

# Trump Calls Debunked Politico / USAID Conspiracy, "Biggest Scandal ...In History"

Government agencies subscribed to avoid hitting paywalls so they could do their jobs

J.D. Wolf • 12 hours ago



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On his Truth Social account early this morning, Trump amplified a conspiracy theory about the misuse of taxpayer dollars by USAID. Trump claimed that billions of dollars had been "stolen" and that much of this money was used to "pay off" media outlets, including Politico, in exchange for favorable coverage of Democrats.

*Trump*

*Truth Social*

This claim is based on a misunderstanding of government spending, as the \$8 million attributed to Politico represents federal agencies' subscriptions to the news outlet's premium services, not grants or subsidies. Government agencies across the entire federal government subscribe to premium news services so they don't hit a paywall when they're trying to get accurate information in order to better serve the American people while being efficient stewards of taxpayer money.

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Trump’s accusations mirror the broader narrative being pushed by far-right commentators, who have falsely linked government spending on news subscriptions to improper financial support for media outlets.

*Trump in the Oval Office*

*Twitter*

These claims were quickly debunked by both Politico and the Associated Press, which clarified that the payments were for legitimate subscriptions and not government-funded handouts. It looks like Trump wants government agencies to hit a paywall when they’re trying to get to information that could make their jobs more efficient.