



LANDMARK LEGAL FOUNDATION

THE RONALD REAGAN LEGAL CENTER

July 25, 2017

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
Investigations Division
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 7100
Washington, DC 20530

RE: REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION,
LEAKING SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT WARRANTS

To whom it may concern:

On April 25, 2017, Landmark Legal Foundation (Landmark) requested that the Treasury Department Inspector General initiate an immediate investigation into whether Treasury Department officials have improperly leaked classified information gathered pursuant to warrants authorized by the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC).

Landmark's investigation request included a Memorandum submitted earlier in April to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court providing extensive examples of illegal leaks of classified information. Since Landmark's initial submission, improper, illegal leaks continue. The purpose of this letter is to renew Landmark's request for an IG investigation.

In support of this renewed request, Landmark refers the IG to a July 6, 2017 majority staff report issued by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. The report, "State Secrets: How an Avalanche of Media Leaks is Harming National Security," (<http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/download/state-secrets-how-an-avalanche-of-media-leaks-is-harming-national-security>) includes the following startling findings:

- The Trump administration faced 125 leaked stories—one leak a day—containing information that is potentially damaging to national security under the standards laid out in a 2009 Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama.
- Leaks with the capacity to damage national security flowed about seven times faster under President Trump than during President Obama's and President George W. Bush's first 126 days.

- The majority of leaks during the Trump administration, 78, concerned the Russia probes, with many revealing closely-held information such as intelligence community intercepts, FBI interviews and intelligence, grand jury subpoenas, and even the workings of a secret surveillance court.

- Other leaks disclosed potentially sensitive intelligence on U.S. adversaries or possible military plans against them. One leak, about the investigation of a terrorist attack, caused a diplomatic incident between the United States and a close ally.

- Leaked stories appeared in 18 news outlets, sourced to virtually every possible permutation of anonymous current and former U.S. officials, some clearly from the intelligence community. One story cited more than two dozen anonymous sources.

- Almost all of the stories leaked during President Trump's first 126 days were about the President or his administration. In contrast, only half of the stories leaked during the comparable period of the Obama administration were about President Obama or his administration; the other half concerned President Bush and his anti-terrorism tactics.

In addition to the Senate report, last week *The Washington Post*, citing additional illegally leaked information, reported that "Russia's ambassador to Washington told his superiors in Moscow that he discussed campaign-related matters, including policy issues important to Moscow, with Jeff Sessions during the 2016 presidential race, contrary to public assertions by the embattled attorney general, *according to current and former U.S. officials.*" Adam Entous, Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller, "Sessions discussed Trump campaign-related matters with Russian ambassador, U.S. intelligence intercepts show," *The Washington Post*, July 21, 2017 https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/sessions-discussed-trump-campaign-related-matters-with-russian-ambassador-us-intelligence-intercepts-show/2017/07/21/3e704692-6e44-11e7-9c15-177740635e83_story.html?tid=a_breakingnews&utm_term=.5d8ac90ded46 (emphasis added).

In light of these ongoing illegal leaks, Landmark renews its request that the Inspector General initiate an immediate investigation to determine whether officials have violated 50 U.S.C. Section 1809 (improper disclosure of classified information) or any other applicable federal law. Should you find probable cause a violation of law occurred, you should immediately make public your findings and refer the matter to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Hutchison