

## Female Reporter Sues Fox News Alleging She Was Fired for Using Sexual Harassment Hotline

slate.com



*The News Corporation headquarters on April 5, 2017 in New York City.*

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The avalanche of lawsuits against Fox News continued Thursday with a suit filed by a radio correspondent who alleges the network fired her after she reported complaints of sexual harassment to the network. In the suit filed in New York state court, Jessica Golloher, a Middle East reporter, says she reported instances of harassment, then was told she would be laid off 24 hours later for what the network said were budgetary reasons.

From Reuters:

... Golloher says that in April she reported sex discrimination to a lawyer at the firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, which Fox retained last year to conduct an internal probe of harassment complaints. The next day, Golloher was told she would be laid off in August due to budgetary concerns, the complaint says. "Terminating an employee within 24 hours of utilizing the 'hotline' ... is yet another indication of (Fox's) lack of oversight and retaliatory animus for those that are brave enough to report unlawful conduct," Golloher's lawyer, Douglas Wigdor, said in a statement... Golloher, who is seeking unspecified damages, says Fox violated New York City and state laws prohibiting workplace discrimination.

A spokesperson for Fox News said in a statement to Reuters that Golloher's claims were baseless. The network has faced a barrage of sexual harassment claims as host Bill O'Reilly was ushered out the door last month. There have also been lawsuits filed alleging racial discrimination. What's particularly foreboding for the network about this latest suit is that the network had used its harassment hotline as evidence it takes sexual harassment seriously. It also liked to cite the lack of complaints registered on the hotline as evidence that sexual harassment was not, in fact, a problem at the network and that new allegations had ulterior motives. Golloher's suit claims the harassment hotline was explicitly used against her and that the network used it "to paint targets on the backs of employees."

Bill O'Reilly is back. No, not on the Fox News Channel. No, not settling more sexual harassment lawsuits. (Well, maybe soon settling more sexual harassment lawsuits.) But O'Reilly returned to his website for his No Spin News podcast on Monday, less than a week after being dismissed from the Fox News Channel. There had been intense speculation about what exactly O'Reilly would say, and whether he would discuss the abrupt end to his career as the top-rated host on cable news. He did briefly address the allegations against him, and lay out a little bit of what his future holds. But more than anything else, what he showed—and not for the first time—is that he and Donald Trump are working from the same playbook.

O'Reilly opened by announcing that the podcast, which he has hosted since 2009, would now turn into "a genuine news program." It's not clear precisely what that means, but Monday's episode



*He's sticking around.*

proved again that O'Reilly can talk ad nauseam in his compellingly demagogic manner. The beginning of the show was largely about his recent troubles—or rather the “trouble” he has placed himself in by allegedly terrorizing his former co-workers. O'Reilly stated that he couldn't “say a lot” and that he was “sad” about the situation. But he was at his Trumpiest, too, saying, “I'm very confident the truth will come out, and when it does, I don't know if you're going to be surprised—but I think you're going to be shaken, as I am. There's a lot of stuff involved here. Now, I can't say any more, because I just don't want to influence the flow of the information.

I don't want the media to take what I say and misconstrue it.” There you have it: a little conspiracy-mongering, vague hints of menace, cursory media-bashing, and the prediction that people will be shocked when the supposedly real information comes out. (Perhaps Barack Obama's nefarious wiretapping scheme will be uncovered on the same day.)

The rest of the program was classic O'Reilly. He briefly touched on a number of issues, from France (largely just noting the threat it faces from French Muslims), to Ann Coulter's troubles speaking at the University of California–Berkeley, which allowed him to take some shots at PC culture and squeeze in a subtle plug for his new book. (Ever the expert at using even bad publicity to his advantage, O'Reilly is offering this week's episodes of his podcast free; in the future it will be for “premium members” of his website.) When he talked about Trump, he said precisely the same thing that the president did, via Twitter over the weekend, about Trump's approval ratings. (Both quasi-acknowledged the historically low approval ratings; both said it didn't really count, because the media was so biased.)



*Supporters wave during a campaign meeting of Marine Le Pen on March 30 in La Trinité-Porhoët, France.*

The French presidential election on Sunday is expected to be a cakewalk for Emmanuel Macron, the center-left technocrat and financier running against the anti-immigrant nationalist Marine Le Pen. If some suspense remains despite polls consistently showing Macron taking 60 percent of the vote, it's for two reasons. The first is that Le Pen's extreme positions, like her desire to quit the European Union, have rattled the French and their neighbors. Ratings agencies say converting French debt from euros to francs, for example, would constitute the largest sovereign debt default in history.



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The second is that this is a race unlike any the Fifth Republic has ever seen. It's

the first modern French presidential race missing a candidate from one of the two biggest parties, the Socialists and the Republicans. It's also the latest election to upset the familiar notion of national politics operating on a spectrum from left to right and the familiar schisms that accompanied the old model. What has emerged is a divide that's nearly urban-rural, but with exceptions that defy that simplistic characterization. A new political geography is in place in France, and the French are finding a new way to talk about it, in a struggle over language, history, and politics that mirrors the one underway elsewhere in Europe and in the U.S.