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Donald Trump's Tweet About Christine Blasey Ford Is So Not OK

BY [LILLI PETERSEN](#) | SEPT 21 2018 |

When it comes to sexual assault allegations, victim blaming is never in style. President Donald Trump doesn't seem to have gotten the memo, though. On the morning of Friday,



seriously not OK. Come on, man. Elite Daily reached out to the White House for clarification on the tweet and the implication that if the alleged attack were serious it would have been reported at the time, as well as comment on the allegations themselves, but did not immediately hear back.



For the past week, everyone has been talking about the allegations which have roiled the confirmation proceedings of Kavanaugh, Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Anthony Kennedy. On Sept. 14, news broke that a then-anonymous accuser had claimed in a letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein that **Kavanaugh had allegedly sexually assaulted her** at a high school party in the 1980s. In a public statement, **Kavanaugh denied the allegations**, saying "I categorically and unequivocally deny this allegation. I did not do this back in high school or at any time." Representatives for Kavanaugh did not reply to Elite Daily's request for comment. On Sept. 16, Ford, a psychology professor from California, **came forward as Kavanaugh's accuser**. Since then, according to her lawyers, she has been subjected to death threats and her family has been driven from their home. In the meantime, senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee have called on her to **testify about her allegations against Kavanaugh**, creating a stalemate when Ford said she would not testify until the FBI had investigated her claims. She has since indicated she **may be willing to testify prior to an investigation**.



an "impeccable reputation" and suggested that if the FBI were to be involved, it should have happened years ago. "I have no doubt that, if the attack on Dr. Ford was as bad as she says, charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities," he wrote.



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump



Judge Brett Kavanaugh is a fine man, with an impeccable reputation, who is under assault by radical left wing politicians who don't want to know the answers, they just want to destroy



56.5K people are talking about this



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump



I have no doubt that, if the attack on Dr. Ford was as bad as she says, charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities by either her or her loving parents. I ask that she bring those filings forward so that we can learn date, time, and place!

110K 1:14 PM - Sep 21, 2018



102K people are talking about this



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump



The radical left lawyers want the FBI to get involved NOW. Why didn't someone call the FBI 36 years ago?

80K 1:29 PM - Sep 21, 2018



45.8K people are talking about this

Well, in [Blasey's own words](#), she was afraid of the consequences of reporting. She remembered thinking, "I'm not ever telling anyone this. This is nothing, it didn't happen, and he didn't rape me," she told *The Washington Post* on Sept. 16. She told the paper that she was afraid that she would get in trouble for being at a party where teenagers were drinking.



The idea that to be believable, sexual misconduct victims must report to authorities right away is one of the most tired-out tropes in the discussion around sexual assault. According to statistics from the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN), more than [two-thirds of sexual assaults are never reported](#) to authorities, with the three most common reasons being, in order, that the assaulted "feared retaliation"; "believed the police would not do anything to help"; and "believed it was a personal matter." For those who do speak up, it's not uncommon for [survivors of sexual assault to stay quiet for years](#) before coming forward, as many survivor advocates point out.

The Sept. 21 tweets are the first time that Trump had discussed Ford by name, apparently to his advisers' dismay. Earlier on Friday morning, a White House source told Axios that "you have no idea" how hard it had been [keeping Trump from attacking Ford](#) directly. The source reportedly said that the hope had been to keep the president quiet until Monday, which clearly didn't work out. Elite Daily reached out to the White House for comment, but did not immediately hear back.

So, will we get to see Ford's testimony? Will Kavanaugh be confirmed? Will Trump refrain from attacking an alleged sexual assault survivor further? This is 2018. Anything is possible.





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Donald Trump's Tweet About Wounded Knee & Elizabeth Warren Is So Epicly Not OK

BY [HANNAH GOLDEN](#) | 2 WEEKS AGO |

It was technically last year when Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren announced she was running for president. But apparently, the president is just getting around to reacting to the news, a series of tweets on Sunday, Jan. 13 suggest. But if he was attempting to be humorous, [Donald Trump's tweet about Wounded Knee and Elizabeth Warren](#) didn't go over well.

[In a video shared on Dec. 31](#), Warren, a Democratic figurehead, announced she would be running for president in 2020 and filmed the announcement over a bottle of beer in her kitchen, with her husband alongside. Trump seemed to have other ideas about where she should've made that announcement, tweeting on Jan. 13:

"If Elizabeth Warren, often referred to by me as Pocahontas, did this commercial from Bighorn or Wounded Knee instead of her kitchen, with her husband dressed in full Indian garb, it would have been a smash!" Needless to say, it was problematic, and not just for his repeat of the troubling "Pocahontas" nickname.



Knee, referring to an 1890 massacre, per Encyclopedia Britannica, of [some 150-300 Lakota Sioux Native Americans](#), an estimated 60 of whom were women and children. This past Dec. 29, in fact, marked the 128th anniversary of the tragic affair. Elite Daily reached out to the White House for comment on Trump's tweet but did not hear back at time of publication.

Some in the indigenous community had a particular range of reactions to the news that Trump had invoked the massacre.

"The genocide of Lakota people isn't a joke," [tweeted Lakota People's Law Project](#), a legal advocacy group defending the indigenous group. "Neither is cultural appropriation. The president's racism has consequences for our nation and its peoples, and it's high time he starts being held to account."

"Hard to believe this is what passes for leadership in our country today," added Jesse Phelps, press director of the law project, in an email to Elite Daily.

In a statement shared with Elite Daily, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) president Jefferson Keel condemned the president's "casual and callous" reference of the massacre. "Hundreds of Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho people lost their lives at the hands of the invading U.S. Army during these events, and their memories should not be desecrated as a rhetorical punch line," he wrote. "Flippant references to deadly historical conflicts and name-calling that mocks Native identity have no place in our political discourse."



tweet about this brutal incident, in which an estimated 300 unarmed men, women, and children were rounded up and slaughtered.” The statement also encouraged the administration to [educate themselves about contemporary Native Americans](#) and the issues that are relevant to them.

Some merely expressed frustration that Warren and Wounded Knee were back in the press and that they'd be fielding so much fanfare about it.

Outside of the indigenous community, Twitter more broadly was unsurprisingly reacting to Trump's tweet about the event marking the mass slaughter of indigenous people. A warning: some of these tweets may be upsetting.

"Didn't put 'incoherent joke about the Wounded Knee massacre' on my 2019 news cycle bingo card, but here we are," [tweeted Washington Post reporter Dave Weigel](#).



"This tweet isn't an attack on Warren. It's an attack on natives," tweeted writer Aura Bogado.

Sunday was certainly not the first time Trump has called Warren "Pocahontas," and in fact was the latest in an ongoing tirade by the president and members of the GOP more broadly to discredit Warren over her ethnicity, which has been [a point of contention](#) since Warren released the results of a DNA test to address criticisms about her claims to Native American heritage. The issue has become so hot-button in the media, in fact, that some University of Minnesota scholars have [compiled a syllabus](#) addressing common questions about DNA testing and ethnicity verification.

Adding insult to injury, Trump's administration has also made policy moves harmful to Native Americans. For example, as *Politico's* [Dan Diamond points out](#), the administration moved to put restrictions on [indigenous people's access to health care](#) coverage, and moved to strip away native land, in what former Standing Rock Sioux chairman David



hear back.

Setting aside that he invoked a massacre to, as it appears, make fun of Warren, the suggestion of locations on its face makes little sense. For one thing, Bighorn isn't a place. In fact, per The History Channel, it's part of the name of [a battle that was fought](#) near the Little Bighorn River in Montana, where a group of Lakota Sioux and Cheyenne natives had a standoff with U.S. soldiers after they'd refused to move to a reservation. And apparently, one tweet mocking the senator wasn't enough.

Trump, in a [second tweet](#) on Sunday, was back at it again on the same video, making a dig at Warren and her husband: "Best line in the Elizabeth Warren beer catastrophe is, to her husband, 'Thank you for being here. I'm glad you're here' It's their house, he's supposed to be there!"

Whether or not her husband was supposed to be in the house or not, it's fair to say Trump's reference of the historic massacre on indigenous people was, to put it lightly, ill-advised.