

# The Empty Screen: Sources

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Source notes for “The Empty Screen,” September 22, 2026; revised September 23, 2026.  
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**Verification pass of September 23, 2026. Two items previously held on secondary descriptions were checked against the primary surface. (1) [whitehouse.gov/live](https://www.whitehouse.gov/live) carries a channel labelled “Trump TV,” CH 47, 24/7, embedding YouTube video [A4gNgHfZ-v4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4gNgHfZ-v4), whose own metadata gives the title “TRUMP TV: The Essentials Station” and the author The White House ([youtube.com/@WhiteHouse](https://www.youtube.com/@WhiteHouse)); confirmed. The stream description quoted in the essay (“the Trump Administration’s biggest moments all in one place”) was not retrievable from the primary surface and remains sourced to item 6a. (2) The networks’ joint statement was retrieved from Fox News Media’s own release of September 21, 2026 ([press.foxnews.com/2026/09/joint-network-statement-on-white-house-press-ban](https://press.foxnews.com/2026/09/joint-network-statement-on-white-house-press-ban)); the essay’s quotation matches it verbatim. No item remains open.**

**The author used AI assistance in preparing this work and is responsible for its content.**

1. Launch, name, “top videos, major remarks, and must-see highlights,” Mount Rushmore rerun, 7 p.m. start: Time, “White House Launches ‘Trump TV’ Amid Feud With Press,” Sept. 22, 2026, <https://time.com/article/2026/09/22/trump-tv-white-house-press-pool-ban-boycott-state-media/>; Lynnwood Times, Sept. 21, 2026, <https://lynnwoodtimes.com/2026/09/21/trump-tv/> (also: Facebook promotion “Streaming 24/7. Live at 7PM”; official app; only the TV pool stopped, print/radio/photo pools continue).
2. Ban announcement, “FICTION and LIES,” “other outlets to follow,” “actually treasonous” Iran-coverage post, 2018 Acosta credential restored after suit: NBC News, Sept. 18, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/media/trump-bans-cnn-ms-now-politico-white-house-rcna598609>.
3. “No reason,” “I don’t want them in my office,” Times and Post “crummy,” staff caught off guard: CNN, Sept. 18, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/18/media/trump-claims-ban-cnn-msnow-politico-white-house>.
4. Credentials pulled, reporters denied at the grounds Saturday: NPR, Sept. 19, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/09/19/nx-s1-5974854/trump-cnn-msnow-politico-ban>.
5. Networks decline to replace CNN; joint statement quotation; pool chair Bryan Boughton (Fox) email; Washington Post withholding photographs: CNN Business, Sept. 20, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/20/media/cnn-trump-white-house-pool-ban>.

6. Lawsuit defendants (Trump, communications director, chief of staff Wiles, Secret Service director), TRO request, remote hearing Wednesday 3:30: PBS NewsHour, Sept. 21, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/press-pool-declines-to-cover-trump-in-protest-of-his-ban-on-news-outlets>. Fifth Amendment due-process claim: MPR/AP, Sept. 22, 2026, <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/09/22/what-is-the-white-house-pool-its-a-battleground-between-trump-and-free-press-rights>. Inaudible press-conference video on the White House feed: Axios, Sept. 21, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/09/21/trump-white-house-pool-tv-ban-audio>. 6a. White House statement (“hard pass, briefing room seat, or place in the press pool”; “hostile operation”; access a privilege), Rubio “We’re not closing CNN,” helipad speech without the pool microphone, stream description “the Trump Administration’s biggest moments all in one place,” Sunday 10:55 p.m. guidance omitting CNN: CNN via Yahoo, Sept. 22, 2026, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/article/cnn-ms-now-and-politico-are-suing-trump-over-white-house-ban-155420637.html>; NBC News, Sept. 21, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/cnn-politico-ms-now-plan-sue-trump-administration-ban-white-house-cove-rcna598912>. 6b. Pool email wording “Effective today, there would be no network pool coverage of the president’s events”: MPR/AP (item 6).
7. UNGA trip without a pool camera; CNN was the scheduled network; five-network rotation mechanics; 2009 Obama-Fox precedent: Axios, Sept. 21, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/09/21/trump-un-tv-pool-cnn>; CNBC, Sept. 21, 2026, <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/09/21/trump-white-house-press-pool-what-is.html>.
8. February 2025 pool takeover; Leavitt and Daniels quotations: Axios, Feb. 25, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/02/25/white-house-trump-press-pool>; AP via Yahoo, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/white-house-says-decide-news-190745572.html>.
9. Wire slot eliminated; new-media seat; Poynter analysis of conservative skew: CNBC, Sept. 21, 2026 (item 7).
10. Newsweek description of the service and the Russia media-environment comparison: Newsweek, Sept. 21, 2026, <https://www.newsweek.com/white-house-launches-trump-tv-amid-media-ban-what-we-know-12470372>.
11. Marine One drowning the official helipad feed: Time (item 1).
12. The IRS settlement and the retired judges: Order, Trump v. Internal Revenue Service, No. 1:26-cv-20609-KMW, DE 106 (S.D. Fla. July 13, 2026), <https://democracyforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Trump-v-IRS-106-Order-on-Sanctions.pdf>.
13. Pool history since Franklin Roosevelt: CNN, Sept. 20, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/20/politics/white-house-press-pool-trump>.

## Update, September 23

14. Kelly assignment, 2018 Acosta history, DOJ national-security and professionalism rationale: CBS News, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cnn-ms-now-politico-lawsuit-white-house-access-trump/>. Hearing concluded without ruling; Velchik’s

request to hold until after the Chinese president's visit; Boutrous "garden variety reporting": CNN live coverage, Sept. 23,  
<https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/23/politics/live-news/press-lawsuit-trump-cnn>.