

News | Donald Trump

# Trump was briefed that his name appears in Epstein files, reports say

US federal judge rejects bid to unseal Epstein grand jury records as Trump administration tries to quell MAGA backlash.



An advertisement posted in July at a bus stop displays a photo of US President Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein near the US Embassy in London [Thomas Knych/AP Photo]

23 Jul 2025

11 | | | | |

United States President Donald Trump was briefed by his attorney general that his name appears in files related to investigations into the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, US media outlets have reported.

Trump was told by US Attorney General Pam Bondi that he appears in the so-called "Epstein files" during the US Department of Justice's review of the case in May, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and CNN reported on Wednesday.

## RECOMMENDED STORIES

- The Epstein Crisis: A MAGA mess of Trump's making
- Trump administration bars Wall Street Journal from trip amid Epstein spat
- Trump team seeks meeting with Ghislaine Maxwell amid Epstein pressure

The reports, which cited unnamed anonymous sources, did not specify the context of the references to Trump's name in the documents.

But the Journal, which first reported the news, said Bondi and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche told the US president that the files contained "what officials felt was unverified hearsay about many people, including Trump".

It is typical for law enforcement to collect information about people who are not suspected of any wrongdoing while following leads during a criminal investigation.

Asked earlier this month if Bondi had told him he was mentioned in the documents, Trump told reporters: "No, no. She's given us just a very quick briefing, and in terms of the credibility of the different things that they've seen."

White House communications director Steven Cheung branded the reports "fake news" and said Trump had ejected Epstein from his Florida club Mar-a-Lago for "being a creep", according to the reports.

Trump is widely known to have been friendly with Epstein during the 1990s and 2000s, once describing him as a "terrific guy" who liked women "on the younger side".



Trump in 2019 told reporters that he had not spoken to Epstein in 15 years, after a "falling out" between the pair.

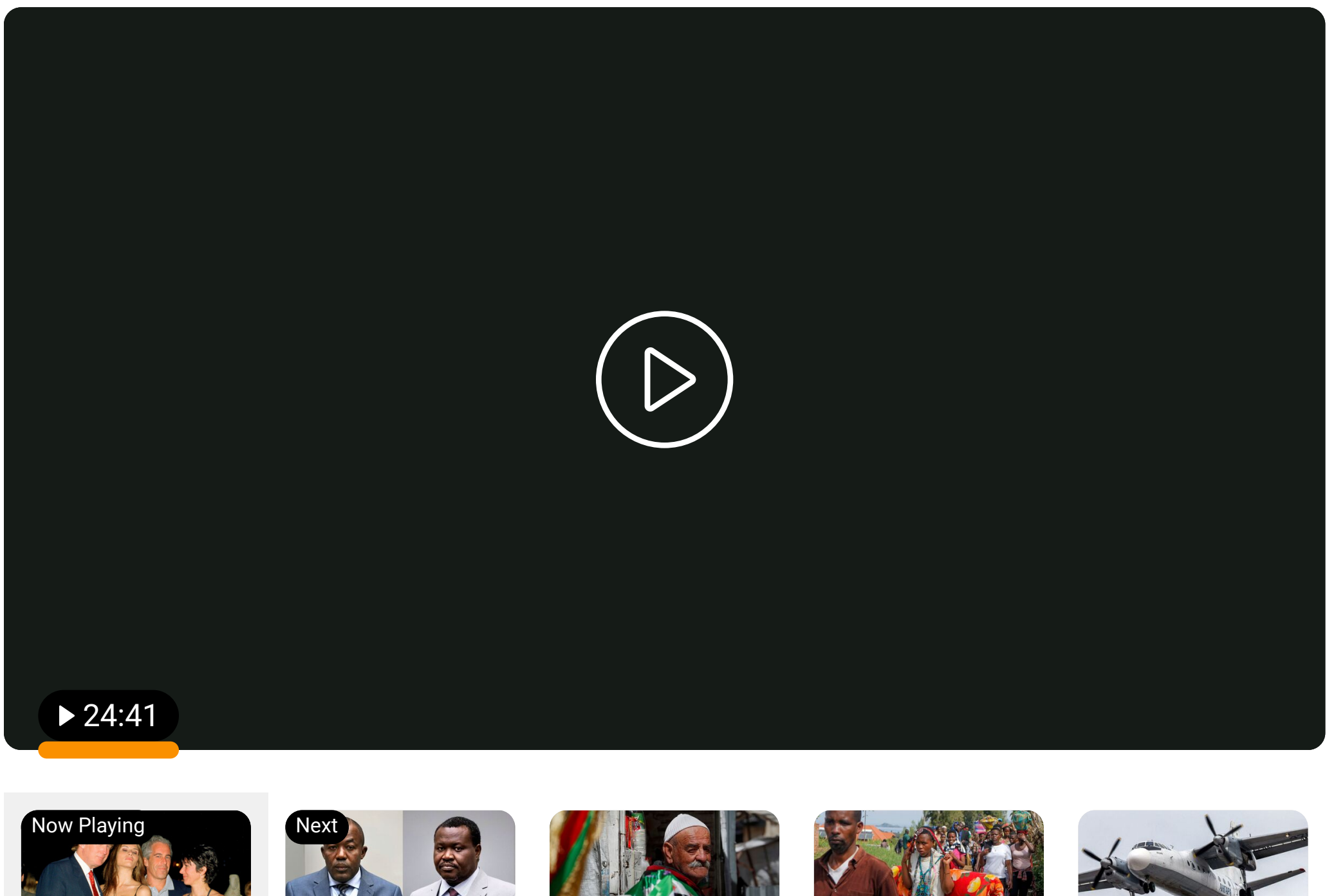
Sign up for Al Jazeera  
Americas Coverage Newsletter

US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—we bring you the stories that matter.

Subscribe

By signing up, you agree to our [Privacy Policy](#)

protected by reCAPTCHA



- Now Playing**  
The Epstein Crisis: A MAGA mess of Trump's making  
24:41
- Next**  
ICC to deliver verdict on CAR's Yekatom, Ngaissona over war crimes targeting Muslims  
02:49
- Millions of Syrians return home after Assad's fall, but face destruction, hunger, and drought  
02:22
- Refugees from DR Congo and Rwanda weigh return as talks on repatriation begin  
08:13
- Russian passenger plane with 49 people on board crashed in southeastern Amur region  
02:29

## Epstein scandal fuels conspiracy theories

The reports of Trump's inclusion in the documents immediately increased pressure on his administration to release more material about Epstein, who died in jail in 2019 while facing sex trafficking charges.

Senator Adam Schiff, a California Democrat, on Wednesday said Bondi and FBI director Kash Patel should be called to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"We need to bring Bondi and Patel into the Judiciary Committee to testify about this now," Schiff said in a video posted on X.

Trump has been under pressure to release all information about the investigations into Epstein, particularly from segments of his "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) base, who had anticipated his administration would confirm their belief in a conspiracy implicating powerful elites in sex crimes against children.



Many of Trump's most devoted supporters have been outraged at the findings of a Justice Department and FBI review that concluded Epstein died by suicide and there was no credible evidence of him blackmailing powerful figures.

The review determined that releasing more material into the public domain was not "appropriate or warranted".

Bondi has said that thousands of videos retrieved by investigators could not be released as they consist of illegal child exploitation material downloaded by Epstein.

On Wednesday, a US federal judge rejected a request from the Justice Department to release transcripts from a grand jury investigation into Epstein.

US District Judge Robin Rosenberg of Florida said her hands were "tied" in the matter as the request, initiated by Trump to quell the backlash among his base, was not part of a judicial proceeding.

The unsealing of grand jury testimony is relatively rare, given the need for secrecy in criminal investigations.

While key members of Trump's inner circle stoked conspiracy theories about Epstein, the president has angrily dismissed the ongoing interest in the case, calling it a "scam" and a "hoax".

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES

## ADVERTISEMENT

This content is created and paid for by advertisers and does not involve Al Jazeera journalists.

Leverage TradeStation's platform designed for self-directed traders.

Leverage TradeStation's platform designed for self-directed traders.

8 Things Money-Smart People Refuse to Spend a Dime On

Ask a Pro: "I Have a \$1.4M IRA. Should I Convert \$160K/Year to a Roth?"

12 Must-Own Dividend Stocks Everyone Needs in Their Portfolio

AL JAZEERA NEWS UPDATES

Israeli settlers enlist in military, 10 killed in Thailand, Cambodia border...

START LISTENING

+ FOLLOW

AL JAZEERA NEWS UPDATES

Israeli settlers enlist in military, 10 killed in Thailand, Cambodia border...

START LISTENING

+ FOLLOW

AL JAZEERA NEWS UPDATES

Israeli settlers enlist in military, 10 killed in Thailand, Cambodia border...

START LISTENING

+ FOLLOW

Advertisement

50% OFF

## LISTEN TO THESE PODCASTS

From: The Take

Can Trump strip Musk, Mamdani and others of their US citizenship?

US President Donald Trump is threatening to strip away citizenship from some naturalized citizens, including billionaire E...

From: The Take

What's next for US birthright citizenship after Supreme Court ruling?

The US Supreme Court has reshaped birthright citizenship – and the judiciary itself. US President Donald Trump is claiming...

From: The Inside Story Podcast

Has BRICS made a difference on the world stage?

Yet another BRICS summit, this time in Brazil, but with the leaders of two major member-countries staying away. The group ...

From: The Inside Story Podcast

Has BRICS made a difference on the world stage?

Yet another BRICS summit, this time in Brazil, but with the leaders of two major member-countries staying away. The group ...

## RELATED

How well did Trump and Epstein really know each other? A timeline

A recent newspaper report claims Trump wrote Epstein a salacious birthday letter back when the two were friends.

18 Jul 2025

From: NewsFeed

Why is Trump's MAGA base in revolt over Epstein?

Donald Trump's MAGA base appears to be in revolt over his administration's Epstein findings.

18 Jul 2025

Trump sues Wall Street Journal, Rupert Murdoch for \$10bn over Epstein story

US Justice Department files a motion in Manhattan federal court to unseal grand jury transcripts in the Epstein cases.

19 Jul 2025

## MORE FROM NEWS

Russia seeking to create 'buffer zones' in Ukraine, says Kremlin

Photos: Deadly Cyprus wildfire claims two lives, forces mass evacuations

What we know about clashes on the Thai-Cambodian border

Russia escalates in Ukraine

## MOST POPULAR

Thailand says no talks with Cambodia until border fighting stops

Number of people starved to death in Israeli-besieged Gaza rises to 113

'Shoot them': Sheikh Hasina ordered firing on Bangladesh protesters in 2024

Thailand, Cambodia exchange air attacks, shelling in deadly border clashes