

WITH SULEIMANI'S ASSASSINATION, TRUMP UNITES A DIVIDED IRAN

Here's hoping that Trump decides to pull back from war by "negotiating" a "whole new agreement" that takes us right back to the JCPOA from which he unilaterally withdrew and takes the world back from the brink of disaster.

EVEN MORE GUARANTEED FRAUD FROM PARNAS AND GIULIANI

Just when we think we've reached a full description of the many levels of fraud associated with Lev Parnas and Rudy Giuliani, new revelations appear. Yesterday, the Washington Post reported that prosecutors in the Southern District of New York asked for Parnas' bail to be revoked because he had failed to disclose a payment of \$1 million he received just prior to his arrest. And this morning, Wall Street Journal's Shelby Holiday is out with a new video with additional details on how Fraud Guarantee tried to raise investor money off its association with Giuliani.

AFGHANISTAN: A

TRILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF LIES

This report from the Washington Post on lies from the military closes the loop with the report from the Times on lies from analysts in the media. Senior military figures lie about how wars are going. They eventually retire and then get lucrative jobs with defense contractors. From these positions, they sometimes pose as “analysts” to spout similar falsehoods in the media, prolonging futile wars but enriching the contractors. I wonder if the magnitude of the lies told while in the military determines the size of the salary once they are hired by the contractors. The net result, though, is futile wars that can’t be won, but with endless spending on them anyway.

TRUMP HJC DEFENDERS CLAIM UKRAINE AID WITHHELD TO FIGHT CORRUPTION WHILE RUDY ROUNDS UP FIRED CORRUPT UKRAINIANS TO HELP TRUMP

By relying on these corrupt Ukrainians to support their arguments, Trump, Giuliani and Barr are proving that under the Trump Administration, the US courts corruption in order to advance the personal and political future of its President, at great risk to the strategic interests of the US.

DID GIULIANI GIVE PARNAS THE REFERRAL OF TURKEY TO BALLARD PARTNERS AS PAYMENT FOR TRUMP DEFENSE WORK IN UKRAINE?

We can't help wondering if Giuliani handed Parnas the Ballard Partners referral so that the \$45,000 finders' fee would act as payment for the work in Ukraine that Trump's defense would require. Also note that reports state Parnas didn't get his payoff from Ballard Partners until 2018, so we are also left to wonder if, in typical Rudy fashion, the finders' fee was arranged long after the client was found.

TRUMP TEAM'S EXTORTION DEMANDS TO UKRAINE STARTED BEFORE THE APRIL 21 CALL TO ZELENSKY

Even if a "transcript" from the April 21 call from Trump to Zelensky is released and contains no extortion demand from Trump for Zelensky to investigate the Bidens, such a demand was indeed delivered to a Zelensky associate less than a month later by Parnas and Fruman. The threat was then carried out when Pence did not attend Zelensky's inauguration since no investigation

was announced.

WHY DID GUCCIARDO PAY GIULIANI PARTNERS FOR HIS “LOAN” TO FRAUD GUARANTEE?

So, Parnas had to be careful about funds flowing through entities he controlled, because the Pues Family attorneys were watching carefully (and in fact pounced on the news of the America First Action donation) and Rudy had to be careful about not having the money go directly to him or his ex-wife would seek the funds. Shouldn't Gucciardo have asked why the money didn't just go to Fraud Guarantee? Shouldn't he have asked why he had to divert funds to Rudy's consultancy? This just doesn't add up. Given his deep involvement with these same players, it seems much more likely Gucciardo understood the winks and nudges involved in getting funds to Giuliani in return for his “pro bono” representation of Donald Trump.

MEANWHILE, THE PACE OF US WAR CRIMES IN AFGHANISTAN ACCELERATES DRAMATICALLY

Night raids carried out by CIA-trained paramilitary groups in Afghanistan have become

more frequent—and more deadly—under Donald Trump. A new report from Human Rights Watch labels many of the things they found as war crimes.

ALEXANDER VINDMAN PROVES THAT WORKING WITHIN SYSTEM WORKS EVEN WHILE DEREK HARVEY WORKS TO DESTROY IT

It's hard to imagine two more polar opposites than Alexander Vindman and Derek Harvey. Vindman is a patriot committed to the security of the US and working within the system while Harvey is willing to sell out US security to whatever wingnut is willing to pay him and to bypass every safeguard built into the system.

ALEX MOONEY'S HILARIOUS SELF-OWN

When Matt Gaetz's stormtroopers stormed the access point to the SCIF yesterday, Representative Alex Mooney (R-WV) provided the most hilarious evidence of how he violated the prohibition against recording even in the hallway that accesses the more secure portion of the SCIF.