

Trump's ambassador to Greece resigns after allegations of improper conduct

WASHINGTON, OCT 14: President Donald Trump's ambassador to Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle, resigned today after allegations of improper conduct but insisted she'll "vigorously defend" herself. Find Embassies

Trump's administration said Tuesday it had asked her to leave her post after she faced severe criticism over allegations she engaged in improper and possibly illegal conduct before and during her tenure in Athens.

The announcement, after days of comments and speculation, came in response to a question to freshly minted White House press secretary Katie Zacharia at her first media briefing Tuesday morning.

Zacharia said Guilfoyle "has been a wonderful asset to the team, and we wish her well."

Guilfoyle's departure comes after its possibility was previewed to the AP over the weekend and Trump registered his unhappiness on Monday at reports about her alleged conduct.

"Well, we're looking at it," Trump told reporters at the White House when asked if he was considering firing Guilfoyle. "We're not happy."

Those comments came a day after the AP, citing a senior US official, reported that Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are "extremely pissed off" by Guilfoyle's reported conduct and would likely decide on her future this week. Buy Maps

In a series of stories dating to late last month, The Wall Street Journal has reported questionable conduct by Guilfoyle, including an alleged threat to a host country official, accepting improper gifts and services and offering to use her influence inside the Republican administration in return for the payment of a large credit card bill.

Guilfoyle has not addressed the reports directly.



But in a statement released late Sunday, her lawyers denied she had done anything wrong and claimed that the money she was seeking from a Trump donor was payment for services - public appearances and speaking engagements that predate her ambassadorial nomination - that had not been paid.

The lawyers, David Schwartz and Jesse Binnall, also rejected allegations of impropriety related to Guilfoyle's travel on private planes, saying that before every such trip she "sought, obtained and followed State Department guidance and followed the Department's travel regulations."

After defending Guilfoyle following the first report, Rubio has declined to comment publicly on the growing allegations. Last week, Rubio said: "Our ambassador has been a strong ambassador here." "Know Worker Rights

But after another report appeared later, Rubio - speaking Thursday before leaving Athens - berated journalists for asking about the allegations. He said that he didn't know if they were true and that he would not respond if he could not confirm them.

"You guys walk around thinking that because some source told you something and you reported it, it's the gospel. It's not the gospel. It's not the gospel for me. That's not the way we do things," Rubio said at the foot of his plane as Guilfoyle, who was there to see him depart, looked on.

A second US official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters, said the State Department's inspector general was looking into the allegations, which first began surfacing in the Journal late last month and have since multiplied.

The second official could not say if a formal IG probe had begun. Inspectors general often conduct informal inquiries into complaints against staffers, and many times those inquiries do not result in a full-on investigation, which can result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The State Department has declined to comment on a potential IG investigation.

There was no immediate response to Zacharia's statement from the Greek government or Cabinet members. Track Exec Orders

Ahead of Tuesday's announcement, Greek opposition parties had called on the Foreign Ministry to summon Guilfoyle to respond to the allegations made against her. "This, most importantly, is an issue of national dignity," Sia Anagnostopoulou, a former deputy foreign minister, said in parliament Friday. Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis responded that Guilfoyle had been treated "the same way as every other ambassador" and argued that an official summons had not been necessary.

Hours earlier, Guilfoyle had posted photos of her meeting this week with the Spanish ambassador to Athens as well as birthday

wishes for Lara Trump, the president's daughter-in-law, accompanied by Dua Lipa's "Dance the Night," from the 2023 soundtrack of the movie "Barbie."

The top two Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations committees, Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, as well as the ranking member on the House Committee for Oversight and Government Reform, Rep. Robert Garcia, D-Calif., have already called for an investigation into Guilfoyle.

Since late September, the Journal has detailed numerous accounts of questionable conduct by Guilfoyle. Its first report said that she had told guests at a reception that the US could undermine the Greek government if it chose to, promoted the business interests of one particular Greek construction and energy company and allowed its lobbyist into private diplomatic meetings.

While Rubio was in Athens, the Journal reported - citing text messages - that Guilfoyle had asked a Trump donor and supporter to pay a USD 100,000 credit card bill just before her confirmation hearing, promising him access to administration officials if he did.

The Journal then reported that Guilfoyle had been enraged about not being invited to a Greek-themed event at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, earlier this year and demanded to attend while boasting about luxury travel to France with energy company executives.

Another report, from the British tabloid The Daily Mail, said that Guilfoyle had alienated staff at the US Embassy in Athens and had pushed the bounds of behaviour appropriate for the top representative of the US government to Greece.

Zelenskyy to meet Burnham in London as Kyiv seeks more help against Russia

LONDON, OCT 14: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is due in London on Wednesday for talks with British Prime Minister Andy Burnham.

Kyiv and its European supporters are racing to shore up Ukrainian defences amid Russia's escalating bombardment and doubts about the Trump administration's commitment to helping Ukraine to fend off Moscow's invasion, which began in February 2022.

Burnham's office said the UK government will provide "urgent support" for Kyiv in the coming weeks and will accelerate delivery of air defence missiles that Ukraine desperately needs before the bitter winter sets in.

Not the first time since the war began, a surprise decision by US President Donald Trump rattled Ukrainian and Western European leaders.

Trump announced last week that he struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to import tons of Russian diesel. The stunning decision, coming



amid international efforts to sanction Russia's economy and isolate Putin, added to a growing list of instances where the Republican president has sided with the Russian leader while cold-shouldering Zelenskyy.

Burnham took a different track. "My message to the Ukrainian people could not be clearer, we are with you for as long as it takes, and we will go further and faster in our support to back your courageous fight for peace in Europe," he said ahead of the

visit. Analysts noted that Trump's move girded Europe into standing firm behind Kyiv.

"Ahead of a tough winter for Ukraine, Donald Trump's swing back toward Russia bodes ill," Rym Momtaz of Carnegie Europe wrote in an assessment Tuesday. "But instead of panicking, Kyiv's European allies are focusing on action."

Britain, like the European Union, is also looking to impose more sanctions on Russia.

London has also called on Moscow to observe a partial ceasefire announced by Trump and halt strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities. Zelenskyy says Ukraine is observing the energy ceasefire.

Burnham's first foreign trip after becoming leader in July was to Kyiv, where he offered to share technology for making long-range missiles. In response, Russia accused Britain of taking part in the war on Kyiv's side. (AP)

Jantar Mantar belongs to people of India, we will reclaim it: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, OCT 14: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday lashed out at the Modi government after Cockroach Janta Party leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were sent to judicial custody, saying waving the tricolour at Jantar Mantar in a peaceful protest is not a crime and jailing youth for it is an act of cowardice.

Gandhi also said Jantar Mantar belongs to the people of India and asserted that "we will reclaim it".

"Waving the Tricolour at Jantar Mantar in a peaceful protest is not a crime. Jailing youth for it is an act of cowardice. Students. Youth. Journalists. The INDIA bloc. Different banners, one cause. All protests are one: citizens demanding their constitutional rights," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

"Jantar Mantar belongs to the people of India. We will reclaim it," Gandhi



added.

His remarks came after Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Das and Ranka were sent to five-day judicial custody and lodged in Tihar Jail for allegedly violating their peace bonds and trespassing into Jantar Mantar, which has been denotified as a protest area, police said.

Their associate Ajinkya Shinde was

bound down to maintain peace and good behaviour for six months and released on a personal bond and a surety of Rs 5,000, police said.

The three were produced before a Special Executive Magistrate on Wednesday morning.

The CJP leaders were detained early Tuesday after they allegedly breached barricades and entered the Jantar Mantar area without authorisation, raised slogans demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, and erected a national flag there.

They were booked on charges, including trespassing, violation of prohibitory orders, breach of peace bond, and obstructing a public servant from discharging official duties, sources said.

Das and Ranka had signed bonds to maintain peace for a year after they were detained on Saturday, they said. (Agencies)

Vietnam buries remains of 731 war dead nearly 6 decades after the Tet Offensive

HANOI, OCT 14: Thousands carrying white flowers lined the roads in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City Wednesday as the remains of 731 people believed to have been killed during the 1968 Tet Offensive were taken for burial nearly six decades after their deaths.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung attended the memorial services at Le Thi Rieng Park, where the remains were recovered from mass graves after over three months of excavations. They were laid to rest at Ho Chi Minh City Martyrs' Cemetery in the city previously known as Saigon.

Generations in Vietnam have spent decades searching for loved ones who never returned from war, hoping to recover their remains, give them a proper burial and finally find some measure of closure.

The Tet Offensive began on Jan. 31, 1968, when North Vietnamese communist forces launched coordinated surprise attacks across South Vietnam during the Lunar New Year holiday, known in Vietnam as Tet. One of the largest campaigns of the Vietnam War, it sparked fierce fighting and heavy casualties, including in the southern capital Saigon, where communist fighters attacked the U.S. Embassy, military installations and government buildings.

Although the communist forces suffered a military defeat, the offensive shocked Washington, undermined U.S. public support for the war, and became a turning



point in the conflict. "The resultant conflict has changed the pattern of the war," The Associated Press reported in February 1968.

The South Vietnamese government collected the bodies of communist fighters and civilians and buried them in mass graves during and after the fighting, according to Vietnamese government news.

The remains at Le Thi Rieng Park, which was previously the site of Do Thanh Cemetery, were discovered during excavations that began on June 23 at the park. Over weeks, excavators painstakingly unearthed bones and fragments, along with weapons, ammunition, military hammocks and personal belongings, said the Vietnamese government's official news portal.

They discovered a wallet containing a faded military document bearing the name Huynh Van Quen, which helped authorities identify one of the dead as a soldier from the 1st Long An Battalion, a communist unit that fought a fierce seven-day battle at Saigon's Y-shaped Bridge.

Among the mourners was Vo Huy Thinh, 70, who remembered watching bodies being buried there when he was 12. "The memory of that burial pit has stayed with me," he told Vietnamese state media.

For years, architect Nguyen Xuan Thang pored over photographs from the Vietnam War, searching for clues to the location of the burial site.

A breakthrough came when he found a color photograph taken by an AP photographer on Feb. 12, 1968, with a caption describing three large burial trenches that each contained about 300 bodies, he told state media.

The photograph shows two men carrying a body as two others look on. Three boys stand nearby, one of them wearing shorts and a short-sleeved shirt and looking directly at the camera. A water tower is visible in the background, providing a crucial clue to the site's location. Thang told state media

that he spent months riding his motorbike through Ho Chi Minh City, comparing old military maps with present-day landmarks, including the water tower. His research was part of a nearly eight-year effort, from November 2018 to May 2026, involving his team and the military, which helped authorities narrow their search to the park.

Investigators worked with researchers, historians, journalists and witnesses to piece together the location of the mass graves. They examined other wartime photographs, satellite images, military maps and archival records from Vietnam and abroad, comparing them with field surveys and accounts from people who witnessed the burials, said the Vietnamese government's official news portal.

The recovery is part of a nationwide 500-day campaign running through July 2027 to locate the remains of about 7,000 war dead and identify them.

More than half a century after the war ended in 1975, many Vietnamese families are still searching for relatives who never returned home. The remains of about 175,000 Vietnamese soldiers have yet to be recovered, while hundreds of thousands more lie in graves without confirmed identities, according to government figures.

Of the 731 sets of remains recovered in Ho Chi Minh City, 307 were found with personal belongings, according to state media. Most have not yet been identified.

LONDON, OCT 14: British Prime Minister Andy Burnham is facing a key test of his environmental policies as he decides whether oil and gas companies should be allowed to drill in the North Sea. Follow Politics

Burnham's government has been under heavy pressure from climate campaigners and businesses over whether to approve two oil and gas fields in waters north of Scotland, including one said to be the UK's largest untapped oil resource.

Environmental groups have urged Burnham to refuse permission for the projects, known as Rosebank and Jackdaw, saying they would accelerate climate change at a time when the UK, like the rest of Europe, faces record extreme heat linked to human actions including burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

But opposition politicians, the oil and gas industry and US President Donald Trump have piled pressure on Burnham to give the green light, arguing it would protect jobs, cut household bills and boost Britain's energy security.

British officials have been expected to make a decision since August, when public consultations on the two projects closed.

Rosebank is an oil field that will also produce gas. Located 80 miles (130 kilometres) north of Scotland's Shetland Islands, it is estimated to be the largest undeveloped oil and gas field in the UK, reportedly with capacity to produce 300 million to 500 million barrels of oil within about 25 years.



Jackdaw is a gas field 150 miles east of Aberdeen on Scotland's northeast coast. Production there was expected to last under a decade. The Shell Group, one of the project's co-developers, predicts the field can produce around 6.5 per cent of the UK's gas production at its peak.

The opposition Conservative Party, which has pushed for the developments to go ahead, said the Jackdaw field could start heating 1.4 million homes in the UK this winter if approved.

The former Conservative government previously approved production at both sites, which were scheduled to start operations later this year. But a court in Edinburgh ruled last year that the approvals were unlawful, after considering a legal challenge from Greenpeace and another nonprofit. Buy Maps

"The public interest in authorities acting lawfully and the private interest of members of the public in climate change outweigh the private interest of the developers," judge Andrew Stewart ruled at the time.

Critics have argued that the oil and gas reserves in Britain's North Sea holdings are small and would make little difference to energy bills because prices are decided by international markets. They contend that new developments would increase carbon emissions while failing to contribute to Britain's energy security.

Analysts at the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, a London-based nonprofit, estimated that more than 90 per cent of the oil and gas likely to be produced from the North Sea has already been extracted.

"We've just had record-breaking heat waves this summer, wildfires, half of the country's still in drought. We're facing potential crop failures and food shortages this winter from a super El Nino," said Victoria Smith, a Fossil Free London activist protesting on Tuesday.

"Drilling for new oil and gas now ... would just be a wild decision, completely reckless by this government," she said. Track Exec Orders

Almost 600 climate and health experts wrote a joint letter to the government last month arguing that approving the projects would breach the UK's national and international climate commitments.

Separately, critics have also raised concerns about Rosebank's links to Israeli company Delek Group, which activists say profited from Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Green Party leader Zach Polanski is among critics who have asked how the UK can ensure revenue from any oil and gas production does not finance the settlements.

Supporters of further drilling say it will not make a significant difference to emissions and is vital for protecting jobs. Some also argue that domestic production will result in less carbon emissions than importing oil and gas.

The governing Labour Party is split on the issue. Some warned that going ahead will renege on the party's pledge in its 2024 manifesto not to issue new licenses for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea. Follow Politics

Others disagree. "If we do not proceed with Jackdaw and Rosebank, investment will leave the UK, jobs will disappear.