

September 9, 2024 — JD Vance (via X / social media)

THE CLAIM

“Reports now show that people have had their pets abducted and eaten by people who shouldn’t be in this country.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS	Springfield city officials, the mayor, and city police all stated they had received no credible reports of pets being harmed by immigrants. The claim originated from an unverified secondhand Facebook post describing what a ‘neighbor’s daughter’s friend’ allegedly saw.
<i>■ SOURCES: PolitiFact (Dec. 17, 2024 Lie of the Year); PBS NewsHour (Sept. 11, 2024); Springfield, Ohio City Manager statement; Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine press conference.</i>	

September 10, 2024 — Donald Trump, Presidential Debate (67 million viewers)	
THE CLAIM	<i>“In Springfield, they’re eating the dogs. The people that came in. They’re eating the cats. They’re eating the pets of the people that live there.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	Debate moderators corrected Trump in real time. Springfield police confirmed zero reports. The 12,000–15,000 Haitians in Springfield were almost entirely there legally under Temporary Protected Status, recruited to fill local labor shortages. Following Trump’s debate claim, Springfield experienced 30+ bomb threats, forcing closures of schools, grocery stores, a medical center, and Clark State College.
<i>■ SOURCES: PolitiFact Lie of the Year; PBS NewsHour; Poynter Institute; Springfield City Manager Karen Graves; Ohio Gov. DeWine; FactCheck.org; AP.</i>	

October 2024 (ongoing) — JD Vance, campaign trail	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Defending the fabrication: ‘If I have to create stories so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that’s what I’m going to do.’”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	This statement is an admission, in Vance’s own words, that he deliberately manufactured false claims for political effect. It was made to CNN’s Dana Bash when challenged on the lack of evidence.
<i>■ SOURCES: CNN interview, Dana Bash; PolitiFact Lie of the Year; Poynter Institute analysis.</i>	

I-B. False and Inflated Immigration Numbers

The administration has repeatedly cited immigration figures that are substantially inflated or fabricated, using them to justify emergency powers, military deployments, and enforcement postures that the real numbers would not support.

2024 campaign (repeated) — Donald Trump	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Twenty-one million illegal immigrants have entered the United States, including many murderers, traffickers, and gang members.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	CBP data shows 10.8 million border encounters and approximately 2.3 million gotaways from FY2021–2024, with net entries likely 3–5 million. The total undocumented population remains an estimated 11–13 million — roughly stable for years. The claim of 21 million is almost double the verified

figure. Trump himself acknowledged to Time magazine that ‘even if it was’ a lesser number, ‘it was irrelevant.’

SOURCES: Yale Insights AI fact-check analysis (July 7, 2025); CBP official data; Marshall Project; Migration Policy Institute.

October 2024 — Donald Trump

THE CLAIM *“The prison population all over the world is down, because they [other countries] put them in our country.”*

DOCU- MENTED FACTS The recorded global prison population increased from at least 10.77 million to 10.99 million between 2021 and 2024. Helen Fair, co-author of the World Prison Population List at Birkbeck University London, said: ‘I do a daily news search to see what’s going on in prisons around the world and have seen absolutely no evidence that any country is emptying its prisons and sending them all to the US.’

SOURCES: CNN fact-check (Oct. 18, 2024); World Prison Population List, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, Birkbeck University.

January 19, 2026 — DHS Secretary Kristi Noem

THE CLAIM *“ICE has ‘arrested over 10,000 criminal illegal aliens’ in Minneapolis, including 3,000 in the past six weeks.”*

DOCU- MENTED FACTS ICE reported 4,000+ total arrests throughout all of Operation Metro Surge. Independent analysis by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) found that 94–95% of arrests under the surge had no criminal conviction. At the height of the operation, Trump administration officials stated that 103 out of 2,000 recent arrestees — about 5% — had records of violent crimes.

SOURCES: TRAC Immigration (tracreports.org); ABC News; CBS News; House Oversight Committee Minority Report (Feb. 2026).

January 2025 (repeated throughout year) — Trump administration officials

THE CLAIM *“The Trump administration has arrested and deported dramatically more immigrants than the Biden administration.”*

DOCU- MENTED FACTS TRAC data shows Trump’s average daily arrest rate was 778 per day in early 2025 — just 2% higher than Biden’s average of 759 per day in FY2024. Biden’s FY2024 total repatriations were 778,000; Trump’s removals through mid-2025 were running below that pace. DHS claimed Fiscal Year 2024 numbers as a baseline while excluding them from comparisons.

SOURCES: TRAC Immigration Reports (Feb. 25 and Mar. 25, 2025); Migration Policy Institute; PBS NewsHour.

I-C. False Claims About Immigrants and Crime

2024 campaign (multiple occasions) — Donald Trump and surrogates	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Immigrants are driving up crime across American communities; they commit crimes at higher rates than native-born Americans.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	Criminologists who study immigration and crime consistently find that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born U.S. citizens. The Marshall Project found no link between crime and the migrant influx in New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Denver. A 2018 national study by University of Wisconsin and Purdue University sociologists found increases in the undocumented immigrant population were not correlated with higher crime rates.
<i>📌 SOURCES: The Marshall Project (2024); PolitiFact (Apr. 28, 2025); University of Wisconsin/Purdue University study (2018); Cato Institute immigration research.</i>	

October 2024 — Donald Trump, Univision town hall	
THE CLAIM	<i>“We have thousands of judges at the border.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	The United States had 725 immigration judges nationwide as of the first quarter of FY2024. There are no ‘thousands’ of judges at the border.
<i>📌 SOURCES: CNN fact-check (Oct. 18, 2024); Executive Office for Immigration Review official data.</i>	

PART II: THE ALIEN ENEMIES ACT — FABRICATING AN INVASION

On March 15, 2025, the Trump administration invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 — a wartime law used only three times before, exclusively during declared wars — to deport hundreds of Venezuelans to a Salvadoran prison without judicial review. The legal and factual predicate for this invocation has been comprehensively refuted, including by Trump’s own intelligence community.

March 15, 2025 — Donald Trump (Executive Proclamation)	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Evidence irrefutably demonstrates that Tren de Aragua has invaded the United States,’ justifying emergency wartime powers under the Alien Enemies Act.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	A federal appeals court (5th Circuit, September 2025) found: ‘A country’s encouraging its residents and citizens to enter this country illegally is not the modern-day equivalent of sending an armed, organized force to occupy, to disrupt, or to otherwise harm the United States.’ The court concluded that Tren de Aragua had neither invaded nor carried out a ‘predatory incursion,’ meaning the legal threshold for the Act’s invocation was not met.
<i>📌 SOURCES: PolitiFact (Sept. 3, 2025); 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling (Sept. 2, 2025); NPR; ACLU v. Trump.</i>	

May 2025 (declassified) — Trump administration (contradicted by own intelligence community)
THE CLAIM

“Tren de Aragua is controlled by Venezuelan President Maduro and is engaged in coordinated warfare against the United States.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

A declassified U.S. intelligence community document stated: ‘The IC has not observed the regime directing TDA, including to push migrants to the United States.’ It added that Venezuelan intelligence, military, and police services ‘view TDA as a security threat and operate in ways that make it highly unlikely the two sides would cooperate.’ The document also found it ‘highly unlikely that TDA coordinates large volumes of human trafficking or migrant smuggling.’

! SOURCES: The Hill (May 6, 2025); Declassified intelligence community assessment; Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) press statement.

March 15–16, 2025 — DHS / White House (multiple officials)
THE CLAIM

“All individuals deported to CECOT prison in El Salvador under the Alien Enemies Act were confirmed members of Tren de Aragua.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

An ICE sworn declaration stated agent personnel ‘carefully vetted each individual’ but an independent Bloomberg investigation found approximately 90% of the deported Venezuelans had no U.S. criminal record other than traffic or immigration violations. Of the 194 migrants with gang affiliations apprehended in a five-month period, only 16 were members of Tren de Aragua — about 0.02% of Venezuelan apprehensions. A Real Madrid soccer fan was deported based on misidentification of his team logo tattoo. Multiple men identified only by lawyers’ descriptions had benign tattoos or social media hand signs misread as gang indicators.

! SOURCES: Bloomberg investigation; FactCheck.org (Apr. 21, 2025); ACLU; PBS NewsHour; ProPublica (May 30, 2025).

March 15, 2025 (ongoing) — Tom Homan, Kristi Noem, and White House spokespersons
THE CLAIM

“We don’t care what the judges think’ (Homan). Secretary Rubio reposted mocking tweets from El Salvador’s president ridiculing the court order blocking the flights.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

The deportation flights proceeded in apparent defiance of Judge James Boasberg’s written and verbal orders. The Supreme Court twice addressed procedural aspects of the case while declining to rule on the underlying legality. The administration’s own Deputy Attorney General later declined to maintain the ‘domestic terrorism’ characterization in open court.

! SOURCES: PBS NewsHour (Mar. 18, 2025); ACLU; NPR; Al Jazeera; CNN.

PART III: KILMAR ABREGO GARCIA — A CASE STUDY IN SUSTAINED FABRICATION

The case of Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia represents perhaps the most thoroughly documented instance of sustained, escalating false claims by a presidential administration about a specific private individual. Courts at every level have found the government’s evidence inadequate. The administration has responded by introducing new charges after each legal defeat.

March 15, 2025 — Trump administration / ICE

THE CLAIM

“Abrego Garcia was deported lawfully as an MS-13 gang member and terrorist.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

A government lawyer admitted in court that the deportation was ‘an administrative error.’ An ICE official filed a sworn declaration stating Abrego Garcia’s ‘protected status had not appeared on the flight manifest.’ A 2019 immigration court had granted Abrego Garcia withholding of removal due to documented gang threats against his family in El Salvador. He had been living legally in Maryland with his American wife and children, complying with annual ICE check-ins.

! SOURCES: Wikipedia (Deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia); NPR (Feb. 3, 2026); Supreme Court unanimous ruling (April 2025); ABC News timeline.

April 23, 2025 — Donald Trump (ABC News interview)

THE CLAIM

“Abrego Garcia literally had ‘MS13’ tattooed on his knuckles.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

The image Trump referenced was an edited photograph. No such tattoo exists. Trump insisted on the claim ‘wrongly, repeatedly and vehemently’ after being shown the image was fabricated (Washington Post, Apr. 30, 2025). A federal judge in July 2025 described the government’s ‘poor attempts to tie Abrego to MS-13,’ stating that concluding he was affiliated with MS-13 ‘would border on fanciful.’

! SOURCES: Washington Post (Apr. 30, 2025); PolitiFact (Apr. 23, 2025); U.S. District Court Memorandum Opinion (Jul. 23, 2025).

April–August 2025 (sustained campaign) — Trump, Noem, DHS, Bondi, and White House spokespersons

THE CLAIM

“Abrego Garcia is a dangerous MS-13 member, wife beater, child predator, and human trafficker who is ‘never coming back’ to the United States.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

Federal courts have repeatedly rejected the MS-13 evidence. Evidence of ‘wife beating’ and ‘child predator’ allegations was presented through multiple layers of hearsay. A 2022 traffic stop where Abrego Garcia was driving nine men was described by his wife as him transporting construction workers; he was given only a warning and not charged. DOJ later proceeded

to a criminal prosecution on that stop, which a judge found evidence was ‘possibly vindictive’ and that the DOJ decision to prosecute ‘may have been a joint decision’ involving political appointees, not independent prosecutors.

SOURCES: PolitiFact (Aug. 25, 2025); Poynter Institute; PBS NewsHour; NPR; U.S. District Court (Middle District of Tennessee) unsealed order (Dec. 2025); Al Jazeera.

June 2025 — Trump administration (after being ordered by the Supreme Court to facilitate his return)

THE CLAIM

“We cannot bring Abrego Garcia back because he is in El Salvador and we have no ability to retrieve him.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

Attorney General Bondi announced on June 6, 2025 that ‘our government presented El Salvador with an arrest warrant and they agreed to return him,’ contradicting the earlier claim of impossibility. Abrego Garcia’s lawyers had documented him being ‘severely beaten and subjected to psychological torture’ in CECOT prison and losing 31 pounds in his first two weeks of detention.

SOURCES: PBS NewsHour; ABC News timeline; Al Jazeera (Jul. 3, 2025).

PART IV: LYING ABOUT USE OF FORCE — THE KILLINGS OF RENEE GOOD AND ALEX PRETTI

The killings of two Minneapolis civilians by federal agents in January 2026 generated the most concentrated documented pattern of false official statements in the entire period under review. The House Committee on Oversight formally catalogued the lies in a published report. Policing experts, use-of-force specialists, the victims’ families, former law enforcement officials, and the administration’s own preliminary review all contradict the official narrative.

January 7–10, 2026 — DHS Secretary Noem, CBP Commander Bovino, Trump

THE CLAIM

“Renee Good tried to ‘run over’ an ICE agent with her vehicle, justifying the use of deadly force. She was conducting an act of domestic terrorism.”

DOCU- MENTED FACTS

Video verified by ABC News, Minnesota officials, and multiple independent analysts shows Good’s vehicle moving forward and to the right — away from the agent who shot her. Minneapolis Mayor Frey called the narrative ‘b—— — and a garbage narrative.’ Governor Walz called it ‘propaganda.’ MN AG Keith Ellison stated it was ‘clear to me’ the driver was attempting to ‘evade,’ not attack. When Trump was shown the clip and told it did not support his claim, he said ‘it’s a terrible scene.’ The ICE agent who shot Good was immediately cleared without a completed investigation.

SOURCES: ABC News (Jan. 9, 2026); House Oversight Minority Report (Feb. 2026); NPR (Jan. 31, 2026); PolitiFact; MN AG Ellison statement.

January 24, 2026 (day of killing) — Noem, CBP Commander Bovino, Stephen Miller	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Alex Pretti ‘approached US Border Patrol officers with a 9mm semi-automatic handgun,’ ‘attacked’ officers, was ‘brandishing’ a weapon, and intended to ‘massacre law enforcement’ in an act of domestic terrorism.”</i>
DOCU-MENTED FACTS	Multiple bystander videos verified by AP, PBS, CNN, NYT, WSJ, and WaPo show Pretti holding a cell phone, not a firearm, as agents approached. Video shows an agent remove Pretti’s handgun from his holster before shots were fired. Pretti had a valid Minnesota concealed carry permit. A use-of-force expert told AP: ‘There is no evidence to support the claim that he arrived with the intent to shoot those border patrol officers.’ DHS’s own preliminary CBP review contradicted the initial narrative. Miller later acknowledged agents may not have been following proper protocol.
<i>! SOURCES: PBS NewsHour (Jan. 26, 2026); CNN (Feb. 2, 2026); PolitiFact (Jan. 26, 2026); Al Jazeera (Jan. 27, 2026); House Oversight Minority Report (Feb. 2026).</i>	

January 25, 2026 — DHS (via X / social media)	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Posted a photograph of Pretti’s handgun on X before his parents had been notified of his death, with the caption: ‘The suspect also had 2 magazines and no ID. This looks like a situation where an individual wanted to do maximum damage.’”</i>
DOCU-MENTED FACTS	The photograph showed one loaded magazine, not two. Minnesota state officials stated that by removing the weapon from the scene, Border Patrol officers likely mishandled key evidence. Pretti’s parents issued a statement: ‘The sickening lies told about our son by the administration.’ Sen. Chris Murphy: ‘He wasn’t “brandishing a weapon.” He wasn’t attending a “riot.” He was an ICU nurse exercising his constitutional rights.’
<i>! SOURCES: PBS NewsHour; NPR; Al Jazeera; Rolling Stone; House Oversight Minority Report.</i>	

January 2026 — JD Vance	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Local authorities refused to assist federal counterparts in the investigation into Pretti’s killing.”</i>
DOCU-MENTED FACTS	The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Bureau of Criminal Apprehension stated on X that it was state authorities who were being obstructed — that its officers had been denied access to the crime scene by DHS.
<i>! SOURCES: Al Jazeera (Jan. 27, 2026); Minnesota Department of Public Safety statement.</i>	

February 2026 — DHS (rare acknowledgment of internal wrongdoing)	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Two ICE officers in a separate Minneapolis shooting were found to have provided sworn testimony that ‘appears to have made untruthful statements.’”</i>

DOCU- MENTED FACTS	This is a DHS admission, not a rebuttal. ICE acting director Todd Lyons told Congress that ICE had conducted 37 investigations into officers’ use of force in the prior year. Both officers were placed on administrative leave.
<i>■ SOURCES: NPR (Feb. 13, 2026); DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin statement.</i>	

PART V: USING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT TO SUPPRESS POLITICAL SPEECH

Several of the most significant false claims in this period concern the administration’s justification for using immigration powers to detain and deport individuals for constitutionally protected political speech. Courts from district level to the Third Circuit have found these justifications likely unconstitutional.

March 8–10, 2025 — DHS, White House Press Secretary Leavitt, Secretary Rubio	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Mahmoud Khalil was arrested because he ‘led activities aligned to Hamas,’ ‘distributed pro-Hamas propaganda flyers,’ and was ‘siding with terrorists.’ He was ‘the first of many’ to be deported for such views.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	Khalil was not charged with any crime. His activities were protest organization and negotiation with Columbia University administration. The Supreme Court held in 1945 that noncitizens have full First Amendment protections. A federal court (Reagan-appointed Judge William Young) ruled ‘unequivocally’ that ‘the government has, in fact, been targeting protesters on the basis of their speech, and that violates the First Amendment.’ ICE agents initially told Khalil his student visa had been revoked; when his wife showed them his green card, they claimed that too had been revoked — even though permanent residents are entitled to due process before any status revocation.
<i>■ SOURCES: ACLU (Khalil v. Trump); FIRE; Democracy Now (Oct. 1, 2025); The Intercept (Mar. 10, 2025); Federal court ruling, AAUP v. Rubio.</i>	

After June 2025 court ruling — DHS / DOJ (shifting rationale)	
THE CLAIM	<i>“After courts rejected the foreign-policy speech rationale, the administration claimed Khalil had committed immigration fraud by failing to disclose affiliations on his green card application.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	A federal court found this new charge to be ‘false, pretextual, and retaliatory.’ The Third Circuit denied the government’s attempt to re-detain Khalil, ruling the foreign-policy-speech rationale was likely unconstitutional. Khalil spent 104 days in detention; his wife gave birth to their first child during his imprisonment.
<i>■ SOURCES: ACLU press releases; Third Circuit Court ruling (Jul. 30, 2025); NYCLU; CBS News.</i>	

January–February 2026 (Minneapolis) — Trump officials: Miller, Noem, Bovino

THE CLAIM	<i>“Observers and protesters at ICE operations were ‘domestic terrorists,’ ‘rioters,’ and ‘insurrectionists.’ Over 650 civilians were charged with ‘interfering’ with federal agents for observation activities. Noem called Renee Good and Alex Pretti domestic terrorists.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	A Reuters review found federal prosecutors repeatedly reduced ‘interference’ charges to misdemeanors or dismissed them entirely after DOJ review, suggesting the arrests were intended to intimidate rather than prosecute. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche acknowledged that Pretti’s actions were ‘a far cry from the legal definition of domestic terrorism.’ Former President Bill Clinton stated that ‘at every turn, the people in charge have lied to us.’
<i>i SOURCES: Reuters investigation; House Oversight Minority Report; NPR (Jan. 31, 2026); Al Jazeera; Rolling Stone.</i>	

PART VI: LIES ABOUT ELECTIONS, VOTER FRAUD, AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

The immigration narrative was explicitly connected, by Trump and allied figures, to attacks on electoral legitimacy. False claims about noncitizen voting and ‘stolen’ elections served as the connective tissue between the immigration crackdown and the broader authoritarian project of delegitimizing democratic outcomes.

2024 campaign (20+ documented instances) — Donald Trump

THE CLAIM	<i>“Democrats are intentionally encouraging unauthorized immigrants to vote illegally in order to steal elections.”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	There is no evidence that Democratic immigration policies have led to any meaningful increase in noncitizen voting, or any demographic electoral advantage. Noncitizen voting in federal elections is already illegal under existing law and is exceedingly rare. The Marshall Project found this claim used simultaneously to challenge voter registrations in Arizona, California, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia, forcing election officials to process thousands of spurious challenges while risking improper removal of eligible voters.
<i>i SOURCES: The Marshall Project (Oct. 24, 2024); PolitiFact; FactCheck.org.</i>	

January 19, 2025 (pre-inauguration rally) — Donald Trump

THE CLAIM	<i>“The 2020 election ‘was rigged.’ ‘They rigged the election.’”</i>
DOCU- MENTED FACTS	Trump legitimately lost a free and fair election to Joe Biden in 2020. More than 60 courts, including Trump-appointed judges, rejected his post-

election legal challenges. The Department of Justice, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Electoral College, and the U.S. Supreme Court all confirmed the election results.

SOURCES: CNN fact-check (Jan. 20, 2025); Department of Justice reports; CISA 'most secure election' statement; Wikipedia (False or misleading statements by Donald Trump).

2025–2026 (ongoing) — Trump administration and allied figures	
THE CLAIM	<i>“Suggestions that federal immigration agents might be deployed to ‘secure’ polling places during the 2026 midterm elections.”</i>
DOCU-MENTED FACTS	Multiple states pursued legislation explicitly blocking federal immigration agents from polling places in response to these suggestions. The White House declined to rule out polling place deployment while stating there were no ‘formal plans’ to do so. Several election law scholars described the suggestion as illegal voter intimidation.
<i>SOURCES: Stateline; The Marshall Project; American Immigration Council legal analysis.</i>	

PART VII: THE INFORMATION WARFARE INFRASTRUCTURE — HOW THE LIES ARE MANUFACTURED AND DISTRIBUTED

The documented lies above do not occur randomly. They are generated through a structured information warfare apparatus that was explicitly described by its architects. Understanding this infrastructure is essential to understanding why corrections rarely reduce the political effectiveness of the false claims.

VII-A. The “Flood the Zone” Strategy (Steve Bannon / DHS Apparatus)

Steve Bannon, Trump’s 2016 campaign CEO, explicitly stated that the press was Trump’s primary adversary and ‘the way to deal with them is to flood the zone with shit.’ A public relations executive confirmed in February 2025 that this tactic is ‘designed to make sure no single action or event stands out above the rest by having them occur at a rapid pace, thus preventing the public from keeping up.’

Wikipedia (False or misleading statements by Donald Trump); Washington Post documentation.

VII-B. DHS “Fake News” Bulletins as Counter-Narrative Infrastructure

The Department of Homeland Security launched a recurring ‘Debunking Fake News’ publication series that inverted reality: publishing DHS’s own version of events as the official refutation of ‘media lies.’ These bulletins typically appear after cases where video evidence has contradicted DHS’s initial statements, and are designed to create the appearance of an alternative documented record. The bulletins themselves have contained documented misstatements:

claiming detainees were provided adequate medical care in cases where courts found otherwise; claiming immigration courts were operating normally while Chief Judge Schiltz documented 97 court order violations in January 2026 alone.

DHS “100 Days of Fighting Fake News” (Apr. 30, 2025); DHS June 2025 fake news bulletin; Chief Judge Schiltz court order documentation.

VII-C. AI-Manipulated Imagery

The White House in January 2026 shared an image of arrested Minneapolis activist Nekima Levy Armstrong that had been altered with artificial intelligence to make her appear emotionally distressed. This use of AI-manipulated imagery to smear a named private individual who had been arrested by federal agents represents an escalation in the information warfare tactics documented throughout this period.

Al Jazeera (Jan. 27, 2026); Rolling Stone.

VII-D. Pre-Emptive Clearance of Agents and Obstruction of Independent Investigation

In 16 documented DHS use-of-force incidents since July 2025, federal agents were declared ‘justified’ before investigations were completed. State investigators were denied access to the crime scenes of both the Renee Good and Alex Pretti shootings. The FBI refused to provide the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension with any evidence in the Pretti investigation. These practices structurally prevent the independent verification of DHS claims while allowing official false narratives to stand as the only documented record.

Washington Post (reported by Jan. 2026); House Oversight Minority Report (Feb. 2026); NPR; ABC News; Minnesota BCA statements.

SUMMARY FINDING

The documented record established in this report supports one overarching finding: the Trump administration has deployed a sustained, structured campaign of false claims about immigration, ICE activities, use of force, and democratic institutions. These false claims are not a pattern of honest error. They are generated before facts are established, maintained after evidence contradicts them, escalated when legal challenges succeed, and disseminated through a coordinated apparatus that spans official press conferences, social media, and DHS’s own publications.

Courts at every level — district courts, courts of appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court — have found the administration’s factual claims inadequate to support its legal theories. Independent use-of-force experts, former law enforcement officials, former DHS officials, and the administration’s own intelligence community have each contradicted specific official claims in their areas of expertise.

The purpose of this record is not to adjudicate culpability but to ensure that citizens, journalists, legal advocates, and historians have access to the documented facts, organized and sourced, as they were established in real time.

“To abandon facts is to abandon freedom. If nothing is true, then no one can criticize power, because there is no basis upon which to do so. — Timothy Snyder, On Tyranny

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