OpenVoiceNews U.S.

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Gabbard Alleges “Treasonous Conspiracy” by Obama-Era Officials

July 24, 2025

— Categories: Politics & Government

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard has delivered a forceful accusation, claiming that senior officials from the Obama administration engaged in a “treasonous conspiracy” to undermine Donald Trump during the 2016 election. She formally referred the matter to the Department of Justice (DOJ), citing newly declassified documents she asserts prove that the intelligence narrative surrounding Russian interference was

manipulated for political purposes. Gabbard specifically named former DNI James Clapper, ex-CIA Director John Brennan, and former FBI Director James Comey as participants in the scheme.

Gabbard's announcement coincides with a DOJ task force specifically created to examine these claims, though critics across both parties argue the allegations lack legal substance. A bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee in 2020 had previously affirmed that Russia conducted a broad influence campaign, even if it did not directly alter vote counts, leaving Gabbard's more narrow argument, focused on vote manipulation, in stark contrast.

President Trump echoed Gabbard's remarks, urging criminal investigations and labeling the alleged actions the "crime of the century." However, former President Barack Obama issued a strong rebuttal, calling the claims "outrageous" and "ridiculous," and noting that independent assessments consistently confirmed Russian interference aimed at influencing U.S. public opinion, even if not via tabulation tampering.

Legal analysts emphasize that the evidence falls short of the constitutional definition of treason, and most agree that prosecutions are unlikely given concerns over presidential immunity and the statute of limitations. Representative Jim Himes (D-Conn.) criticized the allegations as a politically driven distraction, accusing Gabbard of "rehashing decade-old false claims." Senator Mark Warner also condemned the move as undermining public trust in intelligence institutions.

This episode highlights deep-seated tensions between conservative demands for accountability and mainstream acceptance of established intelligence findings. Gabbard's assertive approach, echoed by Trump,

represents a center-right drive to challenge Washington's legacy narratives. Yet, despite the dramatic language, legal experts suggest the claims may amount more to political theater than actionable proof.

As the DOJ strike force reviews Gabbard's referral, the broader issues linger: How much weight should be given to newly framed intelligence, and where does patriotism end and politicization begin? The outcome of this confrontation will shape not only public perceptions of intelligence integrity but also set precedents for how future executive officials might weaponize declassification in politically charged contexts.