

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:00:59 a.m. [TEASE]

17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Man Rushes Rep. Ilhan Omar]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: A man attacks Minnesota Democrat Congresswoman Ilhan Omar at a town hall in Minneapolis.

CONGRESSWOMAN ILHAN OMAR (D-MN): Kristi Noem must resign or face impeachment. [SHOUTING]

STEPHANOPOULOS: The frequent target of President Trump sprayed with an unknown liquid.

(...)

7:07:11 a.m.

5 minutes and 11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Rep. Ilhan Omar Charged, Sprayed With Liquid at Town Hall]

MICHAEL STRAHAN: Now we're going to go to Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. A man charging at the Minnesota Democrat spraying her with an unknown liquid at a town hall in Minneapolis last night. The suspect was immediately taken into custody, and our Jay O'Brien has the story. Good morning, Jay.

JAY O'BRIEN: Michael, good morning. An alarming scene. A man rushing Democratic Congresswoman Ilhan Omar at a town hall in Minneapolis just as she was condemning ICE and the Homeland Security Secretary. Overnight, a chaotic scene at a Minnesota town hall. A man charging Congresswoman Ilhan Omar moments after she took the podium and called for ICE to be abolished and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem to be removed from office.

OMAR: Kristi Noem must resign or face impeachment. [APPLAUSE] [SHOUTING]

ANDREW KAZMIERCZAK: You must resign!

O'BRIEN: The man charging the Democratic congresswoman using a syringe, police say, to spray her with what witnesses describe as an unknown strong smelling liquid.

TOWN HALL ATTENDEE: Oh, my God! He sprayed her!

OMAR: I need a napkin.

O'BRIEN: The alleged assailant identified as 55-year-old Anthony Kuzmirczak, grabbed by security, later arrested and charged with assault. Police saying Omar was uninjured.

OMAR: We will — we're going to get away with it and we will stay resilient in the face of whatever they might throw.

O'BRIEN: While the exact motive of the attacker remains unclear, Omar has been a frequent target for conservative anger. President Trump has called her garbage and mocked her Somali heritage. Asked by our Rachel Scott if he saw the attack, Trump said he had not seen the video, going on to accuse Omar without evidence of orchestrating the incident, saying "she probably had herself sprayed knowing her." Omar, the only Somali American in Congress, fled the country's civil war as a child.

OMAR: You know, I've survived war and I'm definitely going to survive intimidation and whatever these people think they can throw at me because I'm built that way.

O'BRIEN: And all of this comes as new data from the Capitol Police shows that the threats they track against members of Congress jumped by more than 50 percent just last year, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Jay, thanks very much. And facing declining poll numbers and rare criticism from Republicans, President Trump is promising to de-escalate the situation in Minneapolis while continuing to pin blame on Alex Patti. Senior political correspondent Rachel Scott is at the White House. Good morning, Rachel.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: ABC News Exclusive; President Trump on Minnesota Shakeup]

RACHEL SCOTT: George, good morning to you. When I spoke to the President late last night, he was adamant that his immigration enforcement operation. Minnesota is working. He made it clear that federal agents would be staying on the ground, but signaled they could take a more relaxed approach. Overnight, President Trump telling ABC News in a late night phone call he believes his administration can still finish its immigration enforcement operations in Minnesota in a de-escalated form. The President telling me in an exclusive interview, "we'd like to finish the job and finish it well, and I think we can do it in a de-escalated form. A lot of the hardest work is already done." The President praising his administration's efforts on the ground amid a shakeup in leadership in Minnesota, I asked the President what the American people can expect to be different with border czar Tom Homan now in charge instead of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The President suggested there would be a more relaxed approach. "We've taken out the largest part of the bad, really bad people," the President said, adding, "so we can start doing maybe a little bit more relaxed." It's a notable change in tone by the President who just months ago said this.

TRUMP [on 11/02/25]: I think they haven't gone far enough.

SCOTT: The President would not say when federal agents would leave Minnesota, saying he's asking the governor to hand over criminals. The President telling me "when they're out and there

will be a time coming in the not too distant future, then we go on to something else,” leaving the door open to other states. The administration under fierce scrutiny after Border Patrol agents shot and killed Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse. Top officials quick to blame the 37-year-old. Steven Miller labeling Pretti an assassin. And Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem saying Pretti committed an act of domestic terrorism earlier in the day in Iowa. The President did not disavow those comments, telling me Pretti, who was a legal gun owner, “should not have been armed,” calling the incident very unfortunate.” [TO TRUMP] Do you agree with the assessment from some of your own officials that Alex Pretti is a domestic terrorist or an assassin?

TRUMP: Well, I haven’t heard that, but certainly he shouldn’t have been carrying a gun.

SCOTT: Video evidence so far shows he never drew or even reached for his weapon. Several gun rights groups dismissing the President’s notion. The National Rifle Association saying “all law-abiding citizens have a right to keep and bear arms anywhere they have a legal right to be.” And this morning, Senators Thom Tillis and Lisa Murkowski becoming the first Republicans to call on Noem to step down.

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI (R-AK): I’ve lost confidence in her.

SENATOR THOM TILLIS (R-NC): She’s got to make her own decision or the President does, but she has taken this administration into the ground on an issue that we should own.

SCOTT: The President defending Noem, telling me “she’s done a fantastic job and attacking those Republican senators” calling them “losers,” stating “they’re terrible senators.” One is gone and the other should be gone. Tillis, of course, is not running for reelection. Stephen Miller, the President’s top adviser, did travel with him to Iowa. In a statement to ABC News, he said initial statements from DHS were based on reports from Border Patrol agents on the ground and suggested the administration is now reviewing whether there was a breach of protocol in this incident, Robin.

ROBIN ROBERTS: Insightful reporting from you as always. Thank you, Rachel.