|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Jihad Report  Feb 04, 2017 - Feb 10, 2017** | |
| Attacks | 40 |
| Killed | 208 |
| Injured | 240 |
| Suicide Blasts | 5 |
| Countries | 10 |

**Fukushima News**

If we could rely on the Japanese and American governments to inform us of any danger, we wouldn’t have to be so vigilant. Way back in 2011, this is what the main stream media was saying. As ABC News [notes](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/14/3163785.htm?section=justin), experts says that Japan has a *long history* of nuclear cover-ups.

The New York Times [points out:](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/13/science/13radiation.html)

The different radioactive materials being reported at the nuclear accidents in Japan range from relatively benign to extremely worrisome.

The central problem in assessing the degree of danger is that **the amounts of various radioactive releases into the environment are now unknown, as are the winds and other atmospheric factors that determine how radioactivity will disperse around the stricken plants**.

BBC [reports](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12307698) (scroll down on left side):

Japanese engineer Masashi Goto, who helped design the containment vessel for Fukushima’s reactor core, says the design was not enough to withstand earthquakes or tsunami …

Indeed, Goto said:

“It is difficult to say, but that would be a core meltdown. If the rods fall and mix with water, the result would be an explosion of solid material like a volcano spreading radioactive material. Steam or a hydrogen explosion caused by the mix would spread radioactive waste more than 50km. Also, this would be multiplied. There are many reactors in the area so there would be many Chernobyls.

And Goto accused the Japanese government of deliberately withholding vital information that would allow outside experts help solve the problems:

For example, there has not been enough information about the hydrogen being vented. We don’t know how much was vented and how radioactive it was.

The former editor of the Japan Times – Yoichi Shimatsu – [states](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=23676) that after a high-level government meeting, “Japanese agencies are no longer releasing independent reports without prior approval from the top,” and that censorship of what is really occurring at the plant is being overseen under the Article 15 Emergency Law.France is also [accusing](http://gizmodo.com/#%215781818/japan-raises-nuclear-event-alert-level-to-5) Japan of downplaying the nuclear threat.

And Haarertz [notes](http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/japan-nuclear-blast-could-be-more-deadly-than-chernobyl-experts-fear-1.348809):

Since the Japanese government has not provided accurate information regarding the possible threat posed by the explosion at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, experts in Israel and abroad are divided on the scope of the disaster and the ramifications for the environment.

How Bad?

How bad is Japan’s nuclear crisis?

It’s hard to tell.

There are currently [***3***Japanese nuclear reactors experiencing meltdown (and all 3 have exploded), and at least 3 more are in trouble](http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2011/03/third-japanese-nuclear-reactor-melting_14.html).

The [“Hail Mary”](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110312/ap_on_re_as/as_japan_quake_power_plant) efforts to use seawater to cool the reactors has [failed](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/Emergency-cooling-effort-failing-at-Japanese-reactor-deepening-crisis/articleshow/7705671.cms).

And even the Japanese government is now talking about damage to core containment structures. As MSN [notes](http://news.malaysia.msn.com/regional/article.aspx?cp-documentid=4710394):

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano told reporters that “damage appears on the suppression pool” — the bottom part of the container, which contains water used to cool down the reactor and control air pressure inside.

“But we have not recorded any sudden jump in radiation indicators,” Edano said without elaborating.

If confirmed, it will be the first direct damage to the reactor since a massive earthquake and tsunami battered Japan’s northeast coast on Friday, knocking out nuclear plants in Fukushima, north of Tokyo.

Kyodo News is [reporting](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=TX-PAR-CGP13&show_article=1) higher radiation levels North of Tokyo after the blast at reactor number 2.

In addition, the Christian Science Monitor [notes](http://news.yahoo.com/s/csm/20110314/ts_csm/369577) that peculiar design of the Fukushima reactors may mean that spent fuel rods release far more radiation than the reactors themselves:

A particular feature of the 40-year old General Electric Mark 1 Boiling Water Reactor model – such as the six reactors at the Fukushima site – is that each reactor has a separate spent-fuel pool. These sit near the top of each reactor and adjacent to it, so that cranes can remove spent fuel from the reactor and deposit it in a swimming-pool-like concrete structure near the top of the reactor vessel, inside each reactor building.

If the hydrogen explosions damaged those pools – or systems needed to keep them cool – they could become a big problem. Keeping spent-fuel pools cool is critical and could potentially be an even more severe problem than a reactor meltdown, some experts say. If water drains out, the spent fuel could produce a fire that would release vast amounts of radioactivity, nuclear experts and anti-nuclear activists warn.

“There should be much more attention paid to the spent-fuel pools,” says Arjun Makhijani, a nuclear engineer and president of the anti-nuclear power Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. “If there’s a complete loss of containment [and thus the water inside], it can catch fire. There’s a huge amount of radioactivity inside – far more than is inside the reactors. The damaged reactors are less likely to spread the same vast amounts of radiation that Chernobyl did, but a spent-fuel pool fire could very well produce damage similar to or even greater than Chernobyl.”

But another scientist said while the spent-fuel pools have capacity for high volumes of radioactive material, the amount of fuel currently in the spent-fuel pool might be less than widely believed, based on data he has seen showing only about as much spent fuel in the vulnerable pool as contained in the reactor.

“The inventory numbers I’ve seen for the spent-fuel pool [that was losing coolant] is well below capacity,” said Edwin Lyman, a physicist with UCS, which describes itself as neither pro- nor anti-nuclear power, but which says nuclear safeguards today are not adequate. “That could limit the damage.”

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory is forecasting a magnitude [8.0 aftershock](http://www.zerohedge.com/article/does-ring-fire-guarantee-least-one-magnitude-8-aftershock-and-ten-magnitude-7-or-higher), which could completely destroy the damaged reactors at the Fukushima facility:

[](https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-rrB-tNbUgIk/TX5ELCR_aSI/AAAAAAAAFQI/CJdTpLObyVs/s1600/fukushima_after_explosions.jpg)(Aerial view after Fukushima numbers 1 and 3 exploded; click for larger image.)

And the limited radiation readings which are available are [rather worrisome](http://www.zerohedge.com/article/gamma-radiation-fukushima-downwind-ibaraki-disclosed-30-times-above-normal).

The Jet Stream

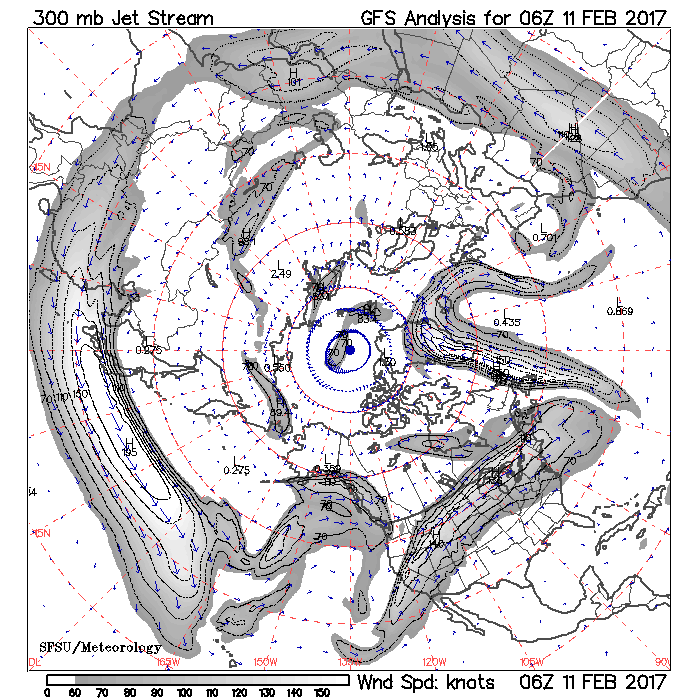
The jet stream passes right over Japan on its way to the West coast of the United States.

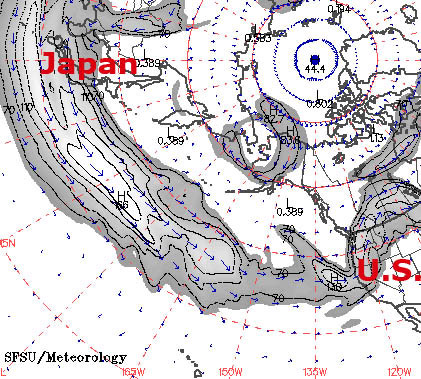
As I noted [Saturday](http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2011/03/if-there-were-reactor-meltdown-or-major.html):

The jet stream passes right over Japan. The jet stream was noticed in the 1920’s by a [Japanese meteorologist near Mount Fuji](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jet_stream#Discovery), and the Japanese [launched balloon bombs into the jetstream to attack America during WWII](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_balloon).

If a meltdown caused radioactivity to be thrown high enough, or if the radioactivity got blown by surface winds up into the jet stream, it could spread widely.

Here’s how the jet stream looks today:

[](http://squall.sfsu.edu/gif/jetstream_norhem_00.gif)

[](http://static.infowars.com/2011/03/i/rotator/13jet-stream1.jpg)Here is an artist’s impression of how the jet stream could spread radiation in the future:

And [here’s a forecast](http://www.stormsurfing.com/cgi/display_glob_alt.cgi?a=glob_250_alt) for the next couple of days.

Accuweather [notes](http://www.accuweather.com/blogs/news/story/46940/winds-at-japan-power-plants-sh-1.asp) the following times for radiation – in a worst-case scenario – to reach the West Coast:

Calculated time for radioactive particles to cross the Pacific from the power plants in Japan to big West Coast cities if the particles take a direct path and move at a speed of 20 mph:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cities** | **Est. Distance (miles)** | **Est. Time to Cross Pacific (days)** |
| Anchorage | 3,457 | 7 |
| Honolulu | 3,847 | 8 |
| Seattle | 4,792 | 10 |
| Los Angeles | 5,477 | 11 |

But Accuweather meterologists [argue](http://www.accuweather.com/video/825290176001/heads-up-could-radiation-from.asp) that the winds will likely shift in different directions on a frequent basis, making it less likely that the radiation would be blown all of the way to the U.S.

As Haarertz [notes](http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/japan-nuclear-blast-could-be-more-deadly-than-chernobyl-experts-fear-1.348809):

Hebrew University Professor Menachem Luria, an expert on air quality and poisoning, told Channel 2 on Saturday …. “**Once there is an uncontrollable heating up, the nuclear fuel undergoes a metamorphosis into the gaseous phase. Since we are talking about metals and solid items, they turn into particles that are capable of traveling great distances. They can wander thousands of kilometers**.”

If these gases are indeed emitted into the atmosphere in large quantities, the wind regime could carry them all the way to China, South Korea, and eastern Russia, or in the other direction, toward Hawaii and the west coast of the United States. The likelihood of this happening, though, is not high.

As CNN Meterologist Ivan Cabrera says:

If radioactive material gets into the jet stream then… we share that with the world.

[youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Q7JB7z5K10]

However, Cabrera [points out](http://revolutionarypolitics.tv/video/viewVideo.php?video_id=14276) that the Jet Stream is at ***30,000-50,000*** feet in altitude. 30,000 feet is [5.7 miles up](http://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=30%2C000+feet+equals+how+many+miles). So that’s a *long* way up above the Japanese nuclear reactors, which are essentially at sea level.

Unless the radiation from the Japanese nuclear power plants is carried aloft that high, it will probably not make it into the jet stream.

So far, there is ***no indication*** of any kind that radiation has been carried into the jet stream. However, a U.S. aircraft carrier around [100 miles](http://news.mobile.msn.com/en-us/articles.aspx?afid=1&aid=42066534) from the nuclear power plants have been exposed to radiation. 100 miles is obviously greater than 5.7 miles, but that is horizontal distance, and does not necessarily mean that radiation has risen high into the air. Obviously, if the wind is blowing off-shore at ground level, then that will move the radiation more or less horizontally. That is very different from blowing the radiation upwards.

As all of the experts agree, if a truly huge meltdown occurs, then the odds of radiation reaching the jet stream increase dramatically.

As national security expert Joe Cirincione [told](http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2011/03/13/expert-japans-radiation-could-spread-to-u-s/) Fox News’ Chris Wallace:

The worst case scenario is that the fuel rods fuse together, the temperatures get so hot that they melt together in a radioactive molten mass that bursts through the containment mechanisms and is exposed to the outside. So they spew radioactivity in the ground, into the air, into the water. Some of the radioactivity could carry in the atmosphere to the West Coast of the United States.

But a more difficult question is whether low-level radioactive release spread over many weeks or months could spread into the jet stream and then the Western United States.

As the New York Times [notes](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/14/world/asia/japan-fukushima-nuclear-reactor.html?hp):

Experts in Japan and the United States say the country is now facing a cascade of accumulating problems that suggest that radioactive releases of steam from the crippled plants could go on for *weeks or even* ***months***.

**2017 Update**

Extremely high radiation levels have been recorded inside a damaged reactor at the [Fukushima](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/fukushima) Daiichi nuclear power station, almost six years after the plant suffered a triple meltdown.

The facility’s operator, Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco), said atmospheric readings as high as 530 sieverts an hour had been recorded inside the containment vessel of reactor No 2, one of three reactors that experienced a meltdown when the plant was crippled [by a huge tsunami](https://www.theguardian.com/world/japan-earthquake-and-tsunami) that struck the north-east coast of Japan in March 2011.

The extraordinary radiation readings highlight the scale of the task confronting [thousands of workers](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/jul/13/fukushima-nuclear-gypsies-engineers-labourers), as pressure builds on Tepco to begin decommissioning the plant – a process that is expected to take about four decades.

Even if a 30-percent margin of error is taken into account, the recent reading, described by some experts as “unimaginable”, is far higher than the previous record of 73 sieverts an hour detected by sensors in 2012.

Tepco pointed out, however, that the camera had probed deeper inside the reactor than before and had focused on a single point. Radiation levels at other spots filmed by the camera are estimated to be much lower, it added.

A single dose of one sievert is enough to cause [radiation sickness and nausea](https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2011/mar/15/radiation-exposure-levels-guide); 5 sieverts would kill half those exposed to it within a month, and a single dose of 10 sieverts would prove fatal within weeks.

Tepco also said image analysis had revealed a hole in metal grating beneath the same reactor’s pressure vessel. The one-metre-wide hole was probably created by nuclear fuel that melted and then penetrated the vessel after the tsunami knocked out Fukushima Daiichi’s back-up cooling system.

“It may have been caused by nuclear fuel that would have melted and made a hole in the vessel, but it is only a hypothesis at this stage,” Tepco’s spokesman Tatsuhiro Yamagishi told AFP.

“We believe the captured images offer very useful information, but we still need to investigate given that it is very difficult to assume the actual condition inside.”

The presence of dangerously high radiation will complicate efforts to safely dismantle the plant.

A remote-controlled robot that Tepco intends to send into the No 2 reactor’s containment vessel is designed to withstand exposure to a total of 1,000 sieverts, meaning it would survive for less than two hours before malfunctioning.

The firm said radiation was not leaking outside the reactor, adding that the robot would still prove useful since it would move from one spot to the other and encounter radiation of varying levels.

Tepco and its network of partner companies at Fukushima Daiichi have yet to identify the location and condition of melted fuel in the three most seriously damaged reactors. Removing it safely represents a challenge unprecedented in the history of nuclear power.

Quantities of melted fuel are believed to have accumulated at the bottom of the damaged reactors’ containment vessels, but dangerously high radiation has prevented engineers from accurately gauging the state of the fuel deposits.

Earlier this week, the utility [released images of dark lumps](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jan/31/possible-nuclear-fuel-find-fukushima-plant) found beneath reactor No 2 that it believes could be melted uranium fuel rods – the first such discovery since the disaster.

In December, the government said the estimated cost of decommissioning the plant and decontaminating the surrounding area, as well as paying compensation and storing radioactive waste, had risen to 21.5tn yen (£150bn), nearly double an estimate released in 2013.

**The Fake Stream News**

More Americans believe President Donald Trump over the media, a poll conducted by [**Emerson College**](http://www.theecps.com/) finds.

The Trump administration is considered truthful by 49 percent of voters, while 48 percent of voters think the media is untruthful. Among registered voters, the news media is considered untruthful by 53 percent, compared to just 39 percent who finds it truthful. Sixty-nine percent of Democrats find the news media truthful, while 91 percent consider it untruthful.

Along party lines, 89 percent of Republicans find Trump to be truthful, while 77 percent of Democrats think the opposite. Trump has been slammed for making false statements on several occasions, including Tuesday when he claimed [**the national murder rate**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/factcheck/ct-fact-check-trump-murder-rate-20170207-story.html) was the highest it has been in 47 years.

"Did you know that? Forty-seven years," Trump said during a meeting with county sheriffs at the White House. "I used to use that – I'd say that in a speech – and everybody was surprised, because the press doesn't tell it like it is. It wasn't to their advantage to say that. But the murder rate is the highest it's been in, I guess, from 45 to 47 years."

The poll, conducted Feb. 5-6 among 617 registered voters, also found 48 percent of registered voters approved of Trump's job performance thus far vs. 47 percent who disagree.

Kellyanne Conway, a top Trump aide who is frequently on TV, holds a favorability ratio of 39 percent. Less popular is Steve Bannon, who is viewed unfavorably by 47 percent of voters.

**The Reign of the Judges Update**

Rather than appeal to the US Supreme Court, the Trump administration is expected to draw up another executive order restricting immigration in the name of national security as early as next week.

During a surprise session with reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump said a *“brand new order”* could be signed by Monday or Tuesday, Reuters [reported](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-immigration-court-idUSKBN15O2XS) Friday.

*“We are actively considering changes or other executive orders that will keep our country safe from terrorism,”* a White House official reportedly said. The official also left open the option of appealing to a federal district court, without involving the Supreme Court.

[According](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/white-house-rewriting-trump-s-controversial-travel-ban-order-sources-n719356) to NBC News, the administration has been working on a new executive order since several days before the Thursday decision by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding a federal district judge's restraining order on the travel ban.

Trump’s executive order banning US entry for refugees and others from seven predominantly Muslim countries for 90 days has been protested nationwide for weeks. It has also enjoyed support in some polls, though often only by a plurality.

This was said only hours before the 9th Circuit Court proposed a hearing by an 11-judge panel, rather than the 3 radicals that made their ruling this week. Many of you do not know the difference between the activities of a jury and that of a judge. It is the heart of the issue with the reign of the judges.

You see, juries are made of a mutually selected group of citizens that make up peers of the accused. They hear the testimony, review the facts, and then make a decision based upon the facts of the case. A judge cannot do that. A judge must make a decision based upon the law, and only the law. So, when President Trump and his expert team drafted the Executive Action to take a pause in immigration from seven countries it was for a good reason.

When Trump took the oath, he was suddenly able to see things no one else could see. What he saw would shock the average American. For 8 years, the country had been operating as a Muslim Brotherhood personnel manager, bringing tens of thousands of warfighters into our country disguised as refugees. There were very few women and children. There were even fewer Christians; actually less than 2%. The vast majority of these people were young, strong, warrior age men.

In addition, Obama had unilaterally ordered the only early warning system we have across the Southern border dismantled 5 years early. The Tethered Array Radar System (TARS) was ordered to be taken down, against loud protests by the Air Force, the States of Florida and Texas, and the contractors who built it and maintained it. Our ability to see 100 miles out into the Gulf of Mexico was suddenly cut down to 8 miles. In fact, for broad stretches of the Gulf coastline, at altitudes under 50 feet, we were rendered completely blind to anything flying low and fast. If a cruise missile were to come through flying at 500 mph at an altitude of say 40 feet at night, it could easily have flown into the country, avoiding detection for up to 1,200 miles. That’s far enough to reach St. Louis without being reported as anything other than a low-flying jet.

What did Trump do? He pulled back on the reigns and told everyone to stop what they were doing. Then, he ordered a 90-day pause while he digs deeper to find out who was leaving America so wide open for attack. He wanted to find out where the “refugees: had been delivered in America. He wanted to find out who they were, where they came from, and why they had been slipped into our country under the cover of a dark and nefarious Administration that seemed bent on destroying America.

**Why the Pause?**

A former Marine sergeant who was working as a security contractor in Iraq has been evacuated from the country after a video he made endorsing Donald Trump’s [temporary immigration freeze](http://conservativetribune.com/judge-trump-travel-ban/) went viral, garnering 43 million views.

Steven Gern’s video, which was [posted on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/steven.gern/videos/10154152513535404/) last week, has garnered over 289,000 likes in addition to its immense number of views. In it, Gern talked about asking locals in Iraq what would happen if he walked into town unprotected as an American.

They said he would “absolutely would not be welcome.” When he asked what would happen to him, they said that he would be tortured and killed within an hour.

“The point of it is, the point I’m trying to make is, this is the local populace who would do this. This isn’t ISIS, this isn’t [Al Qaeda](http://conservativetribune.com/al-qaeda-issues-chilling-threat/), this isn’t the PMU, this isn’t a militia from the Iranians, or anything like that. This is the local populace that would do this.

“So, my question to them was pretty simple after that: If you would do this to me, in your country, why would I let you into my country? Because all this means to me is that, if you have the opportunity to take the life of an American, you would do it.

“So, maybe there’s something you all need to think about back there,” he told his viewers. “If this is the way some of these cultures feel, if this is the way that these countries feel about Americans, why would you be so naive as to believe that if they came into the US, they would do anything any different than what they do right here in their own country?”

In a follow-up video shot from the compound shuttle bus, which was posted over the weekend, he said, “Apparently, it wasn’t safe for me to remain in the location I was in. So, I’m being sent out.”

“Can’t say much about what’s happening right now,” he added. “But what I will say is there’s going to be a lot more to follow. So stay tuned everybody.”

So Iraq isn’t safe enough for a veteran security contractor to stay in after making an internet video, apparently. But, it’s totally safe to let refugees [with possibly dubious documents](http://conservativetribune.com/immigration-sick-advice-syrians/) from these nations in without more stringent vetting.

Good to know. Now, why do you think it would be safe for you and me to allow them to come over here? Why do you think it is so urgent for Trump to shut off the flow of warfighters from Iraq? Now, you have the proof.

The judges were poised for action, and they pounced like dragons on the President.

The President is right, within his rights to choose who comes to America and who does not. The judges broke the law by asking about the merits of the case. They cannot do this, because of the statutory requirement to look only at the law. They acted like a jury, which is why their ruling should be ignored.

Yes, that’s right. The Executive Branch can decide on its own how it will interpret the law. It always has. And Presidents have been fighting with the Courts since the days of Jefferson. Nothing is new there. If the President writes a new action, more well defined, but accomplishing the same as the original one, there is nothing the Court can do about it. The reign of the judges is about to come to an end.

**The DEA Now Seizing Cash from US Tourists**

August is the travel month. It’s the last ditch opportunity for people to take that vacation before school starts back. Most people realize that when they are on vacation, they can’t write checks. Checks? What the hell are checks? I can remember when people used Traveler’s Checks. “Just like money,” they used to say. People don’t use those any more. 95% of the time, they use a debit card, right? But there are still some people who don’t want a record of their activities. They don’t want the insurance company to find out they are skydiving. They don’t want their spouse to find out they are out at a strip club, besides, those dancers don’t have any place to hide a card scanner; right? You need cash. Cash allows you to do things you can’t do any other way. Buy a hot dog at a ball game. Buy a newspaper. Tip a waitress. But, you had better be careful what you let people see. Cash is the currency of crime. Cash is contraband. Having more than $100 in cash is dangerous and risky, because you might get robbed. And the thief may be wearing a badge.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has a network of informants alerting it to suspicious travel activity, and though it seizes lots of cash, it rarely makes arrests, [**USA Today reports.**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/08/10/dea-travel-record-airport-seizures/88474282/)

The DEA actually pays employees of airlines and Amtrak to report suspicious itineraries, such as one-way tickets to California, or passengers buying tickets with cash, according to the report. And, let’s not leave out the cost-cutting practice of front end flying round trip tickets. That will get you arrested and searched. That’s the practice of booking two round trip tickets and only flying the front end of both tickets to save money. For example, a one way or a multi-city ticket to Chicago costs more than a round trip ticket to Chicago. So, you buy the round trip ticket, and just stay in Chicago. When you’re ready to the next city, you book another round trip ticket, and fly the front end of that ticket. It has been used for decades by savvy travelers, but the airlines will report you, and if you’re caught with cash over $100, you’re going to be arrested.

The original purpose of the civil forfeiture laws was to seize cash from drug cartels, though typically, arrests are rare, as are attempts to talk to suspects to find people higher up the chain. Of course, the practice turned out to be profitable. Very profitable. And it wasn’t just drug dealers who had cash.

"We want the cash. Good agents chase cash," George Hood, who was in charge of a drug task force at O’Hare International Airport in Chicago before he retired in 2007, told USA Today. "It was just easier to get the asset, and that's where you make a dent in the criminal organization."

It has quickly grown into a multi-billion dollar of theft by lawful taking.

"Going after someone's property has nothing to do with protecting them and it has everything to do with going after the money," Renée Flaherty, a lawyer for the Institute for Justice, told the newspaper.

It is usually not clear that those who have their money seized are actually couriers for drug cartels or that they have committed any crime for which they could be prosecuted.

In one case, a woman who was questioned by agents said she had been given money by her boyfriend from his retirement account to buy a car. Her story ended up checking out, and her $25,000 was returned – minus $4,000 that the DEA kept for handling charges. This is extremely rare. The law says that it is the cash itself that is committing the crime. Just by being outside the bank, it is committing a crime. The red tape and legal fees for recovering cash stolen by law enforcers will often cost more than the cash itself. That’s the idea. It has turned into the second largest source of income for a precinct, buying cruisers, guns, body armor, and high-tech surveillance toys for police.

"They count on this as part of the budget," Louis Weiss, a former DEA supervisor at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, said. "Basically, you’ve got to feed the monster." This monster is large, vicious, and carries a badge. Be careful out there. Hide your cash. And remember, it is against the law to protect your cash. You can protect your life, but you cannot protect your cash. So, make sure you have a banana in your pocket and not a roll of $100 bills.

**Theft by Lawful Taking: The next chapter**

As if civil asset forfeiture, where police can seize your property without having to prove you actually committed a crime, wasn’t contentious enough already, a new device allows the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to steal money directly from your bank account — on the spot.

And it’s already in use. If an officer of the law asks you how much cash you have on you, do not lie. Don’t say, “None of your business.” Don’t say an amount when you know its wrong. They are experts at telling if you’re lying. They will search you and take it, because you lied. Then, you’re going to jail for lying. Here is what you say. “I have sufficient for my needs.” Don’t say an amount. Don’t agree to a search. Don’t say anything, unless you are asked for your name. Wait until you speak to a lawyer. Demand a lawyer, but do not let them search you.

The Electronic Recovery and Access to Data Machine, known by the acronym ERAD, can scan your bank account and prepaid cards, giving OHP instant access to the balance — and the funds — if a trooper believes the money is tied to a crime. OHP [rolled out](http://www.news9.com/story/32168555/ohp-uses-new-device-to-seize-money-used-during-the-commission-of-a-crime) 16 ERAD devices in May, and unsurprisingly, has already employed the technology.

You don’t even have to be charged with a crime to be a victim of these badge-wearing armed robbers — which makes OHP’s new ERAD device an astonishing prospect.

“We’re gonna look for different factors in the way that you’re acting,” Oklahoma Highway Patrol Lt. John Vincent [told](http://www.news9.com/story/32168555/ohp-uses-new-device-to-seize-money-used-during-the-commission-of-a-crime) local *News 9*. “We’re gonna look for if there’s a difference in your story. If there’s some way that we can prove that you’re falsifying information to us about your business.”

What Vincent seems to be saying is OHP will try its damnedest to find a reason to rob you at gunpoint.

“If you can prove that you have a legitimate reason to have that money it will be given back to you. And we’ve done that in the past,” Vincent added.

This reasoning turns the very concept of innocent until proven guilty on its head. And State Sen. Kyle Loveless said cases where police abused this new system have already come to light, including single mothers, a cancer survivor who had their medication seized, a Christian band, and a number of other completely innocent people.

“We’ve seen where the money goes and how it’s misspent,” Loveless said.

In fact, this is intensified policing for profit. *News 9* obtained a copy of the contract between the state and ERAD Group, Inc., which shows Oklahoma paying “$5,000 for the software and scanners, then 7.7 percent of all the cash the highway patrol seizes.”

But law enforcement obstinately claims this isn’t about the money.

“I know a lot of people are just going to focus on the seizing money,” Vincent stated the obvious. “That’s a small thing that’s happening now. The largest part that we have found … the biggest benefit has been the identity theft,” he added without further explanation.

Controversy over civil asset forfeiture (CAF) surrounds the fact law enforcement is under no obligation to prove the property it seizes could in any way be tied to criminal activity. Once police have your property, most departments are free to essentially divvy it up amongst themselves.

Countless [cases](http://thefreethoughtproject.com/?s=civil+asset+) dot [headlines](https://www.washingtonpost.com/newssearch/?query=civil+asset+forfeiture) around the country evidence thousands of innocent people as victims of this financial terrorism perpetrated by the government. Police even [managed](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/04/25/how-oklahoma-cops-took-53000-from-a-burmese-christian-band-a-church-in-omaha-and-an-orphanage-in-thailand/) to ‘seize’ $53,000 from a Christian band, an orphanage, and a church.

Earlier this year, one of the creators of CAF tellingly [called](http://thefreethoughtproject.com/bombshell-co-creator-civil-asset-forfeiture-calls-abolition-policing-profit/) for the program to be abolished — and though it was briefly [suspended](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/12/23/the-feds-just-shut-down-a-huge-program-that-lets-cops-take-your-stuff-and-keep-it/?tid=a_inl), the Dept. of Justice allowed CAF to [resume](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-feds-get-back-into-the-stealing-business/2016/04/22/813107b0-08a5-11e6-a12f-ea5aed7958dc_story.html) in April.

Sen. Loveless feels a conviction should be necessary for police to seize money using ERAD, and plans to introduce legislation.

**Theft by Lawful Taking: Robbers with a Badge**

Whenever a large amount of cash accumulates in one place, it puts off a scent. First, the local police will show up and take it from you. Then, when the police accumulate a large enough stash of cash, and Congress picks up the scent, then something really crazy happens. One of the largest and most significant civil forfeiture programs has just been suspended and possibly ended.

Last week, the US Justice Department announced that it is temporarily suspending payouts under the federal “equitable sharing” program. That initiative encouraged state and local law enforcement agencies to bypass restrictive state forfeiture laws by allowing them to transfer seized property to federal authorities rather than comply with the strictures imposed on them by their legislators.

**What Is Civil Forfeiture?**

Civil forfeiture is a legal tool that empowers law enforcement authorities to seize cars, money, homes, and any other type of property that is suspected to have been derived from, or used to facilitate, criminal activity. Even if the victim can prove that no criminal activity took place, the cash is gone forever. It is truly theft by lawful taking.

The program was ramped up by Congress in the 1980s to fight organized crime and drug gangs by targeting their ill-gotten gains. At the same time, federal law enforcement agencies were authorized to locally retain forfeiture proceeds to finance their operations and to disburse forfeiture funds to state and local law enforcement authorities that partnered with the federal government. Talk about putting raw meat in front of hungry dogs, this put a bounty on cash, and the police were going to be first in line for the feeding.

**Federal Program Allowed Police to Circumvent State Laws**

Under the “equitable sharing” program, a state or local agency can seize property under state law, transfer it to federal authorities for forfeiture under federal law, and then receive up to 80 percent of the proceeds.

Federal authorities keep the remainder.

This proved to be a tidy arrangement all around, enabling police departments and sheriffs to generate forfeiture revenue even if their state legislatures banned or otherwise restricted the practice. And since most forfeiture cases are never challenged owing to the high cost of hiring an attorney, the revenue they could expect to generate via equitable sharing is substantial. Police departments added everything from espresso machines to armored vehicles all paid for with stolen civilian cash, tax free.

**The Financial Incentive for Police**

Since its inception, the program has doled out billions of dollars to police departments and sheriffs’ offices. In 2013 alone, equitable sharing payments totaled an incredible $657 million.

“In 2013 alone, equitable sharing payments totaled an incredible $657 million.”

Now, the financial aspects of equitable sharing are on hiatus after Congress “rescinded”—essentially, withdrew—more than $1.2 billion from the federal Assets Forfeiture Fund (AFF) as part of the 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act and the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The funds, previously reserved solely for law enforcement, will go to offset spending increases elsewhere in the federal budget.

As a result, to save the AFF from insolvency, the Justice Department [issued a letter](http://www.theiacp.org/portals/0/documents/pdfs/RescissionImpactonEqutiableSharing122115.pdf) to all of its state, local, and tribal agency partners informing them that, effective immediately, equitable sharing payments are being deferred.

**Law Enforcement Outrage**

The announcement sparked outrage from law enforcement groups, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Sheriffs’ Association.

In letters to [congressional leaders](http://www.theiacp.org/Portals/0/documents/pdfs/JointAFESletter_Leadership.pdf), [Attorney General Loretta Lynch](http://www.theiacp.org/Portals/0/documents/pdfs/JointAFESletter_Lynch.pdf), and [President Barack Obama](http://www.theiacp.org/Portals/0/documents/pdfs/JointAFESletter_Obama.pdf), these groups denounced the development as detrimental to public safety and demanded that “the decision to suspend the equitable sharing program be immediately reconsidered.” They were furious that they could not keep the cash stolen from citizens who happened to go on vacation with cash, or from people who had just sold a boat or a motorcycle and were on their way to the bank to deposit the money.

Yet property transfers are not suspended. While Congress’ (somewhat ironic) seizure of funds from the AFF has prompted the Justice Department to stop processing payments to state and local agencies, such agencies can still seize property and transfer it to federal authorities. The only difference between last week and this week is that these agencies are no longer being financially encouraged to circumvent state law.

It has long been suspected that many law enforcement agencies treat forfeiture as more of a revenue-generator than a legitimate law enforcement tool. [Since 2008](http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/investigative/2014/09/06/stop-and-seize/), some 298 police and sheriffs’ departments and 210 task forces have generated the equivalent of 20 percent or more of their budgets via civil forfeiture. It’s really no surprise to anyone, because police have been called *revenuers* for more than 150 years for that very reason. It is just organized crime with a badge and an endless gang of head bashers if you resist.

**A Necessary Source of Revenue?**

In 2001, a [survey of 1,400 police executives](https://www.heartland.org/sites/default/files/1-s2.0-s0047235201000824-main.pdf) revealed that nearly 40 percent of respondents considered asset forfeiture to be a *necessary* source of revenue.

In short, law enforcement agencies have grown dependent on civil forfeiture revenues, with the inevitable result being that agencies end up seizing property from property owners who are wholly innocent.

The long, and growing, [list of abusive property seizures](http://www.heritage.org/forfeitureabuse) is a testament to the real cost that civil asset forfeiture imposes on ordinary Americans who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and happened to be carrying cash or other valuable items.

**Transparency Problems**

There is another pernicious side to civil forfeiture: In many states and at the federal level, forfeiture funds are reserved solely for use by law enforcement authorities who spend this money as they see fit, often with little or no oversight, accountability, or transparency.

That only makes it easier for agencies to hide dubious forfeitures, or to conceal the highly questionable purchases some agencies have made with their forfeiture funds, such as a $90,000 Dodge Viper or, outrageously, drugs and prostitutes.

**Reform Efforts**

Clearly, reforms are needed. In our report on forfeiture, [Arresting Your Property](http://www.heritage.org/forfeiturereform), the Meese Center has outlined nine commonsense reforms Congress and state governments should pursue to rebalance a forfeiture regime that is skewed against innocent property owners in every meaningful way.

One critical reform is to sever the link between policing and profit by barring agencies from directly benefiting from the property seizures they execute. It is tempting, then, to label the suspension of equitable sharing payments as a step toward ending forfeiture’s perverse financial incentives.

However, by simply draining the Assets Forfeiture Fund rather than permanently ending law enforcement agencies’ ability to retain forfeiture proceeds, Congress’ budget actions may have *created* a brand new perverse incentive: to seize *even more* property than before to ensure that payments continue even if future Congresses come back for more money. They will keep on taking the money. They just won’t let the feds know about it.

It is time for Congress and the states to get serious about civil forfeiture reform. Budgetary maneuvers and half-measures will not stop abusive forfeitures. Only top-to-bottom procedural reforms at both the state and federal level and a permanent end to forfeiture’s perverse financial incentives can accomplish that. Perhaps 2016 will finally be forfeiture reform’s big year

**Theft by Lawful Taking: Civil Forfeiture is the end of Liberty.**

By Brooks A. Agnew

True story. Jason posted his aluminum, flat bottom fishing boat and a sturdy trailer on Craigslist. Within a couple of days, he got a call from a buyer in the city of Raleigh, about three hours away and made the arrangements to drive it there to make the sale.

On the day of sale, the buyer counted out $5,500 in cash, Jason signed the title over, and he happily collected his Bill of Sale. He didn’t fish much since the birth of his first son and wanted this money to remodel his bonus room into a kid’s playroom. He and his wife had discussed the ideas for nearly six months, and both agreed that the driveway would look so much better without the olive camouflaged boat.

That is, until he reached a checkpoint at the freeway onramp. “License and registration, please,” said the officer. Jason complied, now really in a good mood in anticipation of making his first trip to Lowe’s for the building materials. His previous job as a carpenter would come in handy, and it would really feel good to get some sawdust in his hair, he thought.

“Okay, thanks. Hey, how much money is that sitting on the console there?” Asked the policeman as he leaned in to see though the open driver’s window.

“There’s $5,500 cash, officer. I just sold my boat,” responded Jason courteously.

“Step out of the car, please,” said the officer coldly.

The instant Jason was clear of the door, the office reached in and grabbed the bundle of cash and stepped back from the vehicle. Jason’s heart came up in his throat, as the officer began walking toward his cruiser with his money and motioning to his team to move toward him. A rush of panic flushed through him as he felt he had just been robbed.

Jason never saw his money again. The perpetrating officer explained that his cash was probable cause that a crime had taken place and that it was being apprehended under the Civil Forfeiture Act. “There is a lot of drug traffic that goes up and down this freeway every day,” the officer said like he was trying to sell rationalize his larceny. Although Jason had a Bill of Sale, produced numerous witnesses, and a crying wife pregnant with their second child, the police department was permitted to keep his cash forever. After spending nearly $2 thousand in attorney costs, Jason and his wife gave up any chance of recovering their hard earned money.

This happens in every State now, except New Mexico. Republican Gov. Susana Martinez signed a new [bill](http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/15%20Regular/bills/house/HB0560.pdf) ending the unconstitutional practice of stealing the property of law abiding citizens by law enforcement. New Mexico police must now convict you of a crime and prove your property was used in the crime before you forfeit it to the authorities. Also, the money gained from the property will now go to the state’s general fund instead of police budgets, so that police do not have incentives to take from citizens.

In every other State, the police are trained that cash is probable cause. Don’t be surprised if police include an inquiry as to how much money you have on you the next time you are stopped. If you are stopped, questioned, and frisked by a police officer, and he detects a wad of cash in your pocket, he has the authority to take your money.

If you are in the habit of taking your paycheck to the bank every Friday and holding out a little cash every week for the weekend for spending money, be aware that your friendly window teller is now an informant for the DHS. Once you have taken a total of $5,000 or more from your paychecks, the teller is obligated to inform the Department Of Homeland Security, and to provide your social security number as well. Your local police may be notified to find you and search you for that cash. This may include your home, car, or gym locker. If the cash cannot be located, the IRS may seize the funds from your account.

If you obtain your money from sources that are not local, for example a consultant working out of state for months at a time, then all the funds in your local bank may be seized by the State Department of Revenue. Even if you prove that you paid taxes on the funds, and even if they are direct deposited from the company for whom you are working, they will seize the funds, and you will never see them again.

Americans are under siege from all sides by a Federal Agency government. Americans must take precautions as though they are in a Fascist regime that is searching for dissenters or those who may get the idea that they can escape the system of oppression. If you have cash, you are capable of escape. Liberty is possible only if the individual has the possibility of escape.

In the 2006 landmark Amazon best-selling publication *The Ark of Millions of Years: Volume Two,* the plan to rid America of cash was disclosed. Turning cash into contraband through Federal mandates igniting the insatiable greed of local precincts was a stroke of genius. It wipes the president’s fingerprints off the insidious plan to capture America without firing a single shot.

The book argues that the process will be an easy sale to the sleeping masses by a Plutarchian press. This will end the war on drugs. This will stop illegal immigrants from entering the country. This will allow much better control over inflation and recessions. This will eliminate the cost of printing and guaranteeing the integrity of the paper money itself. This will prevent tax evasion, and identity theft, and endless larcenies.

Almost no one carries cash now. Americans spend 30% more when they have a credit card instead of a debit card. You can’t rent a car, book a hotel room, or do a host of other activities now with cash. And those insidious little price discount memberships at the grocery? “You saved $8.35 today by using your MVP card,” the cute little checkout girl says.

But, those green beans, and the coffee, and the cigarettes you bought are now cataloged to your name and social security number. Besides corporate meta data being used for marketing budgets, your risk for health issues, along with your age and sex, and being analyzed for risks. This will be integrated with Obamacare so that your future burden on the system and eligibility for benefits can be determined.

Without cash there is no escape. Without a method of escape, there is no liberty. Without liberty, the entire idea that was America is gone forever.

**The Teacher’s Union Assaults the new Sec of Education**

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos had to be escorted away from a public school when protesters physically obstructed the entrance. The controversial reformer eventually made it inside, and also heard from members of the teachers’ union.

Devos’ first official visit to a public school since narrowly being confirmed as the new secretary of the US Department of Education indicated that she might be the most divisive figure in President Donald Trump’s Cabinet.

*“She does not represent anything that they stand for!”* one protester yelled while using her arms and body to block a stairway to Jefferson Middle School Academy in the District of Columbia on Friday morning.

Another demonstrator badgered Devos as she walked away with her security detail.

“Keep giving money to senators and buying your way into the position,” he said, adding, “You should be so proud of yourself!” before breaking out into a chant of “Shame! Shame!”

The Washington Teachers Union, while not taking part in blocking DeVos’ visit, did show their opposition to her agenda. One teacher held a sign saying, “Ms. DeVos: Our children are not props,”[according](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-devos-protest-20170210-story.html) to the Washington Post. Others took the time to express to the secretary their disagreements, while wishing her success in giving all students an equal opportunity to free public education.

[WJLA](http://wjla.com/news/local/teachers-parents-want-education-secretary-betsy-devos-to-hear-their-message)'s Tim Barber reported that DC Police arrested a male protester for assault on an officer, and that police were investigating allegations that DeVos was also assaulted.

Inside the school, DeVos toured classrooms and met with the school’s teachers and principal as well as the district’s chancellor.

“Focusing on their students and families is at the heart of Jefferson Academy's approach, and that's exactly what I believe is at the heart of providing an exceptional education,” DeVos [said](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/statement-us-education-secretary-betsy-devos-visiting-jefferson-middle-school-academy-washington-dc) in a statement. “Great teachers and leaders help make great schools, and I was honored to speak with Jefferson's team about our shared commitment to strengthening public education.”

In response to the protest, she said: “I respect peaceful protest, and I will not be deterred in executing the vital mission of the Department of Education. No school door in America will be blocked from those seeking to help our nation's school children.”

**Global Economic Reset Update**

You thought I was going to say something about the Iraqi Dinar or the Vietnamese Dong, didn’t you? If you were one of the unfortunate souls who got duped into buying that crap, too bad for you. You’re probably getting emails or message today saying that it is only a matter of hours before the Dinar is worth like $3 or something. Wow. There is a sucker born every minute. You must be completely insane if you think that a currency with Saddam Hussein’s picture on it, is going to be reissued.

Here’s what it really happening, and what the Global Economic Reset really means. In the shadow of Donald Trump’s spree of controversial actions, **the European commission has quietly launched the next offensive in the war on cash.** These unelected bureaucrats have boldly asserted their intention to crack down on paper transactions across the E.U. and solidify a trend that has been gaining momentum for years.

*[](http://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/images/user3303/imageroot/2017/02/10/20170210_cash.jpg)*

**The financial uncertainty amplified by Brexit has incentivized governments throughout Europe to seize further control over their banking systems.** [France and Spain](http://www.europe-consommateurs.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/eu-consommateurs/PDFs/PDF_EN/Limit_for_cash_payments_in_EU.pdf) have already criminalized cash transactions above a certain limit, but now the commission has unilaterally established [new regulations](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/plan_2016_028_cash_restrictions_en.pdf) that will affect the entire union. The fear of physical money flowing out of the trade bloc has manifested a draconian response from the State.

The European [Action Plan](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/plan_2016_028_cash_restrictions_en.pdf) doesn’t mention a specific dollar amount for restrictions, but as expected, their reasoning for the move is to thwart money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Border checks between countries have already been [bolstered](http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-eu-security-financing-idUKKBN14A17P) to help implement these new standards on hard assets. Although these end goals are plausible, there are other clear motivations for governments to target paper money that aren’t as noble.

[**Negative interest rates**](http://fortune.com/2016/03/14/negative-interest-rates-european-central-bank/) **and** [**high inflation**](http://www.cnbc.com/2016/10/13/inflation-in-venezuela-seen-hitting-1500-in-2017-as-crisis-goes-from-bad-to-worse.html) **are a deadly combination that could further destabilize the already fragile union in the future. With less physical currency circulating, these trends ensure that the impact of any additional** [**central bank policies**](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-07-07/lautenschlaeger-says-ecb-should-consider-qe-only-in-emergency) **will be maximized.** If economic conditions deteriorate, the threat of citizens pulling cash out of their accounts and starting a [bank run](http://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bankrun.asp) is eliminated in a cashless system. So long as the people’s wealth is under centralized control, funds can be shifted at will to conceal any underlying problems. But the longer this shell game is allowed to persist, the more painful it will be when reality overrides the manipulation.

Since former Chief Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), [Kenneth Rogoff](https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-sinister-side-of-cash-1472137692?mg=id-wsj), published a paper last year advocating for the U.S. $100 bill to be removed, governments around the world have pushed forward their agendas towards a cashless society. He [wrote](https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-sinister-side-of-cash-1472137692?mg=id-wsj):

“There is little debate among law-enforcement agencies that paper currency, especially large notes such as the U.S. $100 bill, facilitates crime: racketeering, extortion, money laundering, drug and human trafficking, the corruption of public officials, not to mention terrorism. There are substitutes for cash—cryptocurrencies, uncut diamonds, gold coins, prepaid cards—but for many kinds of criminal transactions, cash is still king. It delivers absolute anonymity, portability, liquidity and near-universal acceptance.”

This announcement comes just months after the 500 euro note was [discontinued](https://www.wsj.com/articles/500-euro-banknote-being-phased-out-1462381987), and it follows [India](http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-india-currency-20161115-story.html)’s lead in subverting the financial independence of their citizens. The incremental steps currently being taken may look trivial in isolation, but the ultimate end is to lay the foundation for an entire network for economic repression.

**The German people have placed themselves in strong opposition to the action and previously** [**pushed back**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/08/german-plan-prohibit-large-5000-cash-transactions-fierce-resistance) **hard against domestic legislation that would have limited cash.** Nearly 80% of all transactions in Germany are made with paper currency, putting Europe’s economic engine in direct conflict with the vision coming out of Brussels.

**The spillover effect has affected new forms of investment, like Bitcoin, which witnessed an** [**astronomical rise**](http://www.businessinsider.com/bitcoin-price-rises-against-the-dollar-on-december-28-2016-12) **over the last months and has been brought back into the discussion as a viable alternative to fiat currencies.** Of course, the E.U. Commission is also attempting to impose similar limitations on [crypto-currencies](http://www.coindesk.com/european-commission-transaction-limits-digital-currencies/) to make sure no transactions fall outside of their domain. The [ECB and BOJ](http://asia.nikkei.com/Tech-Science/Tech/BOJ-ECB-team-up-on-blockchain-research) are working towards a trojan horse blockchain network that will serve only to entrap those naive enough to trust it.

Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers [wrote](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/02/16/its-time-to-kill-the-100-bill/?utm_term=.d82e5aa167cd) last year that the E.U. would likely be the trailblazer of the West towards this new digital model:

“But a moratorium on printing new high denomination notes would make the world a better place. In terms of unilateral steps, the most important actor by far is the European Union. The €500 is almost six times as valuable as the $100. Some actors in Europe, notably the European Commission, have shown sympathy for the idea and European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi has shown interest as well.”

**Since the public’s attention has been drawn to emotional manipulations and political stunts, the threat the war on cash represents has gone unrecognized.** Instead of feeding energy into systems meant to divide and conquer, individuals must educate themselves to secure their own financial futures. By submitting to the hive mind and following the media down whichever rabbit hole they choose, the most important issues of today will go unnoticed. **The value of advocating for** [***decentralized***](http://www.forbes.com/sites/laurashin/2016/06/02/4-reasons-why-bitcoin-represents-a-new-asset-class/) **and** [***physical***](http://www.investopedia.com/university/safety-and-income/real-assets.asp) **alternatives to the banking system may not be easily grasped by the activists of today, but few other things have the potential to erode freedom on such a massive scale.**

Believe me when I say that Christine Legard is laughing her ass off when she thinks of you trying to hoard cash and believe you’re rich.

**The Great American Voter Fraud**

Meet Rosa Ortega, a Mexican citizen. She has been living in America illegally for a long time. She also has been recently convicted of voter fraud and sentenced to 8 years in prison in Texas after inadvertently admitting to election officials that she had been voting in Dallas County for years.  But wait! We hear every day that there is no voter fraud in Presidential elections.

Apparently the voting fraud was discovered by chance after Ortega tried to register to vote in Tarrant County but was rejected after checking the box on her driver’s license that she was not actually a citizen of the United States.  **While she should have probably just accepted the rejection, Ortega pushed back by arguing that she had already been voting in Dallas County, an argument that drew the attention of investigators.**

Ortega's voting privileges were approved in Dallas after she falsified her application by claiming to be a citizen.  Of course, liberal lawyers, [funded by George Soros](http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-08-23/soros-emerges-mastermind-behind-plan-expand-us-electorate-10-million-voters), have done a masterful job convincing courts around the country that verifying things like a person's identity and citizenship status prior to allowing them to vote is unconstitutional.  Per [CBS](http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2017/02/09/grand-prairie-woman-sentenced-to-8-years-in-prison-for-voter-fraud/):

Prosecutors say the reason officials at the elections department in Dallas didn’t stop the voter fraud from happening is because **Rosa Ortega claimed she was a citizen on her application.**

Now the Tarrant County D.A.’s office is **calling for those claims to be verified before handing out registration cards.**

Prosecutors said whether this case prompts elections officials to verify citizenship is an issue for the legislature.

As you may recall, we wrote about a similar incident back in September in which the [Cascade Mall shooter](http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-09-29/arcan-investigation), a Turkish citizen, who killed 5 people in the state of Washington was found to have also been illegally voting for years.  And, just like the case above, Washington's Secretary of State noted that there was no way to prevent the voter fraud because **"we don’t have a provision in state law that allows either county elections officials or the Secretary of State's office to verify someone’s citizenship."**

**"We don’t have a provision in state law that allows either county elections officials or the Secretary of State's office to verify someone’s citizenship.** So, we’re in this place where we want to make sure we’re maintaining people’s confidence in the elections and the integrity of the process, but also that we’re giving this individual, like we would any voter, his due process. We’re moving forward, and that investigation is really coming out of the investigation from the shootings."

"The penalties are very serious. That’s why we want to make sure we’re very measured, and this is why we want to make sure we’re very calm and purposeful in how we move forward.  **The stakes are very high on both sides. You want to keep the confidence level high, but you also want to protect the voting rights of everyone."**

"Our hands are kind of tied, but make no mistake, **we want to make sure that everybody has confidence that people casting ballots are eligible.** This is certainly going to be a topic at next legislation."

Of course, Ortega's lawyer tried to argue that a learning disability made it impossible for her to comprehend the complex laws that allow only U.S. citizens to vote in U.S. elections...**Sure, because why wouldn't Mexican citizens be allowed to vote in the U.S.?**

**Her attorney said she has a learning disability and was confused about the difference between being a citizen and a legal resident,** so she thought she was allowed to vote.

**“The jury didn’t believe that story. They believed that the defendant knew exactly what she was doing, and they responded accordingly,”** Prosecutor Jonathan White said.

"Once she gets out of prison and she’s deported, does she bring her four minor children to Mexico? As a mother I think that would be a difficult choice for her,” Birdsall said.

We're currently awaiting confirmation from Democrats and MSNBC that there is **still no concrete evidence of voter fraud** and that Trump's vow to conduct a "major investigation" into the topic is still just a political sham.

You may also recall that Trump made the claim that millions, perhaps as many as 5 million, illegal immigrants voted in the last election, which indicated that Hillary won the popular vote. He was using evidence that had been uncovered way back in August of last year. Ever wonder who is behind all the lawsuits filed to overturn state voter ID laws?  Those lawsuits are very expensive, after all, racking up 1,000's of billable hours from some very high-end law firms.  **Well, courtesy of the 2,500 documents recently released by DC Leaks, we now know that George Soros is funding the legal fees as part of his stated goal to "enlarge [the U.S.] electorate by at least 10 million voters" by 2018.**

**The specifics of the plan were discussed at the May 2014 board meeting of the "Open Society Foundations" a liberal grant-making group founded by Soros** (the full 222-page presentation from the board meeting can be found at the end of this post).  The Society's first goal under its "Proposed Strategic Framework 2015-2018" was to "strengthen the quality of American democracy through greater inclusion, participation & accountability."  Under the goal, the Society's top objective was to:

**Enlarge [the U.S.] electorate by at least 10 million voters through modernization of voter registration systems, and through expanded constitutional/legislative protections**

As context for their mission to expand the electorate, the Open Society warned that "**American democracy is threatened**" by, among other things, "**undue influence of wealthy interests.**"  Isn't it ironic that an organization funded by George Soros would be worried about the "undue influence of wealthy interests" on the American political system?

**American democracy is threatened**. Broad ideological (and geographic) polarization is reflected in a **decline in fact-based discourse**, and deeply divided federal and state government institutions. Fueled by misguided Supreme Court decisions, our public life and politics have been flooded by the **undue influence of wealthy interests acting for their own benefit** even as voting by historically marginalized constituencies is challenged.

The Open Society board presentation goes on to enumerate 4 specific "tactics" that would be utilized to expand the electorate.  The wording of the tactics is masterful effectively painting anyone who might support "election integrity" laws as a bigots looking to erect barriers to voter registration as a means to suppress or deny certain segments of the population the right to vote.

**More fully equip those with less voice - including African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, APIA communities, and Middle Eastern, Arab, South Asian and Muslim communities – to effectively influence public policy issues**, including those concerning the rule of law, public access to information and voting, internet regulation, and criminal justice.

**Broaden the electorate by lowering barriers to voter registration** through the various forms of modernization and increased ballot access, while sustaining and expanding the franchise by **establishing strong protections against vote suppression, denial and dilution**.

**Give more equal weight to the speech of all who influence elections and policymaking, by reducing the undue influence of the few wealthy interests influencing politics and policy,** including ongoing support for anchors and through developing and seeding alternative legal theories that support regulation of political spending in elections.

**Improve effectiveness and participatory capacity of municipal governments, especially in places experiencing demographic shifts** or without significant civic capacity

According to the [Washington Free Beacon](http://freebeacon.com/issues/soros-aims-to-enlarge-electorate-by-10-million/), Soros first started challenging voter ID laws in 2014 and subsequently was quoted publicly as saying "We hope to see these unfair laws, which often disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society, repealed."  Soros also publicly vowed to spend at least $5mm on the effort in 2015.

**In fact, the first lawsuit challenging voter ID laws came in Ohio in 2014 just days before the Open Society board meeting**.  The lawsuit was **filed on behalf of the "Ohio Organizing Collaborative" even though they had to be replaced later in the case due a state investigation alleging they had forged signatures and "registered dead people to vote."**  Oops.

The first in a series of lawsuits claiming that voter ID laws disproportionately hurt minority voters was filed in Ohio just days before the Open Society documents were transmitted to the board of directors in May 2014.

Elias filed the Ohio lawsuit on behalf of a group called the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. That group was later replaced on the lawsuit when it was investigated by a state criminal agency for allegedly forging signatures and registering dead people to vote.

Ironically, or perhaps not, 1 year after the Open Society NY board meeting the State of California took the unprecedented step of automatically registering to vote every single person who stopped by the DMV for a driver's license or ID card, unless that person specifically opted out.  Per the [Los Angeles Times](http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-me-pol-ca-motor-voter-law-20151016-html-htmlstory.html):

When people go to the DMV to obtain or renew a driver's license, or to get a state identification card, they’ll be asked for the usual information in such transactions, such as their name, date of birth and address. They’ll also be asked to affirm their eligibility to vote and will be given the choice of opting out of registering at that time. **Information about anyone who does not decline registration will be electronically transmitted from the DMV to the secretary of state’s office, where citizenship will be verified and names will be added to the voter rolls.**

According to J. Christian Adams, president of the Public Interest Legal Foundation, a nonprofit law firm that litigates to defend election integrity, Soros is doing everything possible to "fundamentally transform American elections."  Per the [Washington Free Beacon](http://freebeacon.com/issues/soros-aims-to-enlarge-electorate-by-10-million/):

“**George Soros is involved in every aspect of manipulating the rules of American elections**,” Adams told the Washington Free Beacon. “From funding Pew’s efforts to centralize election administration, to **fueling litigation that attacks election integrity laws, to fanning the flames of racial agitation and polarization, Soros dollars are doing all they can to fundamentally transform American elections.”**

**The Globalists Hate Trump**

**Have you ever wondered why the elite hate Donald Trump so much?** There have certainly been many politicians throughout the years that have been disliked, but with Trump there is a hatred that is so intense that it almost seems tangible at times. During the campaign, they went to extraordinary lengths to destroy him, but it didn’t work. And now that he is president, the attacks against him have been absolutely relentless. So why is there so much animosity toward Trump? Is it just because he is not a member of their club?

**The truth, of course, is that it runs much deeper than that.** Ultimately, the elite hate Trump because he is opposed to their demonic one world agenda. Many among the elite are referred to as “globalists” because their eventual goal is to unite the whole world under a single planetary system. **These globalists truly believe that they know better than all the rest of us, and they want to impose their way of doing things on every man, woman and child on the entire planet.**

So they get really angry when Donald Trump talks of “building a wall” or establishing a travel ban from certain countries because they eventually want a world without any borders at all.

And they get really angry when Donald Trump says that he wants to pull the United States out of international trade deals, because the elite were using those international trade deals to slowly integrate all nations into a single one world economy.

And they really don’t like when Donald Trump criticizes Islam, because Islam is going to be a key component of the one world religion that they plan to establish.

**For quite a while the globalists were on a roll, but recently they have experienced some tremendous setbacks.** Britain’s vote to leave the EU and the election of Donald Trump were not supposed to happen, and this has left many globalists searching for answers. In fact, just today I came across a New York Times article entitled “[Besieged Globalists Ponder What Went Wrong](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/globalism-un-assembly-nationalism-populism.html?_r=2)“…

Until recently, you didn’t hear people being referred to as “globalist” very often. But in a time of rising nationalism, those who see the upside of globalism have become a distinct — and often embattled — tribe.

Last week, the globalists had a big family reunion in New York. The gathering was focused on the United Nations [General Assembly](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/g/general_assembly/index.html?inline=nyt-org), but a growing array of side conferences and summits and dinners also attracted concerned internationalists of every stripe: humanitarians, leaders of nongovernmental organizations, donors, investors, app peddlers, celebrities.

As you can see, even the New York Times uses the term “globalists” to describe these elitists.

At one time you would have been considered a “conspiracy theorist” is you spoke of “globalists”, but at this point the elite are not even trying to put up a facade any longer.

**And of course Donald Trump made opposition to globalism one of the central themes of his campaign, and it really struck a chord all across America.** Hillary claims "everything is fine" in America. This defies every single fact, but facts have never been an interest of Hillary's. Trump understands that it is 11:59 p.m. on the "cultural clock." America is near the end—morally, economically, militarily and, sadly, spiritually. There are very clear identifiable indicators—measurable ones—that America is no longer the world's leading power. That day is over. Hillary will hasten the final destruction. Trump could either slow that down—or possibly, with God's help—reverse it.

Trump opposes globalism. Hillary thrives on it. Globalism is far more than “geographical” or “eliminating national borders and boundaries.” It is spiritual and demonic at its core. Few—very few—understand this. This is quite likely one of the main reasons why Trump is hated. Do your homework on this one. Think “principalities and powers.” Serious. Extremely serious.

**The reason why the threat of globalism is so serious is because if a single global system is ever established there will be no escape from it.**

**Just think about it – where could you go to escape a government that literally rules the entire world?**

These globalists are completely convinced that if they could just get control of everyone and everything that they could establish some sort of environmentally-friendly socialist utopia where war and poverty are eradicated. But in order to do that, they would need to be in a position to micro-manage the lives of every single person on the planet.

In their minds it would not be tyranny, but for those of us that love freedom that is precisely what it would be.

The globalists want a one world government, a one world economy and a one world religion. Those of us that are Christians know that the Bible speaks of a time when this will happen, but even many that are not Christians are deeply concerned about what the globalists are pushing for. Just consider the words of [George Mason University Law School Professor Jeremy Rabkin](http://www.christianpost.com/news/globalism-antichrist-demonic-theologians-wallace-henley-fay-voshell-jim-garlow-jeremy-rabkin-170131/)…

George Mason University Law School Professor and author of the 2004 book [The Case for Sovereignty: Why The World Should Welcome American Independence](http://amzn.to/2k9tCsP) Jeremy Rabkin argues that globalism fundamentally stands at odds with democratic forms of government.

In a Tuesday CP interview, Rabkin, a Jew, expressed his distaste for Donald Trump. But on globalism, he said, “beyond that it is not democratic, there’s something about it that is a little creepy, a little uncanny.”

**“It’s basically saying ‘We are going to organize the world in a way that establishes an artificial consensus.’ It’s not enough to say it’s undemocratic. It’s threatening; it’s almost demonic. It is a world organized independently of people’s fundamental religious convictions,” Rabkin said**.

I think that when Rabkin chose the word “demonic” that he was right on point.

The global elite have already had a tremendous amount of success in promoting values, systems and laws that are “anti-Christian” around the globe.

The globalists control the mainstream media, they control Hollywood, they control our education system, the access to capital, and they control most of our politicians. They thought that they were almost ready to move into the final stages of their agenda, but then Donald Trump happened.

**For the moment, the momentum toward a one world system has been stopped cold.**

But that doesn’t mean that the globalists will stop trying. Just because Trump won the election does not mean that they are going to roll over and die.

The elite are going to use all of the resources at their disposal to try to destroy Trump, even if that means creating a tremendous amount of chaos.

If you study the globalists, you will quickly discover that one of their favorite tactics is to create order out of chaos. So in the months ahead I think that it is quite likely that we may see quite a bit of chaos as the globalists attempt to get their program back on track.

***But if we understand what they are doing, we will be able to see through their games. So let’s keep shining a light on these globalists, because they always prefer to operate in the darkness.***

**Treasury Receipts: What’s Going on?**

On the surface, Friday’s [monthly budget statement](https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/rpt/mthTreasStmt/mts.pdf) showed good news: in January the US Treasury brought in total receipts of $344 billion, versus outlays of only $293 billion, resulting in a surplus of $51 billion, substantially greater than the $40 billion expected (and well above last year's $28 billion deficit), a [surplus which however was largely due](https://www.wsj.com/articles/irs-refunds-drop-potentially-delaying-consumer-spending-1486588946) to a law requiring the IRS to delay sending out tax refund checks to household claiming certain tax credits. This means they were manipulating cash flow to make the numbers look better. For the fiscal year through Jan.31, the total US budget deficit was $157 billion, and set to keep rising this year and for the foreseeable future. Normally, one would say, not too bad, considering the fact that there are more Federal workers than there are factory workers in America.

However, a more concerning datapoint emerges when looking at the annual change in the rolling 12 month total. It is here that we find that for the LTM period ended Jan 31, total government receipts were $3.27 trillion. When we match this number with the same date last year, this number was whopping 0.3% lower than the $3.28 trillion reported one year ago. We’re talking billions and billions of dollars short from the previous year.

Why is this important? Because every time since at least 1970 when government receipts have turned negative on an annual basis, the US was on the cusp of, or already in, a recession. Indicatively, the last time government receipts turned negative was in July of 2008. Does that ring a sick bell for any of you? One potential mitigating factor this time is that much of the collapse in receipts is due to a 12% plunge in corporate income tax, which begs the question what are real corporate earnings? I mean, if the stock market is all that, why aren’t corporate tax receipts higher? The answer is simple. Stock prices are built on hype, and it is clear that for IRS purposes, corporate America is already back into a recession. God help us all if the market figures this out and tries to correct itself.

How about that far more important indicator of overall US economic health, and biggest contributor to government revenue, individual income taxes? As of January, the number was $1.56 trillion on a declining trend.

Many people believe that if Trump cuts taxes, it will mean lower tax revenues, which will slap us down deeper into the recession until it hurts. Many more experts believe that if taxes are lowered AND government spending is right-sized through long-overdue Federal layoffs, hiring freezes, and forced retirements, the economy could boom so strongly that it may even kick start the whole world’s economy.

We’ll see if the Democrats succeed in destroying America, or if the love and investment made by the wealthy people in the world is facilitated by a far less intrusive government. If that is the case, we could see as much as 1 million jobs a month created in the summer of 2017.

**Planned Parenthood Protests Nationwide**

It seems we are having our effect, here at X-Squared Radio. A coalition of state and national pro-life groups is organizing the event and is primarily sponsored by Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Created Equal, and the Pro-Life Action League. Going by the hashtag #ProtestPP, the event will feature protests outside over 200 Planned Parenthood facilities across the United States. Demonstrations are also taking place at the London headquarters of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, which was recently defunded by Trump’s [executive order](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/01/23/five-facts-president-trump-reinstating-mexico-city-policy-abortion/).

“The federal government has been subsidizing Planned Parenthood to the tune of more than $430 million annually,” explains Eric Scheidler, national organizer of #ProtestPP. “This, at the same time that the nation’s largest abortion provider holds $500 ticket fundraisers and charges a woman about $500 to abort her baby. On top of that, Planned Parenthood is trafficking baby body parts. Taxpayers are sickened to see their money spent in support of these atrocities.”

Scheidler adds:

This is a nationwide event, but at the same time it is a local community concern. As citizens gather to encourage Congress to quit sending money to an organization that specializes in killing children, they are also declaring that they do not want Planned Parenthood to continue operating in their neighborhoods.

Citizens for a Pro-Life Society director Dr. Monica Migliorino Miller also states, “The defunding of Planned Parenthood is a matter of moral principle. Not a single cent of American tax dollars should go to an organization that kills innocent human life.”

#ProtestPP says that, contrary to Planned Parenthood’s claims to be a provider of [women’s health care](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/01/23/watch-planned-parenthoods-pre-natal-care-deception/), it is “not a general health care service provider.”

Pro-life activists are urging Congress and Trump to eliminate Planned Parenthood’s funding and redirect it to other federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that provide more comprehensive care for women and families, without providing abortions.

The coalition also asserts, “[F]raudulent Medicaid claims, fetal tissue harvesting, and documented health code violations show Planned Parenthood’s systemic disregard for accountability to taxpayers.”

The protests are taking place as the Republican Party has control of both chambers of Congress and the White House, and Dr. Tom Price – a pro-life physician – has just been confirmed as the new secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Planned Parenthood and its supporters are also planning counter-rallies Saturday as well.

“We are closer than we’ve ever been to defunding Big Abortion—Planned Parenthood. Now is the time for a groundswell of grassroots efforts,” comments Mark Harrington, national director of Created Equal. “We call on Congress and President Trump to reallocate those funds to health centers which help women without killing babies.”

“Americans want to end taxpayer funding of abortion – that includes stopping taxpayer funding for the nation’s largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, and ensuring any Obamacare replacement is pro-life, and does not allow tax dollars or tax credits to pay for health care plans that include abortion,” says Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser. “Planned Parenthood is a profit-driven, abortion-centered business that has performed more than 300,000 abortions in the last three years for which data are available. They do not need or deserve taxpayer dollars, and redirecting their federal funding to rural and community health centers would be a victory for women’s health.”

Dannenfelser notes that FQHCs “[outnumber](https://lozierinstitute.org/access-to-care-a-mission-for-community-health-centers/) Planned Parenthood facilities 20 to 1 nationwide and provide far more services. The [majority](http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/the-administration/313515-voters-will-reward-gop-for-defunding-planned-parenthood) of Americans want taxpayer funding to go to real women’s health care, not abortion.”

“This Saturday, that majority will let their voices be heard at #ProtestPP gatherings nationwide,”

I was shocked recently at the testimony of the Sierra Club chief, Michael Brune who said that abortion “helps to address the number of the people that we have on this planet. We feel that one of the ways in which we can get to a sustainable population is to empower women to make choices about their own families.”

When abortion is legalized, Brune suggested, it helps keep the population from expanding out of control. On January 14, the Sierra Club issued a statement summoning Americans to join Planned Parenthood and other organizations in protesting President Donald Trump.

“Today, the Sierra Club is mobilizing its members across the country to join Center for Community Change, United We Dream, SEIU, Planned Parenthood, the Human Rights Campaign and other allies in national-day-of-action rallies to support immigrants and oppose Trump’s xenophobia,” the statement read.

Curiously, Michael Brune said that Sierra would speak out and show up in support of immigrants and families threatened by Trump’s “hateful promises to deport millions,” while simultaneously supporting abortion policies aimed at eliminating large numbers of the population. While he said that illegals should not be deported because his son plays little league with some of them.

That is also curious, since there are 25 million American little boys who will never get a chance to play little league, because they are all dead. They were killed by Planned Parenthood.

**Treason in the Obama Administration Focused on Hurting trump**

January 28th, a Seal team dropped their Osprey into a moonless night over Yemen to conduct a raid that was planned two months before Obama left the White House. It was placed on his desk every day, and rejected. The target was a high-level Al-Qaeda officer with ties to terrorist activities in Syria and planned attacks in America.

It was developed by the Seal Team, carefully equipped with the best weapons, drones, and aircraft to make it a success, regardless of its high risk deep in the Yemen mountains. Fewer than 10 people in the world, outside the Seal Team knew about this raid. Hours before the SuperBowl, the raid took place.

As they approached, under the watchful eye of a high-tech drone flying invisibly at 30 thousand feet, their Osprey mysteriously began to lose power. It did not crash, but it landed hard and was useless for evacuation. Three individuals were injured, but pressed on with the mission. They moved silently to the target, only to be met by a well armed and well informed resistance force.

Where the drone had told them they would face perhaps 20 warfighters, they were suddenly faced with hundreds, including women and children firing weapons at them, mines, and barricades. They knew when they were coming. They knew the direction of their attack. They knew their numbers and weaponry. Still, they underestimated the Seal Team that pressed forward and completed the mission, recovering data, computers, pictures, and killing the target.

Hours later, when the Seal team returned to Florida, they were met by an unlikely visitor. President Trump on SuperBowl weekend flew to their location to pay homage to the Seal that had gone in under his orders. But even more importantly, he was there to debrief the Seal Team itself. He learned of the betrayal and authorized them to track down who leaked this information to the enemy.

Who knew? That is a great question. This was Special Access Program material, meaning less than 10 people knew about this package. That included people at Kerry’s State Department, the House and Senate national defense committees, and the White House. Someone in that small group informed the Yemen target of the details of the raid. Within hours of Trump’s visit to Florida, the propaganda began flowing. John McCain was the first to denounce the raid and attack Trump. The fake stream news, including Reuters, CNN, Associated Propaganda, and NPR all fabricated stories that Trump had planned the attack on his own and didn’t vet it with anyone. Not until more than a week later was it revealed that it was actually planned two months earlier, but turned down by Obama for execution, vastly inflating the risks and the loss of secrecy.

The Seal Team will very shortly track the access to their mission package. When they find the one who betrayed them, the judgment will be swift and terrible. If you are that person, and you’re listening tonight, I suggest you run fast, because they’re coming for you. This must end now.

**Obama Spies Have Yet to Be Expunged**

Controversy erupted when details of President Trump's call with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull came to light last week. Their conversation had been so [hostile](http://townhall.com/tipsheet/cortneyobrien/2017/02/02/trumps-reportedly-hostile-call-with-australian-pm-n2280267) that it ended about a half hour short, according to reports.

More recently, the president's [conversation](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/details-of-trump-putin-call-raise-new-white-house-leak-concerns/2017/02/09/162f0fe6-ef0b-11e6-b4ff-ac2cf509efe5_story.html?utm_term=.4858acbb8a19) with Russia's Vladimir Putin made its way to the media, with reports claiming Trump had to pause during the call because he was not fully versed on the START treaty. White House Press Secretary refuted that accusation, noting he was only asking his staff for their opinions.

Following the fallout, Trump told Fox News he suspects "Obama people" still working in the White House were responsible for the leaks.

The White House is going to test that theory in an [investigation](http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/318804-white-house-says-it-will-investigate-leaks).

“We’re looking into the situation, yes, and it’s very concerning,” press secretary Sean Spicer said when asked about the leaks. “Some of them are done in a way that the release of that information is clearly a breach of a lot of protocols and laws.”