

## Fox News reporter 'fired for speaking out about sex discrimination'

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A Fox News reporter claims she was fired less than 24 hours after trying to submit an internal complaint about workplace sexism, according to a lawsuit filed on Thursday.

Jessica Golloher, a foreign affairs correspondent for Fox News Radio, said she was out of a job shortly after she contacted a law firm that Fox had hired to handle internal employee grievances - a decision Golloher claims was 'retaliation' for her complaints.

But Fox denies the claim, saying that Golloher's department was earmarked for budget cuts - and as the only reporter in it, she was automatically up for the chop.

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Lawsuit: Jessica Golloher (pictured) is suing Fox News Radio. She says they fired her after she contacted the company's lawyers about alleged workplace discrimination and sexism

The lawsuit is the latest public relations crisis for the network, which is also facing a class action racial discrimination suit and sexual harassment allegations from some of its top female stars.

It also comes just weeks after Fox News was forced to terminate its leading host, Bill O'Reilly, amid revelations that he paid millions to settle a string of sexual harassment claims.

Golloher's lawsuit claims she routinely faced gender discrimination, and when she complained she was told to just 'fly under the radar.'

A spokesperson for Fox News told Dailymail.com that Golloher's allegations are unfounded.

'Jessica Golloher's claims are without merit. Her allegations of discrimination and retaliation are baseless. We will vigorously defend the matter,' said the spokesperson.

According to the complaint, Golloher's bosses replaced her with a male reporter while she was in Sochi covering the Olympics because they wanted 'a man as the voice of Fox during the Olympics.'

She says she was relegated to 'secretarial' work and reporting on Moscow's decision to ban lace panties.

'Ms Golloher to [was told to] spend time on the ridiculous and frivolous "panty protests" in Russia,' said the complaint, calling the decision a 'humiliation.'

Golloher also claims her bosses complained that she looked 'horrible' in company photos and said she should provide better pictures because she was 'much better looking in person.'

She said the company often turned down her story ideas 'using such pretexts as dangerous conditions or expense of traveling for the story, yet male reporters were sent to the precise locations she had pitched.'

Denial: The company denied the claims, saying that it axed the Jerusalem bureau for budget reasons, and as its only reporter she was inevitably going to be fired

The lawsuit claims Golloher complained to her superiors a number of times, but her grievances were ignored.

According to the filing, when she complained about a male anchor's allegedly 'rude and disparaging' behavior, she was told there had been similar complaints about the anchor but that she should just 'fly under the radar.'

The response was 'a subtle warning that Ms Golloher would be retaliated against if she chose to push the issue,' the lawsuit claims.

In April, after news broke about the multiple sexual harassment complaints against O'Reilly, Fox News sent out a company-wide email telling employees to contact the Paul Weiss law firm with any workplace complaints 'so that we can attempt to address your concerns promptly and confidentially.'

Golloher claims that she tried to do exactly that and was fired within a day.

She emailed the law firm on April 17: 'I'm having some issues at FOX. Is it feasible to give you a call this week? I'd really appreciate it.'

A lawyer responded back a few hours later to set up a next meeting. But the next day, Golloher's boss allegedly told her that she would be terminated in August due to budgetary constraints.

The lawsuit claims Golloher was fired as 'retaliation' for her trying to file a complaint.

'[I]t was clear that Ms Golloher was intending on reporting the discriminatory behavior in the workplace,' said the suit.

Trouble: Golloher contacted the lawyers after Fox set up an in-house complaints line as a result of high-profile sexual harassment claims. Bill O'Reilly (pictured) was one Fox employee accused of such harassment

Douglas Wigdor, an attorney for Golloher who is also representing other employee lawsuits against Fox News, called the case 'yet another indication of [Fox's] lack of oversight and retaliatory animus for those that are brave enough to report unlawful conduct.'

Wigdor claimed on Tuesday that several of his other clients were also 'threatened' with legal action by Fox News's lawyers prior to filing lawsuits.

'Hours before we amended [a racial discrimination class action suit against Fox] to add nine new Plaintiffs and Class Action allegations, we received a letter from Fox's Counsel, Epstein, Becker & Green, PC ('EBG'), threatening our clients and our Firm should certain clients go public with their claims,' said Wigdor.

'Specifically, EBG, on behalf of Fox, threatened to 'seek sanctions and other remedies in the appropriate forum.'

A person familiar with the matter told Dailymail.com that Golloher's termination was unrelated to her contacting Fox's law firm, Paul Weiss.

The source said Golloher's contract, which was scheduled to expire in August, was not renewed for budget reasons after the company decided to eliminate its radio operations in the Jerusalem bureau

due to budget cuts across Fox News Radio. Golloher was the only radio reporter stationed in the Jerusalem bureau.

The source also said the Paul Weiss law firm attempted to follow up with Golloher twice after she contacted them, but she never replied.



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