

Claim

Claim: "E! News reported that the United States Agency Aid and Development (USAID) paid millions for celebrities to visit Ukraine."

Actions

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web_search("E! News USAID Ukraine celebrities")
web_search("USAID Ukraine celebrity visits")
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Evidence

Evidence from web_search

Several sources debunk a video alleging that USAID paid Hollywood celebrities to visit Ukraine. The BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m12wl0jwpo>) and The Hollywood Reporter (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/politics-news/fake-online-usaid-paid-hollywood-stars-debunked-1236129713/>) identified the video as Russian disinformation. The video falsely claimed USAID paid Angelina Jolie, Sean Penn, Jean Claude Van Damme, Orlando Bloom, and Ben Stiller.

Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip, as reported by Vanity Fair (https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/ben-stiller-denies-elon-musks-retweet-claiming-usaid-funded-the-stars-trip-to-ukraine?srsId=AfmBOooGw1dpqnug2OYCP6ztL_oyb-nbLtgTwlK9XIbCoPDkIdmO6uAz). The video was fabricated to appear as though it came from E!.

Evidence from web_search

The Duke Sanford School of Public Policy reported on claims that USAID paid celebrities to travel to Ukraine ([image:k](#)). The Hollywood Reporter published an article debunking a video that claimed USAID paid Hollywood stars to visit Ukraine. The article was written by Etan Vlessing and published on February 7, 2025. <https://sanford.duke.edu/news/dan-ariely-usaid-didnt-pay-celebrities-travel-ukraine-despite-new-claims/> and <https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65115329/>.

Elaboration

The evidence indicates that the claim is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC and The Hollywood Reporter, debunked a video that falsely alleged USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine. The video was fabricated to look like it came from E! News. Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip.

Final Judgement

The fact-check reveals that the claim is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC and The Hollywood Reporter, debunked a video that falsely alleged USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine. The video was fabricated and misrepresented information.

false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

The claim is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m12w10jwpo>) and The Hollywood Reporter (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/politics-news/fake-online-usaid-paid-hollywood-stars-debunked-1236129713/>), debunked a video falsely alleging USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine. The video was fabricated and misrepresented information. Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip, as reported by Vanity Fair.