

Trump rails against “disloyal” Republicans at Atlanta, Georgia rally

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On Saturday, ex-President Donald Trump held a campaign rally in Atlanta, Georgia, at which he spent much of his time attacking Republicans in the state who refused to participate in his efforts to overturn the Georgia vote in the 2020 presidential election.

Speaking to a crowd of roughly 8,000 people, Trump repeatedly stoked the audience against Georgia Governor Brian Kemp and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

Trump claimed, without evidence: “Your governor Kemp and Raffensperger, they are doing everything possible to make 2024 difficult for Republicans to win.

“Kemp is very bad for the Republican Party,” Trump added. “He’s the most disloyal guy I think I’ve ever seen.” He then attacked Kemp’s wife for publicly stating that she would not endorse Trump.

Trump is still facing criminal charges over his efforts to unlawfully circumvent his nearly 12,000-vote loss in the state in the 2020 presidential election. In Georgia, Trump and/or his cronies have been charged with breaking into and tampering with voting machines, providing false testimony, engaging in a conspiracy to commit fraud and several other felonies.

In a notorious January 4, 2021 phone call with Raffensperger, Trump told the secretary of state, “I just want to find 11,780 votes,” one more than the margin of his loss to Biden. “The people of Georgia are angry, the people in the country are angry,” Trump said. “And there’s nothing wrong with saying, you know, um, that you’ve recalculated.”

In his campaign speech Saturday, Trump invoked his well worn, right-wing and racist theme of large American cities being overrun with crime and carnage. Trump hissed, “Atlanta is like a killing field, and your governor ought to get up off his ass and do something

about it.”

Throughout his 90-minute tirade, he hammered Kemp and Raffensperger for their refusal to help him overturn the supposedly rigged election.

“Kemp is bad guy. A disloyal guy. A very average guy, little Brian Kemp,” Trump fumed. “All he had to do was sign something saying ‘election integrity.’”

Refusing in advance to accept the results of the upcoming election should he lose, Trump declared, “The radical left Democrats rigged the presidential election in 2020, and we are not going to let them rig the presidential election in 2024.”

While Kemp and Raffensperger, not surprisingly, were not present for Trump’s rally, several other current, former and aspiring Republican politicians, some of whom played a central role in Trump’s failed coup, attended Saturday’s rally, including Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik.

Trump’s vice presidential pick, J.D. Vance, Georgia Lieutenant Governor Bert Jones and Representative Mike Collins also attended.

When Trump was not attacking “disloyal” Republicans and instead directing his fire at Vice President Kamala Harris, he focused on his usual fascistic anti-immigrant agitation. He claimed that Harris “pledged to give free tax payer-funded healthcare to illegal aliens” and added that she “loves deadly sanctuary cities.” In reality, more immigrants have been deported under the Biden-Harris administration than under Trump. The Democrats have for months been seeking to attack Trump from the right by touting their own right-wing bipartisan anti-immigrant bill and denouncing the ex-president for torpedoing it.

At her rally at the same arena last Tuesday, Harris

boasted that in her earlier role as California attorney general, “I went after transnational gangs, drug cartels and human traffickers that came into our country illegally. I prosecuted them in case after case, and I won.”

She continued, “Donald Trump, on the other hand, has been talking a big game about securing our border, but he does not walk the walk.”

Harris added that Trump “does not care about border security—he only cares about himself.” She pledged that as president, “I will bring back the border security bill that Donald Trump killed, and I will sign it into law and show Donald Trump what real leadership looks like.”

That “border security bill” is the most right-wing anti-immigrant legislation in 100 years. It contains no pathway to citizenship for immigrants brought to the United States as children and no protection for refugees.

Instead, it provides billions in funding for the border police agencies and codifies into law much of Biden’s recent executive order that all but eliminates the right to asylum for refugees.

Using some of the millions of dollars that have flooded into the Harris campaign, last week the Democratic nominee unveiled a new advertisement focused on “Trump’s failure to Secure Our Southern Border.”

In the video, the narrator proclaims, “Kamala Harris supports increasing the number of border patrol agents,” while “Donald Trump blocked increasing the number of border patrol agents.”

Not willing to cede the war on immigrants to his Democratic opponent, Trump grunted Saturday night:

If Harris wins, a never-ending stream of illegal alien rapists, MS-13 gang animals and child predators will flood into your communities. If I win, on day one, we will begin the largest deportation operation in American history.

After boasting of the recent endorsement he received from billionaire Elon Musk, Trump, tacitly invoking the antisemitic “Great Replacement Theory,” claimed that Harris and the Democrats were letting “terrorists and criminals ... pour across our border ... from all over the world ... the Congo, Africa,” in order to swing the election.

“They want them to sign up and vote. They are coming, and they are trying to sign them up. They want to sign these people up to vote,” he said.

As is generally case at Trump’s rallies, the crowd began streaming out less than halfway through the event. As of this writing, Trump is not slated to do another event in Georgia in the near future.

On Tuesday, both J.D. Vance and Kamala Harris are holding events in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where the latter is expected to campaign with her vice presidential pick.



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