



Settings

Post

Michael Shellenberger
@shellenberger



The House of Representatives impeached President Donald Trump on December 18, 2019, after a White House whistleblower went public with evidence that Trump abused his powers by withholding military aid to Ukraine in order to dig up dirt on his rival, Joe Biden.

In the complaint, the whistleblower claimed to have heard from White House staff that Trump had, on a phone call, directed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to work with his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, to investigate Joe Biden and Hunter Biden.

The whistleblower who triggered the impeachment was a CIA analyst who was first brought into the White House by the Obama administration.

Reporting by Drop Site News last year revealed that the CIA analyst relied on reporting by a supposedly independent investigative news organization called the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), which appears to have effectively operated as an arm of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which President Trump has just shut down. The CIA whistleblower complaint cited a long report by OCCRP four times.

The OCCRP report alleged that two Soviet-born Florida businessmen were "key hidden actors behind a plan" by Trump to investigate the Bidens. According to the story, those two businessmen connected Giuliani to two former Ukrainian prosecutors. The OCCRP story was crucial to the House Democrats' impeachment claim, which is that Trump dispatched Giuliani as part of a coordinated effort to pressure a foreign country to interfere in the 2020 presidential election, which is why the whistleblower cited it four times.

In a 2024 documentary that German television broadcaster NDR made about OCCRP's dependence on the US government, a USAID official confirmed that USAID approves OCCRP's "annual work plan" and approves new hires of "key personnel." NDR initiated and carried out the investigation with French investigative news organization Mediapart, Italian new group Il Fatto Quotidiano, Reporters United in Greece, and Drop Site News in the United States.

However, according to a Mediapart story published the same day as the Drop Site News article, NDR censored the broadcast "after US journalist Drew Sullivan, the co-founder and head of the OCCRP, placed pressure on the NDR management and made false accusations against the broadcaster's journalists involved in the project."

On December 16, Drop Site's Ryan Grim posted a link on X to the 26-minute-long documentary. "NDR, Germany's public broadcaster, is facing a censorship scandal and has defended itself by saying it never killed a news report about OCCRP and its State Department funding — b/c no report was ever produced to kill," said Grim. "That was absurd — and dozens, maybe hundreds, of journalists knew it to be false, and now of course, someone has leaked it."

New to X?

Sign up now to get you



By signing up, you agree to our [Privacy Policy](#), including [Terms of Service](#)

Something went wrong

[Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Accessibility](#) [Ads info](#)

Don't miss what's happening

People on X are the first to know.

Log in



Settings

"Drew's just nervous about being linked with law enforcement," referring to Sullivan. "If people who are going to give you information think you're just a cop, maybe it's a problem."

OCCRP does not operate like a normal investigative journalism organization in that its goals appear to include interfering in foreign political matters, including elections, aimed at regime change. Sullivan told NDR that his organization had "probably been responsible for five or six countries changing over from one government to another government... and getting prime ministers indicted or thrown out."

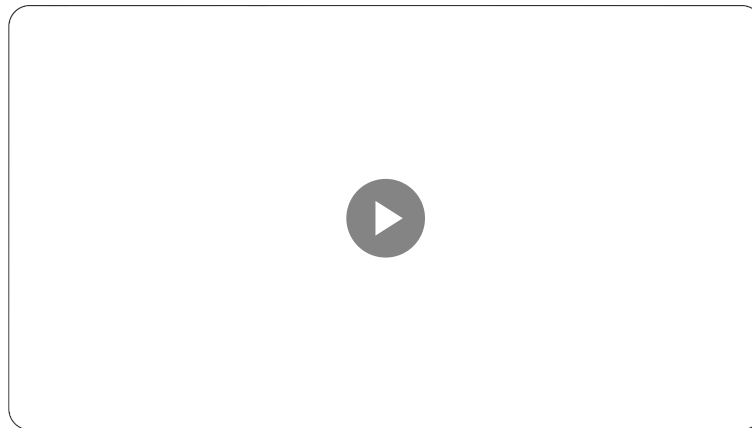
As such, it appears that CIA, USAID, and OCCRP were all involved in the impeachment of President Trump in ways similar to the regime change operations that all three organizations engage in abroad. The difference is that it is highly illegal and even treasonous for CIA, USAID, and its contractors and intermediaries, known as "cut-outs," to interfere in US politics this way.

OCCRP threatened to file a lawsuit against Public in response to questions we sent. "The premise of your article is factually false and defamatory," wrote Miranda Patrucic, the Editor in Chief of OCCRP, over email. "The claim by Dropsite News and partner media that USAID has control over editorial appointments has been disproven and we suggest you read our response to that."

But neither OCCRP nor anyone else disproved Drop Site's allegations and Drop Site stands by them. And the evidence does not support OCCRP's claim of journalistic independence....

Please subscribe now to support Public's award-winning investigative reporting, to read the rest of the article, and to watch the rest of the video!

x.com/shellenberger/...



6:30 PM · Feb 5, 2025 · 11.1M Views

1.8K 14K 34K 8K

Read 1.8K replies

New to X?

Sign up now to get you

Sign i

Creat

By signing up, you agree to our [Privacy Policy](#), including [Terms of Service](#)

Something we

[Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Accessibility](#) [Ads info](#)

Don't miss what's happening

People on X are the first to know.

Log in