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GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ALLOW TERRORISTS TO GO UNPUNISHED



A JUDICIAL WATCH SPECIAL REPORT 2007

MUSLIM CHARITIES: MODERATE NON-PROFITS OR ELABORATE DECEPTIONS?

"...the goal of Muslims in America is to turn the U.S. into an Islamic state, even if it takes 'a hundred years'."

— Paul Barry, Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Today, some radical U.S. non-profit groups, pretending to be mainstream, humanitarian charities, are funding violent attacks against innocents, and the frightening thing is... the U.S. government surely knows about it.

The money moves quietly, in discreet, nearly-untouchable forms. It can be carried, transferred and re-manuevered until it simply "disappears." According to the Washington Post, "Money can be hand-carried abroad in small bundles. Cash deposited in a U.S. bank can be withdrawn from ATMs in Israel, Egypt or Jordan. Stored value cards are portable, while Internet banking allows fast and complex transfers. Fundraisers also use homebased, the ancient system of informal money transfers in which money moves among friends and relations." Using these and other financial tactics, front organizations are funneling money to Hamas and other terrorist groups in the Middle East with ease.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States, Judicial Watch called for government action against extreme Muslim non-profit organizations that served as front groups, raising money for terrorist action. In 2001, Judicial Watch filed a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) against non-profit

organizations "reportedly being used as money laundering front organizations for radical Islamists." According to the complaint, "Non-profit entities... have been used to 'launder' financial transactions and facilitate the transfer of funds supporting violent terrorist attacks by HAMAS (the anti-Israeli Muslim movement responsible for multiple acts of violence which have killed Americans and Israelis)."

In 2004, the Senate Financial Committee requested an investigation of several of the organizations on the list originally provided by Judicial Watch. In the request letter, Republican Senator Charles Grassley said, "Many of these groups not only enjoy tax-exempt status, but their reputation as charities and foundations often allows them to escape scrutiny, making it easier to hide and move their funds to other groups who threaten our national security."

While the U.S. government finally took action against some of the groups identified by Judicial Watch, others are still functioning. The federal government is aware of their presence and the danger they pose to our national security. The question is: Why are they still in operation?

"...some radical U.S. non-profit groups, pretending to be mainstream, humanitarian charities, are funding violent attacks against innocents, and the frightening thing is... the U.S. government surely knows about it."

JW's special report, *Muslim Charities: Moderate Non-profits or Elaborate Deceptions?*

nonprofit organizations with documented ties to terrorists. Evidently, IRS investigators do not bother to use updated "federal watch" lists to pinpoint ties between so-called charitable groups and terrorists. (Judicial Watch filed a complaint with the IRS in 2003 regarding Muslim charities suspected of being terrorist front groups. Judicial Watch also recently published a special report on the topic, available at www.judicialwatch.org.)

The tax agency's inspector general, who provides independent oversight, discovered the negligence during a thorough investigation that concluded many terrorist front groups are not reported to the federal authorities actively fighting terrorism. The report reminds IRS officials that the nation is at war and all available tools must be used to stop the flow of U.S. dollars to the enemy.

It states that in fiscal year 2006 there were about 1.6 million tax-exempt organizations (excluding churches) with \$2.4 trillion in assets and \$1.2 trillion in annual revenues. In tax year 2003, the latest year figures were available, these organizations filed about 300,000 returns subject to review for possible terrorist connections.

But the IRS uses an outdated manual paper check of the returns against an outdated terrorist watch list that features only 1,600 organizations or aliases compared to the updated, 200,000-name list operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Using the smaller and outdated list, the IRS identified 93 possible terrorist organizations in 2006, and all but two were approved for tax-exempt status with no further investigation.

"Using the smaller and outdated list, the IRS identified 93 possible terrorist organizations in 2006, and all but two were approved for tax-exempt status with no further investigation."

Although federal government officials claim that protecting the United States from another terrorist attack is a priority, two key agencies seemed to act otherwise, one by deporting only a tiny percentage of terrorist suspects and the other by overlooking tax-exempt charities with terrorist links.

Immigration agencies within the Department of Homeland Security have tried to deport only a dozen people on terrorism-related charges in the last few years, out of the 814,073 targeted for deportation.

A research group affiliated with a major university published the disturbing information after analyzing the records—obtained through the Freedom of Information Act—of more than 200 immigration court judges employed by the Department of Justice.

A separate investigation revealed that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) does an equally poor job in identifying U.S.

CHENEY VISITOR LOGS ORDERED DESTROYED



Vice President Dick Cheney

In keeping with the Bush administration's penchant for withholding information from the public, the Vice President Cheney's office demanded that the Secret Service destroy data on who has visited him at his official residence.

Vice President Dick Cheney's attorney wrote a hard-hitting letter to the Secret Service after a major newspaper sought copies of who visited him at his residence on the grounds of the Naval Observatory. A federal judge ordered the records released after ruling they are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. However, a D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals later issued an emergency stay blocking the order.

Cheney's counsel claimed that the information is covered by executive privilege and therefore does not have to be disclosed to the public. The official letter ordered the Secret Service to return all documents in its possession and not to retain any copies or information relating to the Vice President's visitors.

This is just another in a long line of actions taken by the Bush White House to keep secret information that should be open to the public.

For example, in 2006, Bush administration officials and the Secret Service quietly signed an agreement, in the midst of the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal, declaring that records identifying White House visitors are not open to the public. It was an obvious effort to conceal how many times the convicted lobbyist and his cronies visited Bush administration officials.

Judicial Watch sued for the visitor logs, and a federal judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ordered them released.

Judicial Watch also filed a lawsuit for records relating to the Bush administration's National Energy Policy Development Group, also known as the "Energy Task Force," which was designed to craft energy policy behind closed doors. Judicial Watch successfully forced the release of more than 40,000 pages of task force documents. The Bush administration, however, refused to turn over key information related to who participated in the meetings and what was discussed, a direct violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, better known as the "open meetings law."

(Judicial Watch's lawsuit was ultimately sent to the United States Supreme Court, which effectively sided with a U.S. District Court ruling that the task force was not subject to the open meetings law.)

PELOSI EARMARK HELPS ENRICH HUSBAND

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi quietly inserted a last-minute provision into an approved multi-billion dollar redevelopment bill that stands to financially benefit her husband (and, therefore, herself).

The veteran northern California congresswoman and now House Speaker, snuck a \$25 million project for her San Francisco district into the \$15 billion Water Resources Development Act which passed the House overwhelmingly. The legislation will help pay for hundreds of projects around the country, including a \$25 million grant to improve San Francisco port areas. Coincidentally, Pelosi's wealthy investor husband owns several buildings in a nearby commercial district that will benefit from the taxpayer-financed improvements.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

Pelosi's latest earmark helps illustrate the serious problems and ethical issues, across party lines, with the controversial earmark practice that has for years been abused by lawmakers to obtain millions of federal taxpayer dollars for special interests in their district.

In fact, when she became House Speaker last year, Pelosi joined her Senate counterpart, Nevada's Harry Reid, in vowing to reform earmarks even though both lawmakers had admitted using them to obtain millions of public dollars for their hometown businesses and institutions.

(Earmarks are made when legislators insert language, often at the last minute, in a bill to allocate funds for their special interests. Pelosi is a pro at earmarking, having secured hundreds of millions of dollars over the years.)

Just last year she boasted about securing \$115 million for various local projects, including the conversion of a hotel into efficiency units, equipment for a local university and improvements made to a recreation area.

“Pelosi’s latest earmark helps illustrate the serious problems and ethical issues, across party lines, with the controversial earmark practice that has for years been abused by lawmakers to obtain millions of federal taxpayer dollars for special interests in their district.”

TERRORISTS TO GET HAVEN IN U.S.?



President George W. Bush

Will President Bush change immigration rules to allow foreign terrorists—including members of al-Qaida, Hamas and Hezbollah—to use the United States as a haven?

The Immigration and Naturalization Act specifically bars the United States from accepting members of armed nongovernmental groups as refugees because they are considered terrorists. These include members of political or social organizations that endorse or espouse terrorist activity as well as the spouses or children of those inadmissible under that category.

Now, however, the White House is pushing for an amendment to the law that would give the president authority to waive those longtime restrictions. Officials say they want to grant refugee status to rebels who have fought repressive governments around the world, but the changes would also apply to U.S. enemies, including the previously mentioned Middle Eastern terrorist groups.

Under the proposed amendment, the government would have the authority to waive the existing rules for active members and fighters of terrorist groups on a case-by-case basis.

In 2006 alone, about 12,000 would-be refugees with terrorist ties were rejected, and about 5,000 already in the U.S. as refugees were blocked from seeking citizenship.

Evidently, however, the president has caved in to the demands of international human rights groups that claim many legitimate refugees have been denied asylum by a U.S. government “overreacting to the 2001 terrorist attacks.” These groups also believe that members of the world’s deadliest terrorist groups, including al-Qaida, were actually coerced into violence and should therefore qualify to live in the U.S.

“...the president has caved in to the demands of international human rights groups that claim many legitimate refugees have been denied asylum by a U.S. government ‘overreacting to the 2001 terrorist attacks’.”

GIULIANI TAKES MONEY FROM QUESTIONABLE SOURCE

A law firm partially owned by Republican presidential candidate Rudolph Giuliani lobbies U.S. legislators on behalf of a socialist Latin American president who repeatedly antagonizes America and refers to George W. Bush as “the devil.”

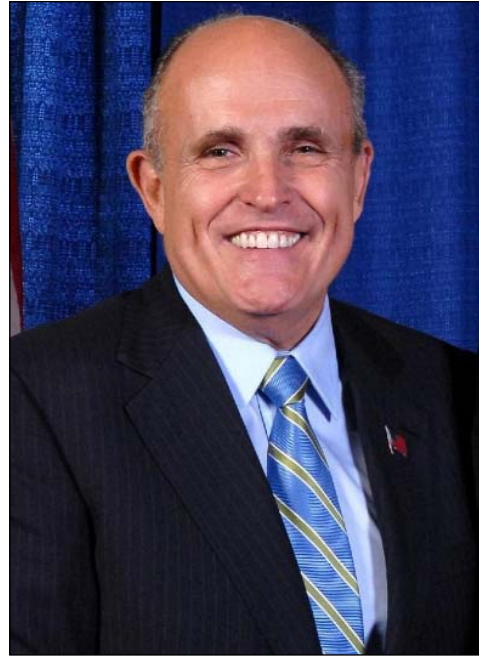
The Texas-based firm (Bracewell & Giuliani) with more than 400 attorneys in offices world wide, is known for legally representing heavy-hitting energy companies like Enron, Chevron-Texaco and Dynegy. It is also a lobbying force in Washington, D.C. with equally wealthy and powerful clients.

Among them is Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez, who has paid Bracewell & Giuliani hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to lobby Texas legislators on behalf of his Citgo Petroleum Corp. Giuliani’s firm currently gets \$5,000 a month from Chavez to track legislation.

The Venezuelan leader has become increasingly hostile towards the United States, staging mass anti-American rallies during Bush’s visits to Latin America and refusing to cooperate with counter-terrorism efforts, according to the State Department. At a United Nations address late last year, Chavez called President Bush “the devil” during a hateful, anti-America speech.

One major U.S. company even dropped Citgo as its gasoline supplier, citing Chavez’s increasing hostility towards the United States, which sparked nationwide boycotts of the Venezuelan gas.

Given these facts, it is ironic that Giuliani’s firm lobbies on behalf of Chavez. After all, as New York mayor he refused a \$10 million donation for September 11 damages from a Saudi prince because he considered the money tainted. A campaign spokeswoman said Giuliani has been clear and consistent; “Hugo Chavez is no friend of the United States.” Despite this, it’s ok to take his money?



Rudy Giuliani

“It is ironic that Giuliani’s firm lobbies on behalf of Chavez. After all, as New York mayor he refused a \$10 million donation for September 11 damages from a Saudi prince because he considered the money tainted.”

SENATOR BOXER'S UNETHICAL FUNDRAISING



A veteran Democratic lawmaker is unethically using her position as chair of a powerful U.S. Senate committee to raise money for her reelection campaign.

As Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, California Senator Barbara Boxer has befriended former vice president turned international global warming star Al Gore, and now she is using his testimony before her committee to raise cash for her 2010 reelection campaign.



Boxer asked her supporters to sign an online "thank you" card to Gore for his many years of leadership and hard work. The card pointed out that no single person has done more for the environment than Gore, praised his Oscar-winning documentary (An Inconvenient Truth) and prominently mentioned that the former vice president accepted Boxer's invitation to testify before her committee. Boxer also promised to personally deliver the notes to Gore.

The "thank you" card also asked for donations to the Friends of Barbara Boxer, which campaign finance watchdogs call inappropriate as it unethically suggests a link between congressional hearings, legislative activity, and campaign contributions. Boxer's campaign consultant says, however, that there is no violation because the "entire focus is on Al Gore," and not making a contribution.

Top: Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
Bottom: Former Vice President Al Gore

A fixture in the U.S. Senate since 1993, Boxer has already come under fire for violating her own committee's strict hearing rules to give her famous friend preferential treatment. Gore demanded and was granted an unprecedented 30-minute opening statement and a waiver of the committee's 48-hour rule that requires all witnesses to submit testimony in advance.

"California Senator Barbara Boxer has befriended former vice president turned international global warming star Al Gore, and now she is using his testimony before her committee to raise cash for her 2010 reelection campaign."

FORMER BUSH OFFICIAL ADMITS GUILT IN ABRAMOFF SCANDAL

The highest-ranking Bush administration official to be criminally investigated in the Jack Abramoff corruption scandal finally admitted that he obstructed justice by concealing his unique relationship with the convicted lobbyist and repeatedly lying about it to Senate investigators.

Former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior Steven Griles pled guilty to felony obstruction of justice in a Washington, D.C. federal court in April. Griles admitted that he lied five times to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and its investigators in an effort to hide his close relationship with Abramoff, who is currently in prison.

The Senate committee launched the investigation amid reports that wealthy Indian casino operators paid Abramoff tens of millions of dollars to influence congressional and Interior Department decisions that would affect them. Abramoff lured his clients by assuring them that he had serious connections at the Interior Department and a close relationship with a high-ranking official.

In a desperate effort to hamper the Senate committee's investigation that criminally implicated him, Griles vehemently denied any ties to Abramoff and told Senate investigators that it was "outrageous" and "not true" that the disgraced lobbyist had any special access to him or his department. He later admitted he lied and that Abramoff did in fact have special access to him.

Griles was currently the top lobbyist of a major oil company called Conoco-Phillips. Griles was also involved in a questionable real estate transaction with his girlfriend, at the time the top environmental prosecutor at the Department of Justice, and ConocoPhillips' vice president. The three purchased a \$1 million home just months before the prosecutor girlfriend, Sue Wooldridge, granted the oil company leniency in its multi-million dollar pollution settlement with the government.



Top: Former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior, Steven Griles.
Bottom: Former Lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

HILLARY BUYS ANOTHER BIG ENDORSEMENT



Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY)

Just weeks after paying \$210,000 for the coveted endorsement of an influential southern black pastor, Hillary Clinton has agreed to double the money for the crucial endorsement of the leading politician in the state.

At the important Iowa caucus Clinton will have the backing of Democratic Governor Tom Vilsack, who dropped out of the 2008 presidential race because he said it would be impossible to raise enough money to compete with the likes of Clinton and Illinois Senator Barack Obama.

Vilsack may have dropped out of the race but he has a campaign debt of more than \$400,000 and, in return for his highly sought endorsement, Clinton has agreed to pay off the hefty tab. After raising a whopping \$2.6 million in a weekend Hollywood fundraiser recently, \$400,000 is probably a drop in the bucket for the New York senator.

Clinton aides say there is absolutely no connection between Vilsack's endorsement and the Senator's promise to pay off his large campaign debt. Americans heard a similar Clintonesque explanation in mid-February when the former First Lady denied paying a few hundred thousand dollars for the highly pursued endorsement of an influential South Carolina Senator (Darrell Jackson) who also happens to be the pastor of the state's largest black church.

Clinton's main rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Obama, also fought for Jackson's endorsement but reportedly was outbid by Clinton. When Obama was on the verge of sealing a contract with Jackson's public relations firm for \$5,000 a month, Clinton doubled it to \$10,000.

“At the important Iowa caucus Clinton will have the backing of Democratic Governor Tom Vilsack, who dropped out of the 2008 presidential race because he said it would be impossible to raise enough money to compete with the likes of Clinton and Illinois Senator Barack Obama.”

NEVADA'S SCANDAL PLAGUED NEW GOVERNOR

The recently elected governor of Nevada made international headlines for his involvement in several scandals, including a federal corruption investigation.

A former five-term Congressman, Republican Jim Gibbons brought quite a bit of bad political baggage with him to the governor's office. The most serious includes a federal investigation into his allegedly corrupt relationship with a defense contractor who claims he bribed Gibbons with money, travel and poker chips for his help in getting government contracts.

Authorities believe the owner of the Reno-based software company (Warren Trepp) showered Gibbons with expensive gifts and cash in exchange for his help in obtaining lucrative contracts with several government agencies while he served on the House Intelligence and Armed Services Committees.



Nevada State Governor Jim Gibbons

Additionally, a high-tech military contractor in Sparks hired Gibbons' wife as a "consultant" and paid her about \$35,000 while he helped the company get \$2 million in federal earmark funding.

Gibbons dismissed his ongoing scandals, attributing the media coverage to a conspiracy against him. In fact, he even accused his political "enemies" of paying a major U.S. newspaper to publish articles of that investigation to help Democrats in the 2008 election.

Other scandals have also tainted the governor. Although he avidly opposed illegal immigration, Gibbons' longtime housekeeper and nanny is an illegal immigrant who said her boss often made her hide in a basement to conceal her illegal status. Last October, a Las Vegas cocktail waitress accused Gibbons of making inappropriate and unwanted sexual advances.

"...the owner of the Reno-based software company (Warren Trepp) showered Gibbons with expensive gifts and cash in exchange for his help in obtaining lucrative contracts..."

N.Y. JUDGE GUILTY OF TAKING BRIBES

In the latest conviction involving widespread corruption in a New York district's judiciary, a former state Supreme Court justice has been found guilty of accepting bribes from a shady attorney to fix cases in his favor.

Six people connected to the veteran Brooklyn judge, Gerald Garson, have already been convicted or pleaded guilty to crimes connected with his rampant corruption. They include a law clerk and a court officer.

Judge Garson faces up to 15 years in prison for accepting bribes from a lawyer who repeatedly showered him with cash, meals and fancy cigars to manipulate the outcome of cases to favor his clients.

In five years on the bench in Brooklyn, the judge handled about 1,100 cases involving divorces, child custody and financial matters.

Kings County prosecutors have investigated the judge for years and secretly installed cameras in his chambers to catch him conducting illegal meetings with attorneys and accepting envelopes stashed with cash as well as other gifts. One county investigator's 2002 affidavit lists the bribing incidents and other damaging information gathered during surveillance.

Judge Garson was suspended by the New York State court system's administrative judge, who called his actions disturbing. Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman stressed that Garson's colleagues on the bench were outraged because he violated the public's trust.



Brooklyn, New York

“Judge Garson faces up to 15 years in prison for accepting bribes from a lawyer who repeatedly showered him with cash, meals and fancy cigars to manipulate the outcome of cases to favor his clients.”

Hillary Clinton shattered political fundraising records in early 2007 by collecting an unprecedented \$26 million in new contributions during the first quarter of her presidential campaign. Combined with \$10 million she transferred from her Senate coffers, as of the writing of this publication, the New York senator has a whopping \$36 million in her war chest.

The former First Lady broke previous first-quarter fundraising records set by Texas Republican Phil Gramm, who raised \$8.7 million in 1995, and Al Gore who collected \$8.9 million in 1999.

While Hillary's chief competition, Senator Barack Obama, is said to have raised about \$22 million in the first quarter, the other Democratic candidates didn't come close to Clinton. Former North Carolina Senator John Edwards raised \$14 million, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson \$6 million, Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd \$4 million and South Carolina Senator Joe Biden a mere \$3 million.

Clinton's cash came from 50,000 contributors in 50 states and supposedly exceeded the campaign's goal of raising \$15 million for the first quarter. Clinton proved to be quite an efficient fundraiser when she collected a record \$40 million for a Senate reelection campaign with dismal competition.

Hillary Clinton became the first major presidential candidate to forgo public funding in both the primary and general election in order to avoid FEC rules designed to clean up presidential campaigns by limiting the influence of big donors in politics. Some experts have predicted that, with the help of her famous husband, Clinton can raise \$100 million for her presidential campaign. In fact, she recently made \$2.6 million at a weekend Hollywood fundraiser.



Top: Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY)
Bottom: Senator Barack Obama (D-IL)

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WINS EMPLOYMENT SUIT

A Kansas Supreme Court overruled a county judge and granted an illegal immigrant special rights to sue a former bankrupt employer for wages and penalties.

The case involves a former cook at a Wichita, Kansas burrito establishment who had agreed to work for shelter and \$6 an hour until business at the struggling restaurant picked up. The place closed after seven months and the illegal immigrant, Cesar Martinez Corral, sued for wages as well as a penalty.

A Sedgwick County judge ruled that Corral was not due the additional penalty from the restaurant's owner because he was an illegal immigrant. The judge said allowing the additional penalty would encourage illegal immigration and "trivialize" federal immigration laws.

The Kansas Supreme Court, however, unanimously overruled the county judge saying that state wage payment law allows even an illegal worker to recover wages as well as a civil fine against a former employer.

The court wrote in its decision that an employee's undocumented status did not render his employment contract unenforceable under the state's wage law, nor was that statute preempted by federal immigration law.

The employer argued that the \$6-an-hour employment contract was illegal and unenforceable under the Kansas Wage Payment Act, which defines an employee as any person allowed or permitted by an employer to work. Because the law's plain language does not specifically exclude illegal aliens, the state Supreme Court said the agreement is valid.

The Supreme Court justices also concluded that the work agreement was not void or unenforceable by the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act, which states that employers may hire only persons who may legally work in the United States.

"The Kansas Supreme Court unanimously overruled the county judge saying that state wage payment law allows even an illegal worker to recover wages as well as a civil fine against a former employer."

FEDERAL APPELLATE COURT TO HEAR SOUTH DAKOTA ABORTION CASE

13

Abortion advocates continue their legal battle to block a South Dakota law that requires doctors to tell women seeking abortions that the procedure would terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being.

The case was heard by an 11-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in St. Louis. South Dakota's legislature passed the law in 2005 but the abortion rights group Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality. A Clinton-appointed federal judge in Rapid City, South Dakota later issued an order preventing the state from enforcing the law just days before it was to take effect.

The Clinton-appointed judge, Karen Schreier, said that the South Dakota statute could very well violate the Constitution because it "requires abortion doctors to enunciate the state's viewpoint on an unsettled medical, philosophical, theological and scientific issue; that is, whether a fetus is a human being."



Former President Bill Clinton

The state appealed the ruling to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and a three-judge panel upheld the decision 2-1 in October 2006. South Dakota officials asked the court's full 11-judge panel to hear the challenge and oral arguments.

Planned Parenthood makes the hypocritical claim that it is merely protecting patients and doctors against an ideologically driven statute that intimidates women seeking abortion. The group asserts that the law violates First Amendment protections against compelling citizens to speak or listen to anything.

It is Planned Parenthood, however, that has engaged in pseudo-brainwashing techniques designed to protect the barbaric, and unconscionable practice of killing innocent children. The organization opposes this law because it is in the organization's best interest that young women remain ignorant of the catastrophic consequences of the act of abortion.

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TAXPAYERS FINANCE LAVISH CONGRESSIONAL TRIPS



Bennie Thompson (D-MS)

In the months since taking over Congress, Democratic legislators have gone on numerous extravagant, taxpayer-financed trips around the world with their spouses on U.S. military planes that cost \$10,000 per hour to fly.

The lawmakers, claiming to be on essential “fact-finding” missions directly related to their job as public servants, stay at exclusive and expensive hotels and they dine at the best restaurants. The outrageously expensive air travel is provided by the United States military.

Mississippi Representative Bennie Thompson, for instance, went on a tour of the Caribbean that ended with a lavish stay at a five-star Virgin Island resort that cost U.S. taxpayers \$1,100 per night for each room. His delegation included several fellow congressmen and their spouses as well as Thompson’s wife. The trip was reported to be essential because, as chair of the Homeland Security Committee, it was crucial that Thompson (and his wife and friends)

examine border and port security first hand from a variety of fancy resorts.

In a separate trip to the Caribbean on the same week, New York Rep. Eliot Engel, his wife, and four fellow Democratic lawmakers (and their spouses) toured Grenada and Trinidad to explore the best practices for emergency disaster relief. After all, Engel is the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and it was said to be urgent that he and his colleagues, along with their spouses, investigate such matters.

Incidentally, several of the Democratic House members—California’s Maxine Waters and Texas’s Sheila Jackson among them—who took that Caribbean trip had just returned from a separate trip to Belgium and London with Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank. That delegation’s costly European extravaganza reportedly explored the financial services regulatory structures of the European Union.

There are multiple other taxpayer-financed excursions on military planes, led by the very Democratic lawmakers who criticized Republicans’ extravagant travel in their campaign to win control of Congress last fall.

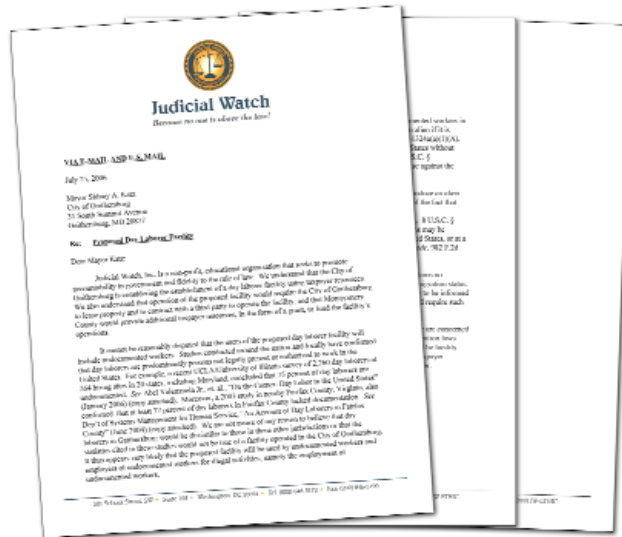
“...it was crucial that Thompson (and his wife and friends) examine border and port security first hand from a variety of fancy resorts.”

MARYLAND DAY LABORER SITE APPROVED – WILL USE TAX DOLLARS

A Maryland county opened its third taxpayer-funded day laborer center recently to help illegal immigrants find jobs, learn English and obtain legal assistance.

The center will be located in a doublewide trailer on public county land and will offer a variety of free services to illegal aliens seeking work, legal help and language classes. Local taxpayers will pick up the bill.

The center was originally planned to open in the city of Gaithersburg, Maryland but the Gaithersburg Town Council voted down the proposal the day after Judicial Watch sent a letter warning council members of the legal consequences of funding a day laborer site with tax dollars.



Judicial Watch letter to the Gaithersburg, MD Town Council.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, however, would not be deterred. He offered some county land for the illegal immigrant center. An immigrant advocacy group called Casa de Maryland will get thousands of county dollars to run the center and county police will help monitor it.

City and county officials say opening the center was essential because immigrants need a place to gather when they look for work. For years, they have gathered in city parking lots along a busy Gaithersburg street forcing the city to pass an ordinance that makes such street hires illegal.

As Judicial Watch wrote in its letter to the Gaithersburg Town Council, however, “While the intentions behind [a day laborer] facility may be well-meaning, we are concerned that operation of the proposed facility may violate federal employment and immigration laws and/or aid, abet, or otherwise facilitate and encourage the violation of such laws.”

The same goes for Montgomery County.

“...Judicial Watch sent a letter warning council members of the legal consequences of funding a day laborer site with tax dollars.”

IMMIGRANT SMUGGLERS BRING VIOLENCE TO U.S. HIGHWAYS



Two separate illegal immigrant smuggling rings caused deadly incidents on U.S. highways recently, spreading violence north of the border and threatening innocent Americans.

In the first event, a sports utility vehicle loaded with illegal immigrants rolled over in Utah's Four Corners area, killing eight people and injuring six others. The driver, Rigoberto Salas-Lopez, fled into the desert but was later apprehended and admitted he was transporting illegal aliens from Guatemala and Mexico.

A few days later a man was killed and four people were injured after a shootout involving rival smugglers—known as coyotes—broke out on a Houston high-

way. The occupants of two northbound trucks loaded with illegal immigrants exchanged gunfire and the vehicles later ran a red light and crashed into a car. The smugglers then got out of their vehicle and continued with the gun battle on a nearby road of Houston's Southwest Freeway. Innocent bystanders were hurt and traffic was tied up for hours.

This kind of violence among human traffickers is not unprecedented in Houston, which is considered a major distribution hub for traffickers of illegal immigrants from Mexico and Central America. Last year, gunfire erupted in two separate area neighborhoods between rival smugglers battling for human cargo. (Judicial Watch has investigated Houston's illegal immigration sanctuary policies which only serve to exacerbate the problem.)

Unsurprisingly, advocates of illegal immigration blame the escalation in deadly incidents on the U.S., saying that tighter security at the Texas-Mexico border is what has actually led to increased violence between competing smugglers.

“This kind of violence among human traffickers is not unprecedented in Houston, which is considered a major distribution hub for traffickers of illegal immigrants...”

LOUISIANA PROTECTS CONVICTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Louisiana legislators refused to pass a law in 2006 that would strip criminally convicted public officials of their taxpayer-funded pensions, opening the way for yet another corrupt official—currently in jail—to collect a hefty monthly check from the state.

In the wake of rampant public corruption, a handful of states have passed laws to deny elected officials and public workers of the taxpayer portion of their public pension if they have been convicted of crimes such as bribery, perjury, malfeasance and other wrongdoings related to their position.

Congress passed such a law in early 2007 to strip any of their elected members convicted of serious crimes of their congressional pensions. The law, which takes effect in 2009, was created in response to the major bribery scandal involving members of Congress and imprisoned lobbyist, Jack Abramoff.



Arthur Lentini

When Louisiana State Senator Arthur Lentini proposed similar legislation in 2006, the bill received little support from fellow state legislators. Motivated by a wave of fraud and corruption among the state's public servants, Lentini aimed to amend the state's constitution to reverse the section that specifically forbids the reduction of a public workers' pension, even after a felony conviction.

That means criminals, such as a former high school principal convicted for stealing about \$40,000 in school funds, will still receive the taxpayer portion of their state pensions. A Caddo district fire chief in prison on federal charges for his involvement in a murder-for-hire scheme will also get his hefty pension even if he is found guilty.

FEDERAL RAID ON REP. JOHN DOOLITTLE'S HOUSE



Senator John Doolittle (R-CA)

The FBI raided the home of a California congressman with close ties to convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff on the same day the veteran lawmaker's former top aide abruptly resigned from a prestigious law firm.

The search of Republican John Doolittle's Virginia home indicates that the longtime Northern California legislator could very well signal the next indictment in the ongoing congressional corruption investigation involving the convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

So far nine people have been convicted in the corruption and bribery scheme, and federal authorities continue to investigate several well-known politicians—including Doolittle and former Montana Senator Conrad Burns—for their shady dealings with Abramoff and his wealthy clients. The last big name to fall was Ohio Rep. Bob Ney who pleaded guilty to taking bribes and is currently in prison.

Doolittle, a close friend of Abramoff's, reportedly accepted \$14,000 in direct campaign contributions from the convicted lobbyist and \$130,000 more from his clients and associates. Additionally, Abramoff paid a consulting company owned by Doolittle's wife more than \$66,000. Records relating to that questionable deal were subpoenaed by a federal grand jury.

In 2000 Abramoff hired Kevin Ring, one of Doolittle's top aides who recently abruptly quit his law firm job. Ring served as an intermediary between Abramoff clients and his former boss on Capitol Hill. Many are speculating that Ring will follow the path of other congressional aides who have pleaded guilty to lesser charges in the Abramoff scandal in exchange for delivering their former bosses to prosecutors.

If that is the case, Doolittle will undoubtedly be in trouble. Information on his questionable actions during his nine years in the House of Representatives are available on a web site called "Dump Doolittle" which has tracked his storied career and features links to media coverage of his alleged wrongdoings.

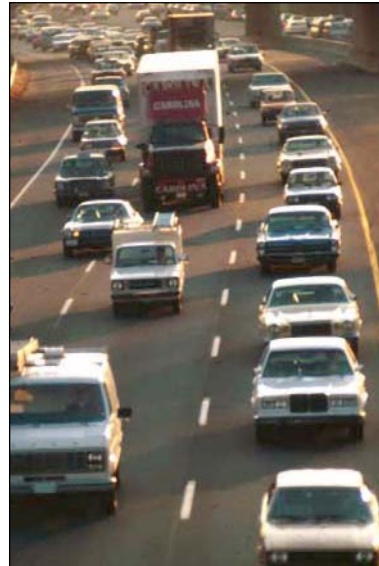
"Doolittle, a close friend of Abramoff's, reportedly accepted \$14,000 in direct campaign contributions from the convicted lobbyist and \$130,000 more from his clients and associates."

U.S. FAILS TO DEPORT FELON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT

Devastated family members demanded to know why federal authorities failed to deport the drunken illegal immigrant who killed a young father of five, even though the Mexican man had previously been convicted of felonies in U.S. courts.

During the illegal alien's latest court hearing in Northern California, grieving relatives pressed prosecutors for answers in this tragedy, which could have been prevented if federal immigration authorities had done their job.

The illegal immigrant, Isidro Pena Soto, is charged with felony drunk driving, as well as felony possession of methamphetamine, after killing a 33-year-old man in a head-on collision. California Highway Patrol say the drunken Soto was traveling at 90 miles per hour and his vehicle crossed the highway's double yellow line before slamming into Kent Boone's car.



Solano was supposed to be deported in 2005 after he pleaded guilty to felony drug possession and drunk driving for the fourth time. He has also been convicted of driving without a license six times and served a 122-day prison sentence in a Solano County jail. Federal law says he should have been put on an immigration hold and subsequently deported.

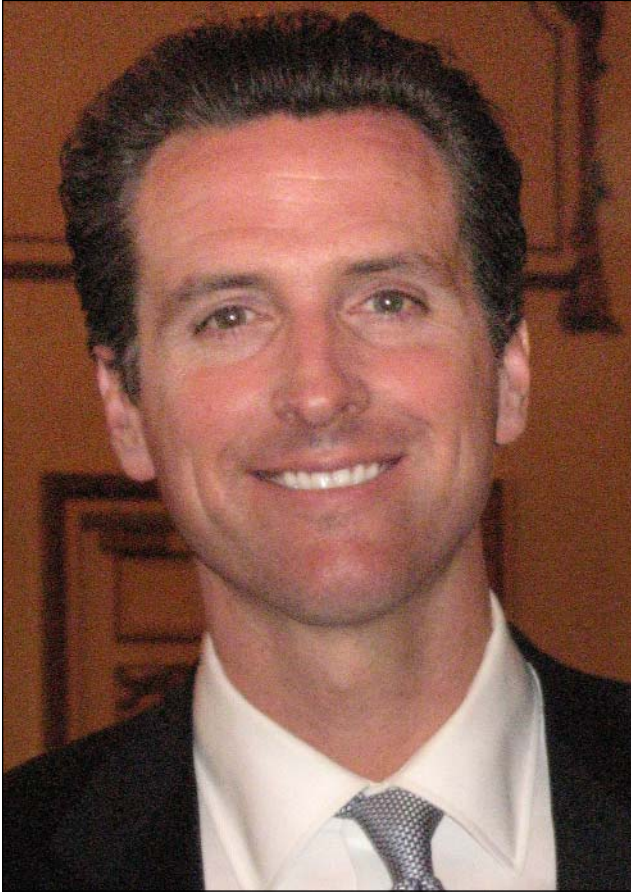
Instead the felon was released back into the unsuspecting community, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials are blaming local police for not notifying them. County prosecutors told grieving family members at a court hearing that the case "was mishandled."

A California news source wrote that, considering his extensive rap sheet and multiple convictions, it is inexplicable that this illegal alien was allowed to remain in the country. The same story quotes an Immigration and Customs Enforcement official saying that cases like this certainly "underscore why we want to encourage local law enforcement agencies to tell us when they encounter foreign nationals with multiple convictions for crimes that certainly present a potential threat to public safety."

Unfortunately, so-called sanctuary policies that prevent police officers from communicating freely with federal immigration authorities have created an environment where criminal illegal aliens are allowed to roam the streets without police intervention.

"The illegal immigrant, Isidro Pena Soto, is charged with felony drunk driving, as well as felony possession of methamphetamine, after killing a 33-year-old man in a head-on collision."

SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR VOWS TO PROTECT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS



San Francisco, CA, Mayor Gavin Newsom

The mayor of a city that years ago declared itself an official sanctuary for illegal immigrants has publicly announced that employees in his municipality will not cooperate with federal authorities to enforce U.S. immigration laws.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom vowed to do everything in his power to maintain his city's illegal immigrant sanctuary status and assured that he will not allow any of his department heads or anyone associated with the city to cooperate with immigration raids.

In an effort to curb illegal immigration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have conducted raids nationally, many of which have included neighboring Bay Area cities such as San Rafael, Oakland, Santa Clara and San Pablo. The Northern California raids were mainly to serve warrants for immigrants who had committed crimes or had violated final deportation orders.

San Francisco's mayor says that removing a criminal illegal alien from his city is not good

enough reason to violate the decades-old sanctuary policy.

Newsom, of course, has a reputation for flouting the rule of law when it suits his personal political agenda. In 2004, he violated California state law by illegally offering marriage licenses to gay couples.

OBAMA AND HIS CHICAGO SLUMLORD CASH

Barack Obama often talks of his abiding interest to help the poor, but that has not stopped the Democratic presidential candidate from taking hefty campaign contributions from slumlord Antoin “Tony” Rezko in his Chicago district whose tenants lived in deplorable conditions.

The slumlord—also a close friend of the Illinois senator—is a shady political fundraiser who has been indicted on fraud and corruption charges for taking huge kickbacks on government deals. He owned dozens of low-income housing structures beset by code violations, 11 of which were in Obama’s state senate district. Buildings were crumbling and some didn’t even have heat, a necessity to endure brutal Chicago winters.

Rezko, who obtained millions of taxpayer dollars to rehabilitate some of the buildings, claimed he didn’t have the money to repay the loans or turn the heat on in the apartments. He did, however, find money to contribute heavily to Obama who at the time was a state senator.



Barack Obama (D-IL)

The relationship strengthened over the years, reportedly resulting in a close relationship between the Illinois lawmaker and the corrupt slumlord who kept his tenants shivering for more than a month during a nasty Chicago winter in the late 1990s.

The first part of an April news series told how, as an attorney at a small Chicago law firm, Obama actually helped his corrupt friend get more than \$43 million in government funding to rehabilitate more than a dozen of his apartment buildings for the poor. Then, as a state legislator, Obama let Rezko get away with abusing the very poor people he strives to help.

This is not the first time Obama has been questioned over his relationship with Rezko. Last November, press reports surfaced regarding a suspicious land deal between Obama and Rezko. The long and the short of it is that Obama approached Rezko with the idea to simultaneously purchase adjoining lots in Southside Chicago. Rezko obliged. Obama obtained his lot for a reduced price. Rezko later sold a portion of his property to Obama. All of this took place while Rezko was the subject of a federal corruption investigation.

BORDER PATROL AGENT CHARGED WITH MURDER



“Responsible for over 90,000 square miles of border territory stretching across 262 miles, the Tucson Sector Headquarters of the US Border Patrol (USBP) at the very epicenter of the nation’s illegal immigration and border security crisis.”

– Excerpt from Chris Farrell’s internal report on U.S. border Patrol in Tucson, AZ.

Photo: Tucson Sector Headquarters of the U.S. Border Patrol.

Caving in to pressure from the Mexican government, and relying on testimony of illegal border crossers, prosecutors in an Arizona county have criminally charged a United States Border Patrol agent with murder for shooting an aggressive illegal immigrant in the act of violating federal law.

Border Patrol agent Nicholas Corbett was charged with first-degree murder for the January 2007 shooting of an illegal alien who was part of a group apprehended 150 yards north of the Mexico-Arizona border between Bisbee and Douglas. Corbett said the Mexican man, Francisco Javier Dominguez, became aggressive and attacked him with rocks after being detained.

Dominguez had illegally crossed into the U.S. with three others—his two brothers and a sister-in-law—who have become the prosecution’s main witnesses. Based on their testimony, Cochise County prosecutors say the shooting was not legally justified because Dominguez did not represent a threat when he was shot.

When the incident happened in mid-January, the Mexican government immediately sent the United States a diplomatic note stating its “firm condemnation” and demanded a full investigation. Relatives in Mexico took to the streets and demanded the agent involved be punished and brought to justice.

The head of the Arizona Chapter of the National Border Patrol Council says this case is part of a nationwide pattern of politically motivated prosecutions against Border Patrol agents. In January 2007, two Border Patrol agents went to prison for shooting an admitted Mexican drug smuggler caught bringing in 743 pounds of marijuana near El Paso Texas. Federal prosecutors went into Mexico and offered the drug dealer immunity to testify against the veteran agents who were subsequently convicted on charges of causing serious bodily injury, assault with a deadly weapon, discharge of a firearm and violating the drug smuggler’s civil rights.

“The head of the Arizona Chapter of the National Border Patrol Council says this case is part of a nationwide pattern of politically motivated prosecutions against Border Patrol agents.”

NEW JERSEY SENATOR INDICTED FOR FRAUD, CORRUPTION

A powerful New Jersey politician known as the “king of double dipping” for simultaneously collecting salaries from as many as four public jobs has been federally indicted for a corruption scheme that bilked taxpayers out of thousands of dollars.

Longtime state legislator Democrat Wayne Bryant promoted himself as an advocate for the poor, but, after being elected to the state senate, became a member of a powerful budget committee. He then used his leverage to grant several lucrative state contracts to his relatives and his own law firm.

Federal investigators have been watching Bryant for years and prosecutors released a 20-count indictment accusing the renowned state senator of unlawfully using his power and influence to fraudulently earn a salary from New Jersey’s University of Medicine and Dentistry for a job that did not exist. The \$40,841 salary boosted the lawmaker’s government pension from about \$28,000 to \$81,286 in four years.

Also indicted was the dean at the school’s division of osteopathic medicine, who created the job for Bryant as a bribe for his influence on the senate budget committee to get millions of dollars in extra funding. Bryant actually directed and created changes in the state budget to obtain the extra money for his co-conspirator.

In return, the dean (Michael Gallagher) created a bogus taxpayer-funded position that listed responsibilities as planning, directing, organizing and implementing efforts to improve university communications and image. Gallagher is also charged with creating phony financial statements that allowed him to get annual bonuses of between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in addition to his six-figure state salary.

Additionally, federal prosecutors say that Senator Bryant targeted another state school—Rutgers University in Camden—that depended on him for political support and funding.

VIOLATIONS FORCE FEINSTEIN MILITARY COMMITTEE RESIGNATION?



Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

A veteran California senator has resigned as chair of a powerful military construction committee after reports that for years she abused her position to award her husband's companies billions of dollars in government contracts.

During her six years as chair and ranking member of the Military Construction Appropriations subcommittee, Senator Dianne Feinstein annually supervised the appropriation of billions of dollars for specific military construction projects. The San Francisco lawmaker supervised her own staff of military construction experts and she lobbied Pentagon officials to support her favorite projects.

Feinstein wielded quite a bit of power and approved hundreds of billions of dollars for military contracts to companies partially owned by her wealthy husband, Richard Blum. One company alone earned \$792 million from military construction and environmental cleanup projects approved by Feinstein's committee.

The blatant ethics violation and obvious conflict of interest was first exposed by a weekly northern California publication. The story details how Feinstein voted over the years for appropriations that enriched her husband's firms and that her top legal advisor also happens to be one of her husband's longtime business partners – in other words, a financial beneficiary of the senator's decisions.

No wonder Feinstein, a former San Francisco mayor elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992, is among the wealthiest members of congress. Last year she ranked eighth with a net worth of \$42.6 million, boosted by assets she holds with her husband. Most of them are companies that have made their fortune from the very government contracts that came before her committee.

Perhaps Feinstein quit her coveted military construction committee position because she is taking her new role as the senate ethics police quite seriously. As the new chair of the Senate Rules Committee Feinstein, for years an ethics violator, is actually in charge of regulating her colleagues' ethical behavior.

“One company alone earned \$792 million from military construction and environmental cleanup projects approved by Feinstein’s committee.”



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Litigation and the civil discovery process not only uncovers information for the education of the American people on anti-corruption issues, but they can also provide a basis for civil authorities to criminally prosecute corrupt officials. Judicial Watch has filed more than 150 lawsuits against corrupt public officials, achieving numerous victories on behalf of the American people. This is what separates Judicial Watch from other watchdog organizations. Judicial Watch takes action by using the court system to fulfill its public interest mission.

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"I think it is fair to say that Judicial Watch has been singularly successful in bringing scandals to light, educating the public, and using the legitimate tools of the judicial system to obtain justice on behalf of the American people."

— Former Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA)

Photos on front cover, left to right, top to bottom: Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Senator John Doolittle (R-CA), Barack Obama (D-IL), Vice President Dick Cheney, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY).

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