



NEW YORK: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives to speak to the Conservative Party of New York Presidential Convention, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016. — AP

CLINTON CALLS TRUMP COMMENT ON SECURITY BRIEFING 'UNDISCIPLINED' 'NOT JUST UNPATRIOTIC BUT ALSO SCARY'

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK: US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton chastised Republican rival Donald Trump yesterday for hinting about things he learned in classified intelligence briefings, calling it "totally inappropriate and undisciplined."

Speaking to reporters the morning after a New York security forum featuring separate appearances by the two candidates, Clinton also slammed the businessman for praising Russian President Vladimir Putin and saying US generals had been "reduced to rubble" by the

policies of US President Barack Obama.

At the televised forum on Wednesday night, Trump said he was "shocked" by information he got during the briefing. "What I did learn is that our leadership, Barack Obama, did not follow what our experts ... said to do," Trump said. "I would never comment on any aspect of an intelligence briefing I received," said Clinton, a former secretary of state, before boarding her campaign plane. Clinton said Trump's praise of Putin as a better leader than Obama was "not just unpatriotic" but also "scary." "It suggests

he will let Putin do whatever Putin wants to do and then make excuses for him," Clinton said.

Trump's response

Trump's campaign fired back at Clinton after her session with reporters, saying she was resorting to "unhinged and dishonest" attacks. "These are the desperate attacks of a flailing campaign sinking in the polls, and characteristics of someone woefully unfit for the presidency of the United States," Jason Miller, senior communications adviser for Trump, said in a statement.

Clinton's lead over Trump in national opinion polls has weakened in recent days. The current average of polls by website RealClearPolitics puts her at 45.6 percent support, compared to Trump's 42.8 percent.

Obama hit back at Trump yesterday for criticizing his foreign policy record, saying the Republican nominee for the Nov. 8 election was unfit to follow him into the Oval Office and the public should press him on his "outright wacky ideas."

Clinton said she would convene a meeting of bipartisan security experts on Friday to discuss the fight against Islamic State militants. "What you didn't hear from Donald Trump last night was any plan to take on ISIS," Clinton told reporters, using an acronym for the group. "That's not only dangerous, it should be disqualifying."

The televised "Commander-in-Chief" forum on Wednesday, attended by military veterans, was the first time Trump and Clinton had squared off on the same stage since accepting their parties' White House nominations in July, although they did not appear at the same time.

It offered a prelude to how Clinton and Trump will deal with questions of national security in their three upcoming presidential debates later in September and in October. — Reuters

HUNTING DOWN IS LEADER SHOULD BE 'TOP PRIORITY'

WHITE PLAINS: Hillary Clinton yesterday called for the United States to track down and kill Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, as it did Osama bin Laden, insisting her Republican rival Donald Trump has no plan to defeat the jihadists. "We should make it a top priority to hunt down the leader of ISIS," the democratic White House hopeful told reporters on a tarmac in White Plains, New York. "Getting al-Baghdadi will require efforts at the top levels, but it will send a resounding message that nobody directs or inspires attacks against the United States and gets away with it."

Clinton and Trump have clashed repeatedly over foreign policy, but their battle rose to a new level Wednesday night when the two were separately grilled over their national security credentials. Clinton, holding an impromptu press conference on a New York tarmac before flying to a campaign event, castigated the brash billionaire for failing to formulate a strategy to defeat IS extremists. "One thing you didn't hear from Donald Trump last night is any plan to take on ISIS, one of the biggest threats

facing our country," Clinton said, using an acronym for the group.

When asked at the forum about how he would stop the spread of global terrorism, "Trump's answer was simply, 'take the oil,'" Clinton added. "He says his plan is still a secret, but the truth is he simply doesn't have one. And that's not only dangerous, it should be disqualifying."

Instead of laying out a Middle East strategy, Trump "bizarrely" praised Russian President Vladimir Putin and suggested the strongman is a stronger leader than US President Barack Obama, she said. "Now, that is not just unpatriotic and insulting to the people of our country as well as to our commander in chief, it is scary," Clinton said.

The New York real estate mogul's campaign swiftly shot back, with Trump spokesman Jason Miller calling Clinton's attacks "unhinged and dishonest." "These are the desperate attacks of a flailing campaign sinking in the polls, and characteristics of someone woefully unfit for the presidency of the United States," Miller added in a statement. — AFP

LIKE HAWAIIAN SEAFOOD? HERE'S WHO'S CATCHING IT

HONOLULU: Around 700 undocumented foreign workers, mostly from impoverished Southeast Asian and Pacific Island nations, work on Hawaii's commercial fishing fleet, the country's fifth-highest grossing fishery. They catch prized ahi tuna, mahimahi and other seafood at some of the country's finest restaurants, markets and hotels. They do not have visas and cannot enter the country, staying confined to their boats for sometimes years at a time - all with the blessing of high-ranking federal lawmakers and officials. An Associated Press investigation found instances of human trafficking, active tuberculosis and low food supplies.

How did they get to Hawaii?

The workers are mostly experienced fishermen from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and the tiny Pacific island nation of Kiribati. They are not permitted to fly into Hawaii because they do not have visas. Instead, they are hopscotched thousands of miles by plane through several countries until reaching Pacific island nations, Panama or even Mexico. From there, they are put on boats for the long trip to Honolulu.

How much are they paid?

The fishermen earn anywhere from \$350 a month up to around \$1,500 a month, depending on their boat and the bonuses they may be given. Most take home \$500 to \$600 a month. They work shifts as long as 22 hours with few breaks, and are typically at sea three weeks each month. Some salaries break down to as little as 70 cents an hour; for many boat owners, bait and ice cost more than crew salaries. The fishermen catch about \$110 million worth of seafood annually.

Why can't they leave their boats?

The men are not allowed to set foot on shore because they are undocumented, nonimmigrants without visas. They have not technically entered the country and have no paperwork granting them access even onto the docks. They are, by law, detained by their boat captains who hold onto their passports. In rare cases, boat owners can request passes from federal authorities to take the fishermen ashore for things such as medical care. Though the men are not technically allowed to leave their vessels, security guards turn a blind eye when they go onto the docks, but no farther, to see friends.

Who oversees this system and how it is legal?

Officials from US Customs and Border Protection and the Coast Guard monitor the use of foreign labor in Hawaii's commercial fishing fleet, made up of about 140 boats. The federal agencies have no authority to set wages, but they do intervene when fishermen say their salaries are late or complain about other problems. The US Attorney's office says the system is legal.

A loophole in federal regulations pushed by lawmakers including late Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye allows foreign men to work on the fleet. Fishermen were initially allowed to fly to Hawaii, but that ended after the Sept. 11 attacks.

What kind of seafood do the fishermen catch?

The men catch seafood including marlin, swordfish and ahi tuna used to make poke, a Hawaiian salad made with raw fish that's a staple in the islands. One fish can bring as much as \$1,000 at Hawaii's fish auction, the only one of its kind still operating in the US. The bulk of the catch goes to restaurants, hotels and markets in Hawaii, but about 20 percent is shipped to the mainland where it's served in some of the country's finest restaurants. The fish can be found everywhere from Whole Foods and Costco to Sam's Club and military bases along with hotels, including the Hyatt, and Roy's restaurants. Supermarkets, restaurants and chefs selling the seafood condemned labor abuse. — AP



HONOLULU: In this March 22, 2016 photo, fish caught by foreign crews aboard American ships are stacked at the Honolulu Fish Auction. — AP