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White House press secretary Katie Zacharia leaving role days after taking job

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Moments earlier, US President Donald Trump said he told Zacharia to "reconsider" her role - watch the moment

Zacharia has been treated "very, very badly" by the media in recent days, Trump tells reporters outside the White House - who is she?

Zacharia has given only one briefing in her role - North America editor Sarah Smith recalls it ending abruptly after 14 minutes

There's no doubt she had a rocky start in this job, White House reporter Bernd Debusmann Jr writes

"Records are made to be broken," joked Trump's former communications director Anthony Scaramucci - he lasted only 11 days in the job in 2017



| Watch: Trump says Zacharia should 'reconsider' her job

Live Reporting

Edited by Caitlin Wilson in Washington DC and Johanna Chisholm, with Daniel Bush at the White House

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 US President Donald Trump flanked by former White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia, prepares to speak to reporters as he departs the White House for Alaska, in Washington, DC, USA, 13 October 2026.

EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

As Katie Zacharia becomes the shortest serving White House press secretary in modern American history, let's take a look back at the key events in the lead up to her exit.

- **Friday 9 October:** The former conservative commentator was named the new White House press secretary
- **Tuesday:** A few days later, she delivered her first briefing to reporters, which was widely criticised in the media
- **Wednesday:** A complaint was filed with the California State Bar Association after questions were raised about Zacharia's legal credentials
- **Early Friday:** President Trump told reporters he would “reconsider” whether to keep Zacharia in her position
- **Less than an hour later:** The White House confirmed that Zacharia was "transitioning out" of her post

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Let's rewind a few hours, and take you back to a moment when Katie Zacharia appeared on Fox & Friends this morning.

It's a known favourite programme of Trump's, and Zacharia was on there defending herself against a flurry of stinging news headlines.

She was asked plainly by Fox host Lawrence Jones: "Do you think you still have the confidence of the president?"

Zacharia's reply was indirect.

"I am standing here, and I was able to travel with him," she said, referring to her recent travels with Trump to energise Republicans ahead of the midterm elections in November.

"I hope to be able to build the confidence and trust of everyone around me," she ended.

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| House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries

With the new press secretary's ouster **now being confirmed**, we're starting to hear from Democrats, who are capitalising on the opportunity to criticise the Trump administration.

Here's a look at what some are saying:

- "The White House Press Secretary is gone. MAGA extremists continue to fall apart," writes the top Democrat in the House of Representatives, Hakeem Jeffries, on X
- "This administration's vetting process is a complete joke," Shontel Brown, a congresswoman from Ohio, writes, adding: "Trump's White House is bumbling, incompetent, corrupt, and not focused on serving the people"
- "I thought Trump only hired the best!" quips Mark Pocan, a congressman from Wisconsin

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After introducing herself to the world on Tuesday, Zacharia joined Trump and his entourage on a cross-country blitz to energise the base ahead of the US midterm elections in November, now less than three weeks away.

"I hit the ground running after the briefing," Zacharia said this morning on Fox & Friends, noting how she'd travelled with the president to Alaska, Arizona, and Montana

"All of these rallies are making a substantial difference for these midterms," she said. "I'm so excited to be along the journey with him."

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'Records are made to be broken,' Scaramucci jokes after losing his record for quickest Trump admin exit

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Former White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci, who left the role after just 10 days, has offered his sympathy to Zacharia in a social media post.

"Records are made to be broken," writes Scaramucci on X.

"But I take no pleasure in other people's pain."

A reminder: Scaramucci held the role of White House communications director, which is different than the one Zacharia held, which is White House press secretary.

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It's lucky I was in the room for Katie Zacharia's first White House press briefing - because it seems it might also have been her last appearance in the job.

She seemed very nervous and stilted on Tuesday as she read out prepared remarks about how proud she was to be working for President Trump. It made me wonder why she had rushed to hold a briefing - live on camera - on her second day in the job.

As she abruptly ended the briefing after only 14 minutes, the assembled journalists in the White House briefing room speculated about how long she might last in the job. But we assumed that she would not be sacked before the midterm elections, which are coming up on 3 November.

We did not predict that she would be gone by the end of the week, lasting even less time than Anthony Scaramucci, who served as Donald Trump's communications head for only 11 days during his first administration.

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20:19 **BREAKING**

White House says Zacharia leaving press secretary role days after taking job

Daniel Bush
Washington correspondent

Katie Zacharia is "transitioning out" of her role as White House press

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Trump seemed to be in no hurry to leave as he spoke to reporters before boarding Marine One

Earlier today, while standing outside the White House, the president relayed a conversation he had with his new press secretary, in which he told her to "reconsider" her role.

Trump spoke before boarding Marine One en route to Joint Base Andrews and seemed in no hurry to leave.

He took questions on Ukraine and a wide range of other issues before walking across the South Lawn to the helicopter.

Rumours had been swirling this week that Zacharia may not last in the role, especially after her rocky start.

And indeed, Trump told reporters he would "reconsider" whether to keep her in her position after that rocky first week on the job.

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Sean Spicer, Trump's first WH press secretary, is seen delivering his first briefing in 2017

President Donald Trump has had a revolving door of press secretaries between his two terms in office.

Should Zacharia leave, **as Trump has suggested**, her exit would be the quickest.

- Sean Spicer (20 January 2017 – 21 July 2017)
- Sarah Huckabee Sanders (21 July 2017 – 1 July 2019)
- Stephanie Grisham (1 July 2019 – 7 April 2020)
- Kayleigh McEnany (7 April 2020 – 20 January 2021)
- Karoline Leavitt (20 January 2025 – 27 August 2026)
- Katie Zacharia (12 October 2026 – present)

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Earlier this week, Donald Trump seemed to approve of Katie Zacharia's first briefing as White House press secretary.

When asked by reporters on Tuesday what he thought of her performance, he replied by saying that she did "very good".

But just three days later, the president seems to be reconsidering her tenure, saying he told her this week: "Is this for you Katie, because honestly you don't need this."

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19:40

Watch: New White House press secretary should 'reconsider' job

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19:37

'Welcome to the world of Trump' - president says

REUTERS

Trump spoke to reporters earlier today before departing from Joint Base Andrews

We can now bring you more from the comments that Donald Trump made earlier about his press secretary.

He says the media has treated Katie Zacharia "very badly", as he suggests to reporters that maybe the job isn't for her.

"I said: 'Is this for you Katie, because honestly you don't need this. You don't have to be treated this badly,'" Trump says, calling her a "very nice person"

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Who is Katie Zacharia?

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Katie Zacharia, 42, was appointed as the US president's sixth chief spokesperson across his two administrations.

The political commentator is a frequent fixture on the conservative networks Newsmax and Fox News.

She previously had a brief stint as a spokesperson at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and worked as a communications adviser for Trump's social media platform Truth Social, according to her LinkedIn.

In the early days of her career, Zacharia worked as an intern for the Republican National Committee and for the White House Office of Political Affairs during the Bush administration in 2006.

Trump called her "loyal" and "a devoted fan and member of MAGA" in a social media post on Friday, adding that she had "an unblemished record of support".

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I'm currently at Joint Base Andrews, waiting for President Trump to begin his trip to Georgia. He is currently talking to reporters at the White House.

Among the topics he has discussed is the fate of his embattled new press secretary, Katie Zacharia. Just a few moments ago, he said he would allow her to make her own decision whether to stay on in the role, and that he'd "reconsider" it after being treated badly.

Zacharia has had a rocky start. Her first press briefing this week was extremely short, with many observers saying she seemed ill-prepared and nervous.

To make matters more complicated for her, she is now facing accusations that she was less than truthful about her legal career. While she never passed the bar exam in the US after graduating from law school, she worked at a law firm in China - a time that has come under intense scrutiny even from conservative media outlets.

Trump, however, seems to be distancing himself from the decision, saying that he believes she has been treated poorly by the media.

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Zacharia and Trump, pictured on Tuesday after the press secretary made her brief debut

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US President Donald Trump has suggested maybe the role of White House press secretary is not for Katie Zacharia, following her shaky debut earlier this week.

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"I said Katie, you know you don't have to do this if you don't want," Trump said earlier today, speaking to reporters outside Marine One.

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"If I were you I'd reconsider," he added.

Zacharia has faced heavy criticism since she made her first appearance in the role on Tuesday, which lasted less than 15 minutes and saw only three questions from reporters.

The biggest scrutiny has come over her legal credentials, having been introduced by Trump as an "attorney" yet Zacharia has never passed the bar and does not meet the legal definition for the term.

Zacharia has spent the week playing defence, answering tough questions from conservative outlets about her credentials and preparedness for the

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