# Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel satirise Trump’s policies and legal controversies



Late-night television hosts Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel have taken aim at former President Donald Trump’s recent conduct and policy efforts, addressing issues ranging from legal defiance to higher education reforms.

On CBS’s The Late Show, Stephen Colbert discussed the case of Kilmar Ábrego García, a man reportedly detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and sent to a prison in El Salvador without concrete evidence of wrongdoing. Colbert highlighted that the Supreme Court had ordered the Trump administration to arrange García’s return to the United States, a directive the administration evidently ignored. “These are court orders not court suggestions!” Colbert emphatically remarked. He criticised the move as an intentional violation of the rule of law and revealed that Trump was publicly considering further actions that might involve sending American citizens to the same El Salvador facility. Colbert commented, “We’re not on our way to a dictatorship, we’re on the ship,” adding that, “regardless of your politics, those aren’t your politics.” He further pondered if any emergency constitutional mechanisms could address such executive overreach, noting that certain laws permit marshals to intervene when presidential orders conflict with court rulings.

Turning to education, Colbert addressed the Trump administration’s attempts to reshape higher education policies, particularly targeting universities’ diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programmes. Harvard University notably rejected these demands, which included shutting down DEI initiatives, instituting plagiarism checks on faculty, and reporting foreign students for conduct violations. As a consequence, the federal government has withheld $2.2 billion in funding from the institution. Colbert noted the university’s resilience, having been established in 1636, quipping about its early curriculum that comprised “Latin grammar, intro to leechcraft and witch kindling.” He praised Harvard’s leadership for resisting what he described as “insane dictatorial demands.”

Meanwhile, on ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live, Kimmel emphasised President Joe Biden’s energetic re-emergence at a bipartisan event focused on safeguarding Social Security. “Man oh man did he come out swinging,” Kimmel stated. He also commented on Trump’s clash with Harvard, noting the university's reputation as a bastion of “liberal elite alumni” with a nod to Republican Senator Ted Cruz, an alumnus himself. Kimmel wryly observed that Trump’s involvement in higher education was ironic given his background with a “fraudulent university,” implying Trump was ill-equipped to influence educational institutions. Predicting that Harvard would outlast Trump’s pressure, Kimmel referenced the film Revenge of the Nerds in jest.

Kimmel also criticised Trump’s opposition to DEI efforts and his push for so-called “merit-based hiring,” contrasting this with the appointments within Trump’s own administration, which included figures such as Pete Hegseth and Linda McMahon. He further remarked on the incongruity of a “reality star and Pizza Hut spokesperson” holding the presidency. Additionally, Kimmel highlighted the fervour of Trump’s supporters, noting they had begun wearing badges emblazoned with a golden image of Trump’s face. Addressing economic concerns, Kimmel pointed out ongoing challenges such as delayed tariff effects and suggested that Americans’ dwindling access to coffee could have serious implications for public well-being. Predicting possible consequences, he said, “Can you imagine the mental health crisis?” followed by a wry comment about a likely increase in “workplace stabbings.”

Both hosts utilised satire and humour to bring attention to various aspects of the current political climate, reflecting broader public discussions about governance, legal adherence, and social policies. Their segments took place in the context of ongoing debates over executive authority, education policy, and economic stability.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.latimes.com/politics/newsletter/2023-08-29/ice-detainee-deportation-trump> - This article supports Stephen Colbert's commentary on ICE's handling of cases like Kilmar Ábrego García, highlighting legal defiance and judicial orders in immigration cases.
* <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/20/1181213141/trump-harvard-university-diversity-equity-inclusion-programs> - This provides background on the Trump administration's efforts to reshaping higher education policies, including targeting diversity programs at universities like Harvard.
* <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/08/24/biden-social-security-00104032> - This article corroborates Jimmy Kimmel's mention of President Biden's re-emergence at a bipartisan event focused on Social Security, highlighting his engagement with key policy issues.
* <https://www.foxnews.com/media/jimmy-kimmel-blames-liberals-viciously-attacking-comedians-trumps-rise-power> - Jimmy Kimmel's views on Trump and political climate are consistent with his recent interviews, where he criticizes both liberals and Trump's policies.
* <https://www.wsj.com/articles/harvard-university-faces-funding-cuts-over-diversity-programs-16c2d2ce> - This provides details on Harvard's stance against federal demands regarding diversity initiatives and the financial implications, such as withheld funding.