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From: Hadas Gold - POLITICO Media
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Subject: Morning Media: New Trump ad attacks the media -- Doc crew filming New York Times reporters -- James Risen joins The Intercept

By Hadas Gold | 08/14/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With Alex Weprin

TALK ABOUT TIMING. THE DAY AFTER THE HORRIFIC EVENTS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN RELEASED A NEW AD. But instead of a message about something like uniting the country, the [ad](#) goes after Democratic politicians and the media, claiming the media is "attacking our president," accompanied by a photo splash of CNN and MSNBC anchors. "The president's enemies don't want him to succeed" the ad says over a second iteration of the photo splash.

MEANWHILE, THE PRESIDENT TOOK A WHILE TO COME AROUND TO CONDEMNING NAZIS AND WHITE SUPREMACISTS THIS WEEKEND, with the White House finally updating its original statement on the violence in Charlottesville. Via [my colleague Nancy Cook](#) : "The Trump administration on Sunday tried to reframe the president's earlier, vague statement that blamed "many sides" for violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, a day earlier, after his comments sparked outrage from at least a dozen prominent Republican lawmakers. In a statement, the White House sought to clarify that President Donald Trump condemns violence, bigotry and hatred, and it said 'of course that includes white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazis and all extremist groups.'" But that statement remains only attributed to a White House official. "Press corps specifically asked this if statement this [morning] could be attributed on the record. Spox said no," [tweeted](#) Washington Examiner's Gabby Morrongiello who was pool reporter on Sunday.

"The problem with vague condemnations of hatred is they allow hate groups to interpret the condemnations as they see fit," CNN's Jake Tapper [tweeted](#). Case in point: The neo-Nazi website The Daily Stormer praised the president's comments as "good" for not directly attacking them.

-- **On Friday Trump told pool reporters he'd be holding a "pretty big press conference"** on Monday. But the daily guidance released by the White House late last night makes no mention of a press conference today.

-- **Vice President Mike Pence assailed the media for criticizing Trump,** [saying during a visit to Colombia](#) that it was appropriate to criticize not only the white supremacists behind the "Unite the Right" march but also counter-protesters on the scene. "I will say I take issue with the fact that many in the national media spent more time criticizing the president's words than they did criticizing those that perpetrated the violence to begin with," he said.

-- The [latest on the ground from Charlottesville](#) via my colleague Ben Schreckinger.

FIRST IN MORNING MEDIA: A CREW IS FILMING INSIDE THE NEW YORK

TIMES for a documentary about the paper's coverage of the president, two sources told me. They've filmed meetings, reporters on the phone and other material in both Washington and New York. It's not clear who is behind the film and Times spokespeople declined to comment. But it wouldn't be the first time a documentary crew has been given ample access to the Times for a documentary. Remember "[Page One](#)", Andrew Rossi's 2011 documentary about the Times (and its media columnist David Carr) in a changing technological era? If you haven't seen, I highly recommend it.

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media! Until Aug. 16 you can reach me at hgold@politico.com / and forever more at [@Hadas_Gold](https://www.instagram.com/Hadas_Gold). Morning Media is edited by Alex Weprin ([@alexweprin](https://www.instagram.com/alexweprin) / alexweprin@gmail.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from Cristiano Lima. (clima@politico.com / [@ludacristiano](https://www.instagram.com/ludacristiano)). [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

RUPERT MURDOCH DINED WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP EARLIER THIS MONTH, [CNN reports](#). The two are known to be in touch frequently, often speaking often by phone. A White House dinner isn't that surprising, even though Murdoch's Wall Street Journal is getting tougher on Trump in its editorial content. Murdoch, of course, also leads Fox News, which is arguably Trump's biggest defender in the mainstream media.

YASHAR ALI'S LAWYERS ARE DEMANDING ERIC BOLLING DROP HIS LAWSUIT, [writing in a letter](#) to Bolling on Friday that the the suit is "utterly devoid of merit." The letter notes that the Fox News host chose to only target Ali in his \$50 million lawsuit, not HuffPost, which Ali's lawyer, Patricia Glaser, claims is "a calculated effort to harass and intimidate Mr. Ali personally." Bolling remains suspended from Fox which says an investigation into his alleged sending of lewd text messages is ongoing.

-- In a statement to [HuffPost](#), Bolling's lawyer said "it is ironic and telling that Ms. Glaser accuses us of a publicity stunt in a letter she has yet to send me and that I learned about from the New York Times ... She is right about one thing, no evidence has been produced about these claims, and that is why we filed suit so that the evidence and truth will come out."

-- Ali's lawyer's letter is not the formal response to the summons with notice that Bolling filed last week, so Ali still needs to formally respond. "If they choose not to withdraw their claim, we will defend Yashar Ali vigorously. We don't believe this claim has any merit," one of Ali's lawyers, Jill Basinger told me.

MATT DRUDGE THINKS STEPHEN BANNON IS A WHITE HOUSE LEAKER according to the Daily Caller. Drudge, who for reasons unknown has long portrayed Bannon in a negative light on his influential site, "has previously suspected Bannon of leaking in an email reviewed by TheDC, and he is known to link to articles that paint reported Bannon foe Jared Kushner in a positive light," the [Daily Caller reports](#). The tidbit was part of a larger, sort of insane story about former Trump advisor Sam Nunberg threatening dire consequences for Drudge if Bannon is fired.

ALASKA DISPATCH NEWS FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY, NAMES NEW PUBLISHER: Alaska's largest newspaper filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection over the weekend and will

soon be sold to siblings Ryan Binkley, Wade Binkley, James Binkley and Kai Binkley Sims, as well as Alaska Media LLC, which owns three rural Alaska newspapers, [the Dispatch reports](#). The Binkley family is "an Alaska family that made its fortune hauling freight and tourists on the Yukon River and its tributaries, and a company that owns rural newspapers in the state."

OMAROSA APPEARANCE AT NABJ CONFERENCE CAUSES UPROAR , via Cristiano Lima: White House aide Omarosa Manigault's panel appearance caused an uproar at the National Association of Black Journalists annual conference in New Orleans on Friday. Manigault, director of communications for the Office of Public Liaison and an assistant to president Donald Trump, repeatedly received jeers and groans from the crowd during her comments, according to social media posts from numerous journalists in attendance. The panel featured appearances from relatives of prominent victims of police violence, but the discussion was frequently derailed as Manigault engaged in several heated exchanges with others onstage. At one point, Manigault was pressed on Trump's July comments that seemed to encourage police violence during arrests. At first Manigault hesitated, according to multiple reporters in attendance, before affirming she felt the comments had been out of line. Read more [here](#).

REVOLVING DOOR:

-- James Risen, the legendary Pulitzer-prize winning national security reporter, is joining The Intercept to cover national security. Risen will also be director of First Look's Press Freedom Defense Fund. He recently took a buyout at The New York Times. [[HuffPost](#)]

-- The Washington Post has announced a "rapid response investigative team" that includes Beth Reinhard, who joins from The Wall Street Journal, Jack Gillum, who joined the Post in June from the Associated Press, Andrew Ba Tran, who joined in May from the Connecticut Mirror, and current Posties Shawn Boburg, Emma Brown and Aaron Davis. [[Washington Post](#)]

SOUNDBITE: "Nazis are a lot like cats. If they like you, it's probably because you're feeding them." -- [[John Oliver](#)]

TIL: The man who created Wonder Woman also contributed to the invention of the polygraph test [[National Academy Press](#)].

EXTRAS:

-- Fox News once called leak investigations into journalists "chilling." Now? Not so much, Margaret Sullivan finds. [[Washington Post](#)]

-- A man claiming to be Andrea Tantaros' ghostwriter is suing the former Fox News host. [[Courthouse News](#)]

-- After firing Jeffrey Lord and losing Kayleigh McEnany, will CNN seek to hire more pro-Trump voices? [[THR](#)]

-- "It's not easy being the first and only Fox News host in Silicon Valley." [[NY Times](#)]

-- Rolling Stone retracted a story for mischaracterizing comments it originally attributed to Charlamagne Tha God. [[Rolling Stone](#)]

-- Former New York City mayor and current media mogul Michael Bloomberg has an op-ed in The Guardian, taking aim at Trump and climate change. [[The Guardian](#)]

-- RIP Wayne Woodlief, Boston Herald political columnist, who died this past week at age 82. [[Boston Herald](#)]

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/08/14/new-trump-ad-attacks-the-media-doc-crew-filming-new-york-times-reporters-james-risen-joins-the-intercept-001331>

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