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[The Media Lied Repeatedly About Officer Brian Sicknick's Death. And They Just Got Caught. \(/archives/featured-articles/2021/april/20/the-media-lied-repeatedly-about-officer-brian-sicknicks-death-and-they-just-got-caught/\)](/archives/featured-articles/2021/april/20/the-media-lied-repeatedly-about-officer-brian-sicknicks-death-and-they-just-got-caught/)

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It was crucial for liberal sectors of the media to invent and disseminate a harrowing lie about how Officer Brian Sicknick died. That is because he is the only one they could claim was killed by pro-Trump protesters at the January 6 riot at the Capitol.

So The New York Times on January 8 published [an emotionally gut-wrenching \(https://web.archive.org/web/20210109000332/https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/us/brian-sicknick-police-capitol-dies.html\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20210109000332/https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/us/brian-sicknick-police-capitol-dies.html) but complete fiction that never had any evidence — that Officer Sicknick's skull was savagely bashed in with a fire extinguisher by a pro-Trump mob until he died — and, just like the [now-discredited Russian bounty story \(https://greenwald.substack.com/p/journalists-learning-they-spread\)](https://greenwald.substack.com/p/journalists-learning-they-spread) also unveiled by that same paper, cable outlets and other media platforms repeated this lie over and over in the most emotionally manipulative way possible. Just watch a part of what they did and how:

Death of Officer Brian Sicknick



As I detailed [over \(https://greenwald.substack.com/p/the-false-and-exaggerated-claims\)](https://greenwald.substack.com/p/the-false-and-exaggerated-claims) and [over \(https://greenwald.substack.com/p/as-the-insurrection-narrative-crumbles\)](https://greenwald.substack.com/p/as-the-insurrection-narrative-crumbles) when examining this story, there were so many reasons to doubt this storyline from the start. Nobody on the record claimed it happened. The autopsy [found no blunt trauma \(https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2021/02/02/politics/brian-sicknick-charges/index.html\)](https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2021/02/02/politics/brian-sicknick-charges/index.html) to the head. Sicknick's own family kept [urging \(https://www.propublica.org/article/officer-brian-sicknick-capitol\)](https://www.propublica.org/article/officer-brian-sicknick-capitol) the press to stop spreading this story because he called them the night of January 6 and told them he was fine — obviously

inconsistent with the media's claim that he died by having his skull bashed in — and his own mother kept saying that she believed (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/capitol-police-officer-brian-sicknick-mother>) he died of a stroke.

But the gruesome story of Sicknick's "murder" was too valuable to allow any questioning. It was weaponized over and over to depict the pro-Trump mob not as just violent but barbaric and murderous, because if Sicknick weren't murdered by them, then nobody was (without Sicknick, the only ones killed were four pro-Trump supporters (<https://twitter.com/ggreenwald/status/1379874820091969539>): two who died of a heart attack, one from an amphetamine overdose, and the other, Ashli Babbitt, who was shot point blank in the neck by Capitol Police despite being unarmed). So crucial was this fairy tale about Sicknick that it made its way into the official record of President Trump's impeachment trial in the Senate, and they had Joe Biden himself recite from the script, even as clear facts mounted proving it was untrue.

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Because of its centrality to the media narrative and agenda, anyone who tried to point out the serious factual deficiencies in this story — in other words, people trying to be journalists — were smeared by Democratic Party loyalists who pretend to be journalists as "Sicknick Truthers," white nationalist sympathizers, and supporters of insurrection.

For the crime of trying to determine the factual truth of what happened, my character was constantly impugned by these propagandistic worms, as was anyone else's who tried to tell the truth about Sicknick's tragic death. Because one of the first people to highlight (<https://www.revolver.news/2021/02/maga-blood-libel-why-are-they-hiding-the-medical-report/>) the journalistic truth here was former Trump official Darren Beattie of Revolver News and one of the few people on television willing to host doubts (<https://twitter.com/ColumbiaBugle/status/1359690256446988288>) about the official story was Tucker Carlson, any doubts about the false Sicknick story — no matter how well-grounded in truth, facts, reason and evidence — were cast as fascism and white supremacy, and those raising questions smeared as "truthers": the usual dreary liberal insults for trying to coerce people into submitting to their lies:

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Because the truth usually prevails, at least ultimately, their lies, yet again, all came crashing down on their heads on Monday. The District of Columbia's chief medical examiner earlier this morning issued his official ruling in the Sicknick case, and it was so definitive that The Washington Post —

one of the media outlets that had pushed the multiple falsehoods — did not even bother to try (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/brian-sicknick-death-strokes/2021/04/19/36d2d310-617e-11eb-afbe-9a11a127d146_story.html) to mask or mitigate the stark conclusion it revealed:

The first line tells much of the story: “Capitol Police officer Brian D. Sicknick suffered two strokes and died of natural causes a day after he confronted rioters at the Jan. 6 insurrection, the District’s chief medical examiner has ruled.” Using understatement, the paper added: “The ruling, released Monday, likely will make it difficult for prosecutors to pursue homicide charges in the officer’s death.”

Fair Use Excerpt. Read the whole article [here](https://greenwald.substack.com/p/the-media-lied-repeatedly-about-officer) (<https://greenwald.substack.com/p/the-media-lied-repeatedly-about-officer>).
