

REMEMBER HOW ANGRY RUSSIA IS ABOUT VIKTOR BOUT

As we await the next installment from Edward Snowden's White Bronco chase around the globe, it's worth remembering our attempt to overthrow Bashar al-Assad and the Boston Marathon attack (and subsequent whitewashing about how closely Russia is cooperating) are not the only things underlying US-Russian relations.

Russia is still very angry about our assertion of jurisdiction to entrap Viktor Bout for selling arms to FARC.

Indeed, Preet Bharara is among the US officials that Russia sanctioned in retaliation for the Magnitsky list, along with such leading lights of American law as John Yoo and David Addington.

Jeralyn lays out Russian frustrations over our manufactured jurisdiction with two of their citizens here.

Bout's story (background here) is even worse. He was the victim of a DEA sting in Thailand. The U.S. fought tooth and nail to extradite him and lost. The U.S. appealed (and likely pulled some strings, if the Wikileaks cables are any indication, and lo and behold, The higher court in Thailand approved his extradition. He spent a miserable two years at MCC in New York, was convicted and sentenced to 35 years which he is serving at the USP in Marion, IL., one of our SuperMax prisons. The U.S. claims he's a "Lord of War" and seller of arms. He never sold arms here. What's it our business? Why have a prisoner transfer treaty if you aren't going to use it? Did anyone ask the American taxpayers if they want to pay \$40,000 a year times 30 years to warehouse Bout in a high security prison

when Russia's willing to take him?

You don't have to like what Bout did (which is not much more destabilizing than what Erik Prince has done) to understand that when the US claims jurisdiction over anyone in the world, even if they do nothing to harm the US directly, is going to piss off other countries.

Eventually, those countries may have an opportunity to express their frustration about it.