

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, Committee members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and staff. My name is Roger J. Stone, Jr., and with me today are my counsel, Grant Smith and Robert Buschel.

I am most interested in correcting a number of falsehoods, misstatements, and misimpressions regarding allegations of collusion between Donald Trump, Trump associates, The Trump Campaign and the Russian state. I view this as a political proceeding because a number of members of this Committee have made irresponsible, indisputably, and provably false statements in order to create the impression of collusion with the Russian state

without any evidence that would hold up in a US court of law or the court of public opinion.

I am no stranger to the slash and burn aspect of American politics today. I recognize that because of my long reputation and experience as a partisan warrior, I am a suitable scapegoat for those who would seek to persuade the public that there were wicked, international transgressions in the 2016 presidential election. I have a long history in this business: I strategize, I proselytize, I consult, I electioneer, I write, I advocate, and I prognosticate. I'm a New York Times bestselling author, I have a syndicated radio show and a weekly column, and I report for Infowars.com at 5 o'clock eastern every day.

While some may label me a dirty trickster, the members of this Committee could not point to any tactic that is outside the accepted norms of what political strategists and consultants do today. I do not engage in any illegal activities on behalf of my clients or the causes in which I support. There is one “trick” that is not in my bag and that is treason.

As someone whose political activism was born from the anti-communism of Senator Barry Goldwater and President Ronald Reagan; and whose freedom seeking family members were mowed-down by Russian tanks on the streets of Budapest in 1956, I deeply resent any allegation that I would collude with the oppressive Russian state to affect the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

My colleague, Michael Caputo, voluntarily sat in this seat a couple of months ago, gave what I believe were candid and truthful answers to those who cared to sit in on the interview; and yet, when he was done, he was accused of perjury by a member who did not even have the pretention to show up for his interview. He was eviscerated by some Committee members and consequently, the press. The most unfair aspect of this turn of events, and behavior by some Committee members, is that this Committee refuses, to this day, to release the transcripts of his testimony for the world to read and judge for themselves.

Multiple members of this Committee have made false allegations against me in public session in order to ensure

that these bogus charges received maximum media coverage. Now however, you deny me the opportunity to respond to these charges in the same open forum. This is cowardice. Fortunately, we will have the opportunity today to take the exact words of some members of this Committee and examine them in order to uncover the lies.

Members of this Committee as well as some members of the Senate Intelligence Committee aren't alone in their irresponsibility. On January 20, 2017, the New York Times reported that the intelligence services were in possession of emails, records of financial transactions and transcripts of telephone intercepts, which proved that Roger Stone, Paul Manafort, and Carter Page colluded with the Russians for

the benefit of Donald Trump. So, where are these records? Can this Committee or our intelligence agencies produce them? I didn't think so.

Nor, is this irresponsibility entirely partisan. Sen. John McCain told CNN that I "...should be compelled to appear before the Senate to explain my ties to Yanukovych and the Russians." This is very simple, Senator the answer is: "None" and "None." In fact, I worked against Yanukovych's party in the 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine, and have no ties to any Russians.

Given this Committee's consistent refusal to allow me to testify in a public session, in the interest of compromise, I have repeatedly requested that the transcript of my

testimony here today, be released immediately upon conclusion of today's session. Even this constructive suggestion has been rejected. What is it you fear? Why do you oppose transparency? What is it you don't want the public to know?

I can assure each of you, I will not let myself be a punching bag for people with ill intentions or political motives. Understand, I will expose the truth in every forum and on every platform available to me.

As a 40- year friend and advisor of Donald Trump, I had continually urged him to run for the presidency, beginning in 1988. When he decided in 2015 to become a serious candidate against a weak slate of opponents, I became one

of the Trump campaign's first consultants, reprising a role I played in 2012 when Donald Trump briefly considered a candidacy in that election. I performed consulting work for the campaign for five months and the consulting relationship ended in August 2015. I, however, didn't go quietly into the night, I continued to work, write, and advocate on behalf of his candidacy because to this day, I believe he has the potential to be a truly transformative president and to make our nation great again.

These hearings are largely based on a yet unproven allegation that the Russian state is responsible for the hacking of the DNC and John Podesta and the transfer of that information to WikiLeaks. No member of this



Committee or intelligence agency can prove this assertion. Because the DNC steadfastly refused to allow the FBI to examine their computer servers, this entire claim is based on a self-serving report by CloudStrike, a forensic IT company retained by, directed, and paid for by the DNC.

The Nation magazine recently reported on a study issued by Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS), which is comprised of numerous former high-level US intelligence officials. Based upon the VIPS study, The Nation concluded that, “There was no hack of the Democratic National Committee’s system on July 5, 2016... not by the Russians and not by anyone else. Hard science now demonstrates it was a leak- a download executed

locally with a memory key or a similarly portable data-storage device. In short, they reported it was an inside job by someone with access to the DNC's system. This casts serious doubt on the alleged initial "hack," that led to the very consequential publication of a large store of documents on WikiLeaks last summer." Additionally, these unproven allegations have led to a frivolous lawsuit filed by former Obama administration lawyers against me and the Trump campaign. In my motion to dismiss, I submitted a sworn declaration of Dr. Virgil Griffith, a cognitive computer graduate from the California Institute of Technology, who questioned the unproven assumptions that Russian hackers are responsible for theft of DNC emails and other data.

I recognize that those who believe that there was collusion between the Trump camp and the Russian state, now say Stone, “MUST HAVE” been involved, but that is not based on one shred of evidence. This is nothing more than conjecture, supposition, projection, allegation, and coincidence, none of it proven by evidence or fact. I understand the Committee’s interest in me, I use all clauses of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to achieve my goals, I am out there, I am provocative and partisan, but let’s be clear, I have no involvement in the alleged activities that are within the publicly stated scope of this Committee’s investigation – collusion with the Russian state to affect the outcome of the 2016 election. I have every right to express my views in

the public square. I actively participate in matters of great public concern. I also believe, and you should too, my friend, Tucker Carlson, who said last week, 'You should never accept, uncritically, the imprecise conclusions of ....the "intel community."'

The mantra-like repetition of the claim by our vaunted 17 intelligence agencies that the "Russians" colluded with the Trump campaign to affect the 2016 election, does not make it so. These are, after all, the same entities who insisted the North Koreans would not be able to launch a viable rocket for 3-5 years, that insisted Saddam Hussein was in possession of WMD, that there was no torture at Abu Ghraib prison, and that the government had no bulk

data collection program, until Edward Snowden revealed otherwise. Our intelligence agencies have been politicized. I realize they are deeply unhappy over President Trump's refusal to expand the proxy war in Syria and their failure to obtain the no-fly zone promised to them by Hillary Clinton, which would be an open invitation for World War III. That the intelligence agencies have continued to leak, to the detriment of President Trump, in violation of the law, is proof positive of their politicization.

Members of this Committee have made three basic assertions against me which must be rebutted here today. The charge that I knew in advance about, and predicted, the hacking of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta's email,

that I had advanced knowledge of the source or actual content of the WikiLeaks disclosures regarding Hillary Clinton or that, my now public exchange with a persona that our intelligence agencies claim, but cannot prove, is a Russian asset, is anything but innocuous and are entirely false. Again, such assertions are conjecture, supposition, projection, and allegations but none of them are facts.

For example, Mr. Schiff, the ranking member of this Committee asked, “Is it a coincidence that Roger Stone predicted that John Podesta would be a victim of a Russian hack and have his private emails published, and did so even before Mr. Podesta himself was fully aware that his private emails would be exposed?” I want to know where I

predicted this. Can Mr. Schiff read us the exact quote and source from where I predicted the hacking or Mr. Podesta's email? Can Mr. Schiff even come up with a documented quote where I use Podesta and email in the same sentence -  
- before it happened?

My Tweet of August 21, 2016, in which I said, "Trust me, it will soon be the Podesta's time in the barrel. #CrookedHillary" Must be examined in context. I posted this at a time that my boyhood friend and colleague, Paul Manafort, had just resigned from the Trump campaign over allegations regarding his business activities in Ukraine. I thought it manifestly unfair that John Podesta not be held to the same standard. Note, that my Tweet of August 21,

2016, makes no mention, whatsoever, of Mr. Podesta's email, but does accurately predict that the Podesta brothers' business activities in Russia with the oligarchs around Putin, their uranium deal, their bank deal, and their Gazprom deal, would come under public scrutiny. Podesta's activities were later reported by media outlets as diverse as the Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg. My extensive knowledge of the Podesta brothers' business dealings in Russia was based on The Panama Papers, which were released in early 2016, which revealed that the Podesta brothers had extensive business dealings in Russia. The Tweet is also based on a comprehensive, early August opposition research briefing provided to me by investigative



journalist, Dr. Jerome Corsi, which I then asked him to memorialize in a memo that he sent me on August 31<sup>st</sup>, all of which was culled from public records. There was no need to have John Podesta's email to learn that he and his presidential candidate were in bed with the clique around Putin. In fact, FactCheck.org, a news organization funded by the Annenberg Foundation, reported, "There is nothing in the public record so far that proves Stone, a political operative and longtime Trump associate, predicted the Podesta email hack."

Now, let me address the charge that I had advance knowledge of the timing, content and source of the WikiLeaks disclosures from the DNC. On June 12, 2016,

WikiLeaks' publisher Julian Assange, announced that he was in possession of Clinton DNC emails. I learned this by reading it on Twitter. I asked a journalist who I knew had interviewed Assange to independently confirm this report, and he subsequently did. This journalist assured me that WikiLeaks would release this information in October and continued to assure me of this throughout the balance of August and all of September. This information proved to be correct. I have referred publicly to this journalist as an, "intermediary", "go-between" and "mutual friend." All of these monikers are equally true.

In the March 20<sup>th</sup> public session of this Committee, Mr. Schiff asked former FBI Director Comey, "Are you aware

that Mr. Stone also stated publicly that he was in direct communication with Julian Assange and WikiLeaks?” The way the question was asked was clearly designed to cast me in a bad light. I have never said or written that I had any direct communication with Julian Assange and have always clarified in numerous interviews and speeches that my communication with WikiLeaks was through the aforementioned journalist. Again, Mr. Schiff is guilty of a false assertion.

The fact is that during the March 20<sup>th</sup> Comey hearing and many times subsequent, members of this Committee, and even Democratic nominee for president, felt that they

could go into the public square and make similar charges without any substantiation or basis in fact.

Congressman Heck of Washington, stated, for example, “... we’ve heard about quite a few individuals in the Trump orbit who fell somewhere on that spectrum from mere naïveté, disturbing enough if this naïveté is a feature of those (who) were supposed to be running our country and foreign policy, to unwitting Russian dupes, to willing blindness, to active coordination. This rogues gallery includes those already fired- Roger Stone, adviser to Donald Trump...” This is the worst sort of neo-McCarthyism. To be clear, I have never represented any Russian clients, have never been to Russia, and never had any communication

with any Russians or individuals fronting for Russians, in connection with the 2016 presidential election.

To pile on, in an interview on MSNBC on May 19, 2017, Congresswoman Speier felt compelled to say: “I believe that Michael Caputo is part of this cabal including Roger Stone and Paul Manafort, and others who had business relationships with Russia.” No, I do not have and I’ve never had any relationship with Russia or any Russian entity. You have falsely accused me without any evidence – you should apologize today.

One more apology I would demand in public, if she were here today, is from presidential runner-up, Hillary Clinton. Following the lead of the minority members of this

Committee, in her new fiction book, she repeats the same false narratives about me as if they were the truth...they could not be further from the truth.<sup>1</sup>

And then there is Congressman Eric Swalwell who, as reported in Newsmax, said, “From Roger Stone, we hope to learn the same things we learned from Paul Manafort, Carter Page, Don [Trump] Jr., and others who were particularly active in their dealings with Russians during the summer of 2016.” Has Mr. Swalwell read my exchange with the Twitter persona which he alleges constitutes collusion? The exchange is innocuous at best. Since I had no other contact with Russians, what could he be referring to?

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<sup>1</sup> Harry C. Nton, What Happened, pps. 345, 347, 357 (2017).

Finally, let me address this limited, benign, and now entirely public exchange with a persona on Twitter calling themselves Guccifer 2.0. While some in the intelligence community have claimed that Guccifer 2.0 is a Russian cut-out and that it is responsible for the hacking of the DNC servers, neither of these assertions can be proven by this Committee or the aforementioned intelligence community. I wrote an article for Breitbart on August 5, 2016, in which I express my view that Guccifer 2.0 was not a Russian asset, at the same time reporting their claim taking credit for hacking the DNC. My only exchange with Guccifer 2.0 would begin on August 14, 2016, after my article appeared, and ran through September 9, 2016. Imagine my deep

disappointment when Mr. Schiff purposefully conflated these dates before this Committee, reversing them to create the false impression that I had communicated with Guccifer 2.0 on Twitter prior to publication of the article questioning whether Guccifer 2.0 is a Russian cut-out. Shame on you Mr. Schiff.

Now that more information is in the public domain, the very question of whether Guccifer 2.0 hacked the DNC must be revisited in light of the VIPS report cited by The Nation. As they concluded, “Forensic investigations of documents made public two weeks prior to the July 5 leak by the person or entity known as Guccifer 2.0 show that they were fraudulent: Before Guccifer posted them they were



adulterated by cutting and pasting them into a blank template that had Russian as its default language. Guccifer took responsibility on June 15 for an intrusion the DNC reported on June 14 and professed to be a WikiLeaks source - claims essential to the official narrative implicating Russia in what was soon cast as an extensive hacking operation. To put the point simply, forensic science now devastates this narrative.” I am left to conclude that the President is right when he calls this Congressional investigation a, “witch-hunt.”


Based on what we know now, it is clear that there was a foreign nation which was colluding with a presidential campaign in an attempt to influence the outcome of the

2016 presidential election. Therefore, I strongly urge this Committee to investigate the numerous, publicly documented contacts between Ukraine and the Clinton campaign, particularly in light of recent public reports that Ukraine is now providing sophisticated missile technology to North Korea.

Please do not continue to perpetuate falsehoods here today.

Date	Event
August 8, 2015	Stone leaves campaign - no longer a paid consultant - Paid August 2015.
March 19, 2016	Date reported that Podesta email hacked
March 28, 2016	Manafort hired by campaign
June 7, 2016	Candidate Trump announces that in the following week he would make a major speech about all things that have taken place with the Clintons
June 9, 2016	Trump Jr. has meeting with Russian lawyer
June 12, 2016	Assange announces WikiLeaks has obtained Clinton email
June 14, 2016	Washington Post reports that Russian hackers had been in the DNC servers from June 2015 through June 2016
June 15, 2016	Guccifer 2.0 takes credit for DNC hack - The Smoking Gun
June 27, 2016	First hacked DNC emails leaked through @DCLeaks on Twitter
July 22, 2016	Wikileaks releases its first set of DNC email
August 5, 2016	Stone writes in Breitbart that the Clinton campaign was scapegoating the Russians to hide the fact it was hacked by an individual, Guccifer 2.0. (Stone has no reason to believe that Guccifer is in any way connected to Russian interests. Guccifer is an anonymous Twitter handle)
August 8, 2016	Stone, during speech, says he communicated with Assange. Later clarifies that he had received information from a mutual acquaintance. Stone speculates that Assange documents may be related to Clinton Foundation (not the case)
August 14, 2016 - September 9	Stone and Guccifer exchange Twitter messages when Stone reaches out to lend support for Guccifer because it had been kicked off Twitter. Exchange is innocuous. Stone does not bite on data offered.
August 21, 2016	Stone Tweets that it will soon be Podesta's time in the barrel. The context is that Manafort was just pushed out of campaign for ties to Russia/Ukraine. Stone was intimately familiar with Podesta's work in Russia and Ukraine (through Panama Papers) and was suggesting that if Manafort was going to be pressed on these relationships, so too should Podesta.
October 7, 2016	Wikileaks releases its first set of Podesta email

The screenshot shows a Twitter conversation with the user GUCCIFER 2.0 (@GUCCIFER\_2). The conversation is as follows:

- GUCCIFER 2.0** (14 Aug 2016): Delighted you are reinstated. Fuck the State and their MSM lackeys R.
- User** (15 Aug 2016): wow, thank u for writing back, and thank u for an article about me!!!
- GUCCIFER 2.0** (15 Aug 2016): do u find anyting interesting in the docs i posted?
- User** (16 Aug 2016): PLZ RT: How the election can be rigged against Donald Trump thehill.com/blogs/pundits-...
- User** (17 Aug 2016): done
- GUCCIFER 2.0** (17 Aug 2016): i read u'd been hacked
- User** (17 Aug 2016): I'm pleased to say that u r great man and i think i gonna read ur books please tell me if i can help u anyhow
- GUCCIFER 2.0** (17 Aug 2016): it would be a great pleasure to me
- User** (17 Aug 2016): hi, what do u think of the info on the turnout model for the democrats entire presidential campaign?
- User** (17 Aug 2016): ?
- User** (17 Aug 2016):  **\*\*EXCLUSIVE\*\* Democrats Turnout Mo...**  
You won't read about this on other blogs Florida!  
hellofla.com
- User** (17 Aug 2016): Basically how it works is there are people who will vote party line no matter what and there are folks who will actually make a decision. The basic premise of winning an election is turnout your base (marked

The conversation is displayed in a standard Twitter interface with a dark theme. The user's profile information on the left includes 'GUCCIFER 2.0', '@GUCCIFER\_2', 'follows you', 'guccifer2.wordpress.com', and 'Joined June 2016'. The right sidebar shows a list of users to follow, including Chris Ray Maldonado, tbox, Pamela Moore, and others.

The screenshot shows a Twitter conversation with the user GUCCIFER 2.0 (@GUCCIFER\_2). The conversation is displayed in a modal window over a blurred background of the Twitter interface.

**GUCCIFER 2.0 (@GUCCIFER\_2)**

do u find anything interesting in the docs i posted?  
15 Aug 2016

PLZ RT: How the election can be rigged against Donald Trump  
thehill.com/blogs/pundits-...  
16 Aug 2016 ✓

done

i read u'd been hacked  
17 Aug 2016

i'm pleased to say that u r great man

and i think i gonna read ur books

please tell me if i can help u anyhow

it would be a great pleasure to me  
17 Aug 2016

hi, what do u think of the info on the turnout model for the democrats  
entire presidential campaign

?

**\*\*EXCLUSIVE\*\* Democrats Turnout Mo...**  
You won't read about this on other blogs  
Florida!  
hellofia.com

Basically how it works is there are people who will vote party line no  
matter what and there are folks who will actually make a decision. The  
basic premise of winning an election is turnout your base (marked  
turnout) and target the marginal folks with persuadable advertising  
(marked persuadable). They spend millions calculating who is  
persuadable or what we call a "soft democrat" and who is a "hard  
democrat."  
9 Sep 2016

Pretty standard  
9 Sep 2016 ✓

The background shows the Twitter profile of GUCCIFER 2.0, including a bio that says "GUCCIFER 2.0 @GUCCIFER\_2", a link to "guccifer2.wordpress.com", and a note "Joined June 2016". It also shows a list of followers and a grid of photos.

**News** (<http://www.philly.com/News>) — **Politics** (<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics>)

# FactCheck: Misrepresenting Stone's Prescience

Updated: MARCH 28, 2017 — 6:44 PM EDT



📷 **ANDREW HARNIK / AP PHOTO**

Roger Stone, political consultant for President-elect Donald Trump, boards an elevator at Trump Tower in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016.

by **Robert Farley**, FactCheck.org



Rep. Adam Schiff laid out a series of “coincidences” to build a circumstantial case that President Trump’s campaign associates may have colluded with the Russians during the 2016 presidential campaign. But one of his “coincidences” is not an established fact.

“Is it a coincidence that Roger Stone predicted that [Hillary Clinton’s campaign chairman] John Podesta would be a victim of a Russian hack and have his private emails published, and did so even before Mr. Podesta

himself was fully aware that his private emails would be exposed?” Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said in his opening statement at a March 20 hearing.

There is nothing in the public record so far that proves Stone, a political operative and longtime Trump associate, predicted the Podesta email hack.

Rather, Schiff is making an assumption, based on connecting two events: a tweet that Stone sent out on Aug. 21 saying that it would soon be “Podesta’s time in the barrel,” and the release of Podesta’s emails by WikiLeaks two months later.

On ABC’s “This Week”

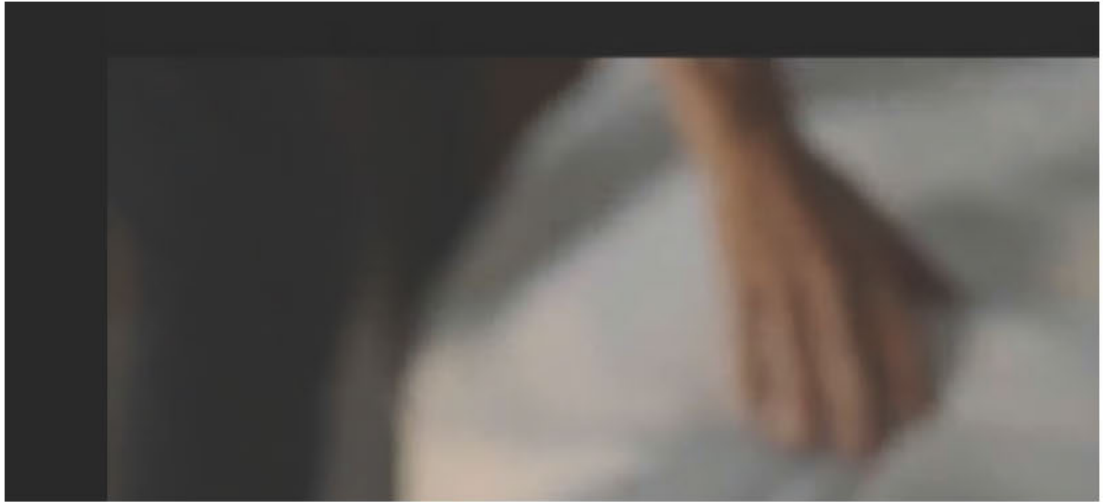
([http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-26-17-sen-chuck-schumer-rep/story?](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-26-17-sen-chuck-schumer-rep/story?id=46372022&cid_clicksource_903_null_vert_hed)

[id 46372022&cid\\_clicksource\\_903\\_null\\_vert\\_hed](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-26-17-sen-chuck-schumer-rep/story?id=46372022&cid_clicksource_903_null_vert_hed)) on March 26, Stone denied that he predicted Podesta’s emails would be hacked, adding — correctly — that his tweet never “made any reference to John Podesta’s email.” Stone said his tweet referred to Podesta’s business dealings with Russia, and the expectation that that would become a news story.

## Schiff’s Case

On March 20, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence held a hearing ([http://intelligence.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID\\_769](http://intelligence.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID_769)) at which FBI Director James Comey took the unusual step of publicly confirming (<https://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/hpsci-hearing-titled-russian-active-measures-investigation>) that the FBI investigation of Russian influence into the presidential campaign “includes investigating the nature of any links between individuals associated with the Trump campaign and the Russian government and whether there was any coordination between the campaign and Russia’s efforts.”

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At the start of the hearing, Schiff, the committee's ranking Democrat, laid out what he later called (<https://charlierose.com/videos/30272>) "circumstantial evidence of coordination," and highlighted the need for a full investigation into collusion between the Russians and people connected to the Trump campaign.

Stone featured prominently in Schiff's list of "coincidental" events — including the allegation that Stone knew in advance that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange would release Podesta's hacked emails to damage Democratic presidential nominee Clinton.



**Schiff, March 20:** *On August 8th, Roger Stone, a longtime Trump political advisor and self-proclaimed political dirty trickster, boasts in his speech that he has communicated with Assange and that more documents would be coming, including an October surprise. In the middle of August, he also communicates with the Russian cut out Guccifer 2.0 and authors a Breitbart piece denying Guccifer's links to Russian intelligence.*

**Then later, in August, Stone does something truly remarkable when he predicts that John Podesta's personal emails will soon be published.**

**"Trust me," he says, "it will soon be Podesta's time in the barrel.**

**#crookedHillary."** *In the weeks that follow, Stone shows remarkable prescience. "I have total confidence that WikiLeaks and my hero Julian Assange will educate the American people soon," he says, #LockHerUp." "Payload coming," he predicts and two days later it does.*

*WikiLeaks releases its first batch of Podesta emails. The release of John Podesta's emails would then continue on a daily basis, up until the election. On Election Day in November, Donald Trump wins. ...*

**Is it a coincidence that Roger Stone predicted that John Podesta would be a victim of a Russian hack and have his private emails published and did so even before Mr. Podesta himself was fully aware that his private emails would be exposed?**

Schiff concluded that while it is possible the events he listed were "unhappy coincidence," it "is also possible, maybe more than possible, that they are not coincidental, not disconnected and not unrelated and that the Russians use the same techniques to corrupt U.S. persons that they employed in Europe and elsewhere. We simply don't know, not yet. And we owe it to the country to find out."

Whether some of the events highlighted by Schiff amount to anything may be left to the FBI and congressional investigators to determine. But on the issue of Stone predicting the hack of Podesta's emails, Schiff makes a factual leap — one not established in publicly shared evidence.

## A Timeline

Stone, a longtime political operative who says he has no problem being called "a dirty trickster" with "sharp elbows," was employed by the Trump campaign for several months early in the presidential campaign. Stone parted ways

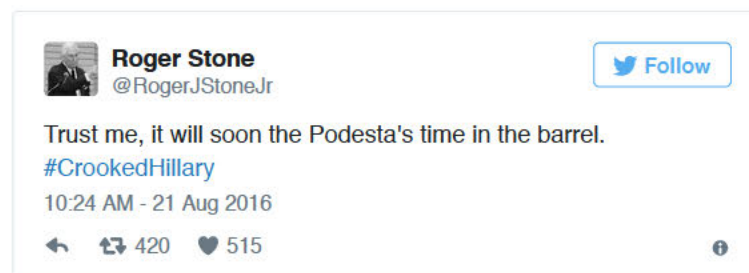
([https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/08/08/trump-ends-relationship-with-longtime-political-adviser-roger-stone/?utm\\_term=.0b265d5678bb](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/08/08/trump-ends-relationship-with-longtime-political-adviser-roger-stone/?utm_term=.0b265d5678bb)) with the campaign in August 2015 — Trump said he fired him; Stone said he resigned because he felt he could more effectively help Trump's cause outside the campaign, and that he remained in regular contact with Trump.

In June of the following year, the Democratic National Committee announced ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/russian-government-hackers-penetrated-dnc-stole-opposition-research-on-trump/2016/06/14/cf006cb4-316e-11e6-8ff7-7b6c1998b7a0\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.c3ee2946f310](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/russian-government-hackers-penetrated-dnc-stole-opposition-research-on-trump/2016/06/14/cf006cb4-316e-11e6-8ff7-7b6c1998b7a0_story.html?utm_term=.c3ee2946f310)) that its computers had been hacked by operatives of the Russian government. U.S. intelligence agencies say ([https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/ICA\\_2017\\_01.pdf](https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/ICA_2017_01.pdf)) Russian intelligence had access to DNC computers for nearly a year, from July 2015 to June 2016.

The following day, a self-described hacker identified as Guccifer 2.0 took credit (<https://guccifer2.wordpress.com/2016/06/15/dnc/>) for the hack, and boasted that thousands of files and emails were provided to WikiLeaks.

On Aug. 5, Stone penned a story for the conservative website Breitbart (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170323142811/http://www.breitbart.com/2016-presidential-race/2016/08/05/dear-hillary-dnc-hack-solved-so-now-stop-blaming-russia/>), arguing that the Clinton campaign was scapegoating the Russians to hide the embarrassment of being hacked by a single individual. Stone's story was based on public tweets and blog posts from Guccifer 2.0.

On Aug. 21, Stone tweeted this:



On Oct. 7, WikiLeaks began publishing (<https://wikileaks.org/podesta-emails/press-release>) Podesta's emails.

## Communications with Guccifer 2.0 and Assange

Schiff notes that Stone communicated with both Guccifer 2.0 and Assange (both of whom were deemed to have acted as proxies for Russian intelligence to release emails damaging to the Clinton campaign, according to a declassified intelligence community

assessment

([https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ICA\\_2017\\_01.pdf](https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ICA_2017_01.pdf)) released on Jan. 6).

Stone did communicate with Guccifer 2.0 in 2016 in a series of Twitter messages between Aug. 14 and Sept. 9 that Stone says he has since published (<http://stonecoldtruth.com/roger-stone-the-smoking-gun-aims-fires-misses/>) in their entirety. In a lengthy interview with Stone published by *Politico* (<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/03/roger-stone-they-have-no-proof-236526>) on March 27, Stone said that after he posted his Breitbart article, he learned that Guccifer 2.0 — who he said he does not believe to be a Russian agent — was banned from Twitter, and then was reinstated. Stone said he reached out to give Guccifer a social media “high-five,” expressing his support for Guccifer’s reinstatement “because I’m against censorship.”

The rest of the messages, Stone says, are pretty innocuous. In one, Guccifer 2.0 writes, “please tell me if I can help u anyhow.” But there is no record that Stone replied to that message. Twice, Stone asks Guccifer 2.0 to retweet his articles, and in one, Guccifer makes a benign comment about an article on election strategy, which Stone replies is “Pretty Standard.”

Stone also revealed during a speech

(<https://www.mediamatters.org/video/2016/08/09/roger-stone-confirms-hes-communication-julian-assange/212261>) to the Southwest Broward Republican Organization on Aug. 8 that he had “communicated with Assange.”

“I believe the next tranche of his documents pertain to the Clinton Foundation but there’s no telling what the October surprise may be,” Stone said.

Stone later clarified that he never spoke directly with Assange, but that the two have a mutual journalist friend — or what Stone referred to in a tea party speech as a “back-channel intermediary” — who told him in August that Assange “has the mother lode on Hillary [Clinton]” and that those emails would be released in October.

Stone said the information he received was no more specific than that, but enough to prompt him to make repeated statements (<http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/20/politics/kfile-roger-stone-wikileaks-claims/>) and social media messages predicting upcoming bombshells related to Clinton. Stone said he also speculated that the hacked emails were related to the Clinton Foundation.

Stone says his Aug. 21 tweet about Podesta — that it would soon be Podesta’s “time in the barrel” — had nothing to do with hacked emails, though. Two days prior, Trump’s campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, quit the campaign (<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/20/us/politics/paul-manafort-resigns-donald->

[trump.html?\\_r\\_0&mtrref en.wikipedia.org](http://trump.html?_r_0&mtrref=en.wikipedia.org)) amid [media reports](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/15/us/politics/paul-manafort-ukraine-donald-trump.html?_r_0&mtrref=undefined&gwh=8CD139BFF89617C34977B3E9C8CADD3F&gwt_pay) ([https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/15/us/politics/paul-manafort-ukraine-donald-trump.html?](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/15/us/politics/paul-manafort-ukraine-donald-trump.html?_r_0&mtrref=undefined&gwh=8CD139BFF89617C34977B3E9C8CADD3F&gwt_pay)  
\_r\_0&mtrref undefined&gwh 8CD139BFF89617C34977B3E9C8CADD3F&gwt\_pay) about prior business dealings with Russia-aligned leaders in Ukraine.

Stone said he was aware that Podesta also had business ties to Russia, and that journalists were beginning to look into those. That's what prompted the tweet, he said.

Indeed, earlier that year, [media accounts](http://observer.com/2016/04/panama-papers-reveal-clintons-kremlin-connection/) (<http://observer.com/2016/04/panama-papers-reveal-clintons-kremlin-connection/>) based on the so-called [Panama Papers](https://panamapapers.icij.org/) (<https://panamapapers.icij.org/>) reported that Podesta's company, the Podesta Group, had been hired to lobby on behalf of one of Russia's biggest financial institutions. And in October, the *Wall Street Journal* (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/john-podesta-and-the-russians-1477262565>) published an opinion piece on business ties between Podesta and a Russia-backed investment firm.

In an Oct. 19 story for [Breitbart](http://www.breitbart.com/hillary-clinton/2016/10/19/stone-wikileaks-mike-morell-russia/), (<http://www.breitbart.com/hillary-clinton/2016/10/19/stone-wikileaks-mike-morell-russia/>) Stone said Podesta's business ties to Russia were the motivation for the tweet.

**Stone, Oct. 19, Breitbart:** *This because of a tweet I posted in August at the time my boyhood friend and colleague Paul Manafort was under attack for his perfectly legal work in Ukraine for a democratic political party. I predicted that Podesta's business dealings would be exposed. I didn't hear it from WikiLeaks, although Julian Assange and I share a common friend. I reported the story on my website (<https://stonecoldtruth.com/blog/2016/10/13/russian-mafia-money-laundering-the-clinton-foundation-and-john-podesta/>).*

So let's be clear. I had no advance notice of WikiLeaks' hacking of Podesta's e-mails.

"There is no foreshadowing of Podesta's email," Stone said in his interview with Politico. "That's speculation. It's conjecture." Stone said any claim that he "orchestrated or strategized or knew the scope of what they [WikiLeaks] had and the scope of what they intended to release is false."

Stone has volunteered to testify before the House intelligence committee, and he says he'd like it to be in public.

A spokesperson for Schiff emailed us this statement: “During his opening statement, Ranking Member Schiff laid out the public record of Mr. Stone’s statements, including his tweeted prediction regarding Podesta, his direct communications and defense of Guccifer 2.0, and his claims to be in contact with Julian Assange, either directly or through an intermediary. Along with a host of other issues of concern, Mr. Schiff stated that these matters could be completely coincidental – or they may not – but they do bear examination in any thorough investigation; in the context of the Russian Active Measures campaign during the election, these are questions that must be answered. At an appropriate time, the Committee will call Mr. Stone to testify, and Mr. Stone can answer these questions and others based on both public reporting and any other pertinent evidence.”

Schiff is free to question what Stone meant by the tweet. But in the intelligence hearing, Schiff stated as a matter of fact that Stone predicted the release of Podesta’s hacked emails, and questioned whether Stone’s prediction was a coincidence or evidence of collusion with Russia. More information may emerge as a result of FBI and congressional investigations, but based on what is currently in the public domain, it’s not an established fact that Stone knew in advance that Podesta’s emails were hacked and would be published in October.

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**Published:** March 28, 2017 — 6:44 PM EDT

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Memo: Aug. 31, 2016  
From: Jerome R. Corsi, Ph.D.  
To: Roger Stone  
RE: John Podesta Ties to Russia

## **PODESTA**

NEW YORK – A much overlooked report by CNN published on Aug. 19, 2016, highlighting that the FBI had begun an investigation of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort for his involvement in Ukraine, <http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/19/politics/paul-manafort-donald-trump-ukraine/index.html> CNN also reported the FBI was also investigating the Podesta Group to the Ukrainian government and the alleged corruption by the party of the former president Victor Yanukovich.

The Podesta Group is widely known to Washington insiders as the lobbying and public relations firm run by Tony Podesta, the brother of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta – the former chief of staff for President Bill Clinton, who founded in 2003 the Center for American Progress, which functions in D.C. as a George Soros-funded liberal think tank that continues to exert public policy influence on both the Obama administration and the Clinton presidential campaign.

### **FBI investigates Podesta Group's Russian ties**

CNN further reported on Aug. 19 the Podesta Group had issued a statement affirming the firm has retained the boutique Washington-based law <http://www.capdale.com> firm Caplin & Drysdale “to determine if we were misled by the Centre for a Modern Ukraine or any other individuals with potential ties to foreign governments or political parties.”

The Podesta Group statement issued to CNN continued: "When the Centre became a client, it certified in writing that 'none of the activities of the Centre are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed or subsidized in whole or in part by a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.' We relied on that certification and advice from counsel in registering and reporting under the Lobbying Disclosure Act rather than the Foreign Agents Registration Act.”



The CNN statement concluded with the statement, “We will take whatever measures are necessary to address this situation based on Caplin & Drysdale's review, including possible legal action against the Centre.”

In breaking the story that the Podesta Group had hired Caplin & Drysdale, Buzz Feed [https://www.buzzfeed.com/rosiegray/top-lobbying-firm-hires-outside-counsel-in-ukraine-manafort?utm\\_term=.duLexkeKBx#.rj4gn3gmln](https://www.buzzfeed.com/rosiegray/top-lobbying-firm-hires-outside-counsel-in-ukraine-manafort?utm_term=.duLexkeKBx#.rj4gn3gmln) reported on Aug. 19, that both the Podesta Group and Manafort’s D.C. political firm were working under contract with the same group advising Yanukovich and his Ukrainian Party of Regions – namely the non-profit European Centre for a Modern Ukraine based in Brussels.

On Dec. 20, 2013, Reuters reported <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-ukraine-lobbying-idUSBRE9BJ1B220131220#6oTXxKZp25obYxzF.99> the European Centre for a Modern Ukraine paid \$900,000 to the Podesta Group for a two-year contract aimed at improving the image of the Yanukovich government in the United States that the Podesta Group told Reuters they were implementing through contacts with key congressional Democrats.

### **Podesta Group undermines Democratic Party narrative attacking Manafort and Trump**

Mainstream media attention has focused on the contract Manafort’s K-Street firm Davis, Manafort & Freedman had tracing back to 2007 with Yanukovich’s political party, Ukraine’s Party of Regions, [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06KIEV473\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06KIEV473_a.html) to perform an “extreme makeover,” repositioning the party from being perceived as a “haven for Donetsk-based mobsters and oligarchs” into that of a legitimate political party.

On Feb. 21, 2014, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29761799> Russian leader Vladimir Putin helped then President Yanukovich to flee violent protests seeking to oust him from office, by flaying out of Ukraine and traveling through Crimea, to arrive Russia, where he has remained, trying desperately to restore himself to power back home in Kiev.

In Manafort’s case, opponents have failed to document Manafort ever received some \$12.7 million in some 22 previously undisclosed cash payments from Yanukovich’s pro-Russian party as supposedly documented by “black ledger” entries revealed by Ukraine’s National Anti-Corruption



Bureau. Yet, this “evidence” was sufficient for New York Times reporters to conclude <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/15/us/politics/paul-manafort-ukraine-donald-trump.html> that Manafort had hidden back-channel ties to Putin financed by under-the-table payments arranged via Ukraine.

From there, the Democratic Party narrative <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-08-15/ukraine-documents-detail-cash-payments-to-paul-manafort> charges Manafort never registered as a foreign agent with the U.S. Justice Department that would only have been required if he was contracted with the Ukrainian government, not with a political party in the Ukraine, and that Manafort transferred his close relationship with Putin (via Yanukovich) to the Trump campaign.

From there, the Democratic Party narrative continues to suggest Manafort’s close relationship to the Kremlin allowed him to position the Trump campaign to receive a dump of hacked emails that embarrassed the Clinton campaign by exposing the efforts Debbie Wasserman Schultz, as chairman of the DNC, took to rig the primaries for Hillary, to the distinct disadvantage of challenger, Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The entire Democratic Party narrative is thrown into disarray if it turns out the Podesta brothers, via the Podesta Group, have tighter and more easily documentable financial ties to Russia, involving far greater numbers than have ever been suggested to tie Manafort to Russia via Ukraine.

### **Podesta Group, D.C. lobbyist for Russian bank accused in Ukraine of terrorist ties**

Among the revelations made public through the 11.5 million documents leaked by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists detailing the legal and financial arrangements behind secretive off-shore banking transactions dating back to the 1970s was the disclosure <http://observer.com/2016/04/panama-papers-reveal-clintons-kremlin-connection/> Russia’s largest bank, the state-owned Sberbank, uses the Podesta Group as its registered lobbyist in Washington.

“Sberbank (Savings Bank in Russian) engaged the Podesta Group to help its public image—leading Moscow financial institutions not exactly being known for their propriety and wholesomeness—and specifically to help lift some of the pain of sanctions placed on Russia in the aftermath of the

Kremlin's aggression against Ukraine, which has caused real pain to the country's hard-hit financial sector," <http://observer.com/2016/04/panama-papers-reveal-clintons-kremlin-connection/> wrote former National Security Agency analyst and counterintelligence officer <http://observer.com/author/john-r-schindler/> John R. Schindler in an article entitled "Panama Papers Reveal Clinton's Kremlin Connection" published by the Observer on April 7, 2016.

"It's hardly surprising that Sberbank sought the help of Democratic insiders like the Podesta Group to aid them in this difficult hour, since they clearly understand how American politics work," Schindler continued.

"The question is why the Podesta Group took Sberbank's money," Schindler asked. "That financial institution isn't exactly hiding in the shadows—it's the biggest bank in Russia, and its reputation leaves a lot to be desired. Nobody acquainted with Russian finance was surprised that Sberbank wound up in the Panama Papers."

Schindler noted that since the 1990s, Sberbank has grown to be Russia's dominant bank, controlling nearly 30 percent of Russia's aggregate banking assets and employing a quarter-million people. The majority stockholder in Sberbank is Russia's Central Bank, making Sberbank functionally an arm of the Russian government, though officially Sberbank is a private institution.

"Certainly Western intelligence is well acquainted with Sberbank, noting its close relationship with Vladimir Putin and his regime. Funds moving through Sberbank are regularly used to support clandestine Russian intelligence operations, while the bank uses its offices abroad as cover for the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service or SVR," Schindler pointed out.

A NATO counterintelligence official explained that Sberbank, which has outposts in almost two dozen foreign countries, "functions as a sort of arm of the SVR outside Russia, especially because many of its senior employees are 'former' Russian intelligence officers." Inside the country, Sberbank has an equally cosy relationship with the Federal Security Service or FSB, Russia's powerful domestic intelligence agency.

On April 17, 2014, the Moscow Times reported <https://themoscowtimes.com/articles/ukraine-charges-russias-sberbank-with->

[financing-terrorism-34125](#) Ukraine opened criminal proceedings against Sberbank and 13 other banks on suspicion of “financing terrorism.”

Schindler noted the Ukrainian criminal infestation concluded Sberbank had distributed millions of dollars in illegal aid to Russian-backed separatists fighting in eastern Ukraine, with the bank serving as “a witting supporter of Russian aggression against Ukraine.”

On April 5, 2016, <http://freebeacon.com/issues/panama-papers-implicate-podesta-client/> Lachlan Markay reporting in the Washington Free Beacon published <http://soprweb.senate.gov/index.cfm?event=getFilingDetails&filingID=8a5bd4fb-2687-4cdf-9906-0a65f4d8d52b&filingTypeID=1> the lobbying registration form the Podesta Group filed with the U.S. government proving Sberbank had contracted with the Podesta Group to advance their interests with banking, trade, and foreign relations.

Markay further reported that according to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a consortium of journalists exploring the Panama Papers leak, Sberbank and Troika Dialog have ties to companies used by members of Putin’s inner circle to funnel state resources into lucrative private investments.

“Some of these companies were initially connected to the Troika Dialog investment fund, which was controlled and run by Sberbank after the bank bought the Troika Dialog investment bank. Troika and Sberbank declined to comment,” Markay noted the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, concluded <https://www.occrp.org/en/panamapapers/the-secret-caretaker/> in a report published in April 2016.

On March 30, 2016, Politico reported <http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/politico-influence/2016/03/etsy-registers-podesta-for-sberbank-lend-lease-cov-for-bacardi-livingston-for-curacao-and-st-maarten-pizza-for-hillary-213495> the Podesta Group registered to lobby for the U.S. subsidiary of Sberbank to see if relief could be obtained for the bank in the easing of U.S. sanctions against Russia for Russia’s role in the Ukraine conflict.

## **The Podesta Group and the Russian uranium scam**

On Aug. 20, 2016, Breitbart reporter Jerome Hudson <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/08/20/fbi-doj-launch-probe-firm-clinton-campaign-chairman-john-podesta/> documented that the Podesta Group was paid a total of \$180,000 <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/clientlbs.php?id=D000065156&year=2015> according to public records for the consulting work done under contract with the Russia-controlled firm Uranium One in 2012, 2014, and 2015.

The Daily Caller reported on April 29, 2015, <http://dailycaller.com/2015/04/29/firm-co-founded-by-hillarys-campaign-chair-lobbies-for-russias-uranium-one/> that the Podesta group was to lobby the State Department while Hillary was secretary of state, with \$40,000 of the total paid to lobby the State Department, the Senate, and the National Security Council on “international mining projects.”

As first documented in Peter Schweizer’s bestselling book “Clinton Cash,” and confirmed in Jerome Corsi’s bestselling book “Partners in Crime: The Clinton’s Scheme to Monetize the White House,” Uranium One directed millions to the Clinton Foundation as the Russian government gained ownership of the company.

New York Times reporters Jo Becker and Mike McIntire, in an article entitled “Cash Flowed to Clinton Foundation Amid Russian Uranium Deal,” that the newspaper printed on April 23, 2015, [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/24/us/cash-flowed-to-clinton-foundation-as-russians-pressed-for-control-of-uranium-company.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/24/us/cash-flowed-to-clinton-foundation-as-russians-pressed-for-control-of-uranium-company.html?_r=2) documented the tie between the Russians and the Clinton Foundation as the Uranium One deal evolved.

“As the Russians gradually assumed control of Uranium One in three separate transactions from 2009 to 2013, Canadian records show, a flow of cash made its way to the Clinton Foundation,” Becker and McIntire wrote.

“Uranium One’s chairman used his family foundation to make four donations totaling \$2.35 million,” the New York Times reporters continued. “Those contributions were not publicly disclosed by the Clintons, despite an agreement Mrs. Clinton had struck with the Obama White House to publicly identify all donors. Other people with ties to the company made donations as well.”

Becker and McIntire further noted that shortly after the Russians announced their intention to acquire a majority stake in Uranium One, Bill Clinton received \$500,000 for a Moscow speech from a Russian investment bank with links to the Kremlin that was promoting Uranium One stock.

CIFUS is the acronym for <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/international/Pages/Committee-on-Foreign-Investment-in-US.aspx> the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, the inter-agency committee of the U.S. government, operating out of the U.S. Treasury, that is responsible to review and authorize transactions of a U.S. business that could result in a foreign person or entity undermining U.S. national security interests.

As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton was a member of CIFUS and she was the only presidential candidate in 2008 to make an issue of the importance of strengthening CIFUS to protect U.S. economic sovereignty and national security.

In October 2010, CIFUS <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/05/04/clinton-cash-uranium-deal-approved-by-foreign-investment-committee-52-days-after-shareholders-finalized-takeover/> reviewed and approved the Rosatom acquisition of majority control in Uranium One before the deal was done.

In 2013, Rosatom <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/07/02/senate-judiciary-committee-chairman-demands-doj-answer-questions-about-hillarys-role-in-uranium-deal/> acquired all remaining shares of Uranium One. Becker and McIntire estimated that by 2015, after getting CIFUS approval, the Russians ended up controlling one-fifth of all uranium production capacity in the United States.

### **Imam Fethullah Gullen's ties to Clinton Foundation and Podesta Group**

In the wake of the recent coup attempt in Turkey, Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has mounted an aggressive crackdown against Imam Fethulla Gulen and his followers, known as Gulenists.

Erdoğan, who was once allied with Gulen, has even personally asked President Obama to extradite the 74-year-old guru, who has lived in self-exile in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains since 1999.

State Department emails produced as part of a Judicial Watch FOIA request include an email dated April 1, 2009 in which a Gulen follower named Gokhan Ozkok asked Clinton deputy chief of staff Huma Abedin for help in connecting one of his allies to President Obama.

Ozkok is founding board member of the Turkish Cultural Center and part of a network of businesses and non-profits affiliated with the Gulen movement, also known as Hizmet.

On July 13, 2016, the Daily Caller <http://dailycaller.com/2016/07/13/new-ties-emerge-between-clinton-and-mysterious-islamic-cleric/> reported Ozkok served as national finance co-chair of the pro-Clinton Ready PAC.

He gave \$10,000 to the committee in 2014 and \$2,700 to Clinton's campaign last year.

The Daily Caller also noted Ozkok is listed on the Turkish Cultural Center's website (a reference that apparently has been scrubbed since the publication of that information) as a member of the Clinton Global Initiative, one of the non-profit arms of the Clinton Foundation, who has given between \$25,000 and \$50,000 to the Clinton charity.

The Daily Caller further reported a link between Gulenists and the Clinton orbit was revealed in a lobbying registration disclosure filed on May 2, 2016, with the U.S. Senate.

The lobbying disclosure filed by the Podesta Group with the Senate shows that a Gulen-aligned group called the Alliance for Shared Values hired the Clinton-connected Podesta Group to lobby Congress on its behalf. According to the Daily Caller report, the group apparently seeks to lobby for the "promotion of peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue."

### **John Podesta briefly served as Clinton Foundation CEO**

According to a New York Times report <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/14/us/politics/unease-at-clinton-foundation-over-finances-and-ambitions.html?hp&r=1&&pagewanted=all> published Aug. 13, 2013, in 2011, a wave of midlevel program staff members departed the Clinton Foundation, "reflecting the frustration of

much of the foundation's policy personnel with the old political hands running the organization.”

Around that time, in 2011, Bruce Lindsey, then the Clinton Foundation's CEO, suffered a stroke, underscoring concerns about the foundation's line of succession. John D. Podesta, a chief of staff in Mr. Clinton's White House, stepped in for several months as temporary chief executive.