

# **ABC News suspends reporter over faulty Michael Flynn story, apologizes for 'serious error'**

The Associated Press, Published 6:18 p.m. ET, Dec. 2, 2017 | Updated 11:12 p.m. ET Dec. 2, 2017

Comments by Phillip W. Weiss

According to this article, ABC News has suspended their chief Washington investigative correspondent Michael Ross for four weeks without pay for a filing a false report concerning Michael Flynn. Ross reported that Donald Trump ordered Michael Flynn to make contact with the Russians during the campaign. The source of that report was "an unnamed confidant." Later, after Ross went public with the report, the unnamed confidant informed that Trump ordered the contact made after the election. ABC News issued a correction and an apology.

"We deeply regret and apologize for the serious error we made yesterday," ABC News said in a statement from Heather Riley, its vice president of communications. "The reporting conveyed by Brian Ross during the special report had not been fully vetted through our editorial standards process. As a result of our continued reporting over the next several hours ultimately we determined the information was wrong and we corrected the mistake on air and online."

ABC News' admission further erodes the credibility of the media in general as a reliable and objective source of information and further strengthens the legitimacy of President Trump's claim that he is a target of politically motivated "fake news." Regarding Flynn, published reports seem to suggest that since 2015 Flynn, a retired four-star general, has had contacts with two countries, Russia and Turkey, and was a paid representative of the latter. What, if anything, this has to do with Donald Trump and the 2016 election is unclear. However, to date, no evidence, at least none that has been reported, has been publicized supporting allegations of collusion involving Trump and the Russians, or anyone else. All available evidence suggests that the Democratic Party lost the 2016 election because of their nominee who was arguably the worst major-party candidate for president in the history of the United States and because of a rigged nomination process that allowed their nominee to gain the nomination in the first place.