



Palmer Report on Trump-Russia

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Summary

After Donald Trump was hit hard by the 2008 economic collapse and was unable to continue borrowing money from U.S. banks, he became a vulnerable target of Vladimir Putin and his Russian associates. Russia funneled Trump more than a billion dollars in loans and loan guarantees through a German bank. Russia bought a house from Trump and vastly overpaid him for it. Russia offered him a stake in an oil company. Russia lured him to Moscow and created blackmail material on him. Putin surrounded Trump with Russian operatives, and co-opted people who were already surrounding him. Russia used a carrot and stick approach in which Trump would find overwhelming success if he played along, and find ruin if he didn't. The Russian government oversaw every major aspect of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. That level of orchestration appears to have extended into the transition period and continues now that Trump is in the White House, in exchange for appeasing imperialistic moves and for removing U.S. sanctions against Russia.

This report lays out the details of the above summary, and includes supporting source links to trusted news outlets for verification. Ongoing reporting on Trump-Russia can be found on the Palmer Report website.

Donald Trump's financial collapse circa 2008

After the U.S. economy collapsed in 2008, Donald Trump filed his sixth corporate bankruptcy in 2009. Trump Entertainment Resorts filed Chapter 11, causing Trump to lose control of his own company. (source: PolitiFact – <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jun/21/hillary-clinton/yep-donald-trumps-companies-have-declared-bankrupt/>).

This led a number of U.S. banks to stop lending Trump money altogether. This forced Trump to remain afloat by relying heavily on German based Deutsche bank, which over the years has loaned billions of dollars to him and his associates. (source: Wall Street Journal – <https://www.wsj.com/articles/when-donald-trump-needs-a-loan-he-chooses-deutsche-bank-1458379806>). Trump also became deeply in debt to a government-controlled bank in China (source: The Hill – <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/presidential-campaign/302216-how-much-money-does-the-trump-organization-owe>).

Deutsche Bank has recently admitted to a years-long pattern of laundering billions of dollars in Russian money to clients in places like New York City (source: CNN – <http://money.cnn.com/2017/01/31/investing/deutsche-bank-us-fine-russia-money-laundering/>).

Deutsche Bank laundered the money from Russia to New York through Bank of Cyprus at a time when Wilbur Ross was its Vice Chairman and was in a position to facilitate. Trump later went on to appoint Wilbur Ross as his Secretary of Commerce (source: Bloomberg – <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-12-22/wilbur-ross-seen-cutting-bank-of-cyprus-ties-to-work-for-trump>).

Trump recently fired U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara after he announced his intention to pursue Deutsche Bank's Russian money laundering scheme in New York (source: Rachel Maddow – <http://www.msnbc.com/transcripts/rachel-maddow-show/2017-03-13>). Donald Trump appears to have fired Bharara to prevent him from exposing that Russia had been funneling money through Deutsche Bank via the Bank of Cyprus to Trump.

Trump's relationship to Russia prior to 2016 campaign

Events of 2008

In 2008, a financially struggling Donald Trump sold his Maison de L'Amitie property in Florida to Russian oligarch Dmitry Rybolovlev for more than twice what it appeared to be worth. Rybolovlev had no use for the property and ultimately decided to tear it down (source: CNN – <http://money.cnn.com/2016/07/27/news/donald-trump-russian-deal-mansion/>).

There was no motivation for Rybolovlev to have bought the house at all, let alone to have massively overpaid for it, other than to funnel money to Trump. This is the same Dmitry Rybolovlev whose private plane has flown in to various U.S. cities at the exact same time Donald Trump was in those cities, during and since the campaign (source: McClatchy – <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/white-house/article136939868.html>).

Prior to 2013, Rybolovlev also owned a 9.9% share in the aforementioned Bank of Cyprus, which appears to have facilitated the laundering of Russian money through Deutsche Bank to Donald Trump in New York (source: Business Insider – <http://www.businessinsider.com/dmitry-rybolovlev-bank-of-cyprus-2013-3>).

In 2008, Donald Trump Jr. told Russian media that “Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross section of a lot of our assets.” In 2014, Eric Trump told a reporter that his father's business is heavily funded by Russia (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/news/eric-trump-blows-admits-donald-trump-really-financial-puppet-russia/2643/>). Despite these admissions by his sons, Donald Trump Sr. has claimed that he has no financial dealings with Russia (source: USA Today – <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/03/28/trump-business-past-ties-russian-mobsters-organized-crime/98321252/>)

In subsequent years, a pattern emerged in which a large number of Donald Trump's real estate investors and business associates were accused of having connections to Russian organized crime. These alleged Russian

mafia members were connected to Trump SoHo Hotel as well as a number of additional Trump properties in New York and Florida. (source: USA Today – <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/03/28/trump-business-past-ties-russian-mobsters-organized-crime/98321252/>).

One of Trump's business associates was Felix Sater, who was convicted for his dealings with the Russian mafia and appears to have subsequently become an FBI informant (source: Forbes – <https://www.forbes.com/sites/richardbehar/2016/10/03/donald-trump-and-the-felon-inside-his-business-dealings-with-a-mob-connected-hustler/#2dfb184c2282>). The FBI has recently arrested ten crime family members in New York with alleged ties to Sater, and thus to Trump and Russia (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/news/fbi-arrests-ten-people-in-new-york-city-with-alleged-ties-to-donald-trump-and-russian-mafia/2090/>).

Events of 2014

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, a puppet of the Kremlin who had been elected by U.S. political operative Paul Manafort, was ousted by the people of Ukraine. This cost Vladimir Putin control of Ukraine, an issue which he then became obsessed with, and which went on to play a major role in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Manafort went on to become chairman of Trump's campaign. Trump consistently took Putin's side on the Ukraine issue during the election. After Trump took office, his longtime personal attorney Michael Cohen and a handful of other individuals delivered a Kremlin-backed plan to Michael Flynn which called for Trump to help oust the President of Ukraine in favor of a Russian puppet. (source: New York Times – https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/19/us/politics/donald-trump-ukraine-russia.html?_r=0). Shortly thereafter, one of the collaborators Alex Oronov died. Another collaborator, Andrey Artemenko, blamed the outing of the plot for Oronov's death. Oronov lived in a Trump building when he died (source: Palmer Report – <https://www.palmerreport.com/opinion/trump-russia-conspirator-alex-oronov-dies-suspiciously-he-lived-in-donald-trumps-building/1786/>).

Trump campaign's suspicious behavior with Russia

Events of December 2015

Retired Lt. General Michael Flynn, recently fired from the Defense Intelligence Agency due to his increasingly erratic behavior, was seated next to Vladimir Putin at a dinner in Moscow. It was later revealed that Flynn had been paid \$40,000 to attend the banquet by a Russian television station funded by the Kremlin (source: New York Daily News – <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/michael-flynn-fire-receiving-40g-2015-moscow-visit-article-1.2977298>). Just two months later, Donald Trump hired Flynn as a campaign foreign policy adviser despite his poor reputation. (source: CNN – <http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/26/politics/michael-flynn-donald-trump-vp-search/>).

Milwaukee Sheriff David A. Clarke was also in Moscow on the same day that Flynn dined with Putin (source: Twitter – <https://twitter.com/SheriffClarke/status/675022833806897153>). Clarke went on to become a Donald Trump campaign surrogate.

Jill Stein also dined at the same table with Michael Flynn and Vladimir Putin. Stein was a liberal third party presidential candidate who siphoned votes from Hillary Clinton and indirectly improved Donald Trump's chances of winning. Whether or not Jill Stein was involved in any Trump-Russia conspiracy, she is a material witness to the December 2015 dinner table conversation between Flynn and Putin (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/opinion/material-witness-jill-stein-donald-trump-russia/1707/>).

Events of March 2016

Jeff Sessions, at the time a U.S. Senator and informal Trump campaign adviser, arranged a meeting between Donald Trump and Carter Page (source: CBS News affiliate in Alabama – <http://whnt.com/2016/03/21/alabama-sen-jeff-sessions-arranges-meeting-between-donald-trump-influential-republicans/>).

Before joining the Donald Trump campaign, Carter Page had previously spent years working for a bank in Moscow (source: CNN – <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/04/politics/carter-page-russia-donald-trump/>).

Carter Page appears to have first been brought into the fold by Jeff Sessions' chief of staff Rick Dearborn, who has since been named a Deputy Chief of Staff of Donald Trump's White House (source: Politico – <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/09/the-mystery-of-trumps-man-in-moscow-214283>).

It's still unclear, though crucial, as to how Sessions and Dearborn first found a Russian operative like Carter Page and why they delivered him to the Donald Trump campaign.

Events of April 2016

Donald Trump gave his first foreign policy speech of his 2016 campaign at the Mayflower hotel. He spoke of an “easing of tensions” between the U.S. and Russia. Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak attended the speech, and Trump greeted him warmly backstage before the speech (source: Wall Street Journal – <https://www.wsj.com/articles/donald-trump-goes-his-own-way-with-vladimir-putin-1463172396>).

Jeff Sessions also attended the speech and also met backstage with the Russian Ambassador (source: Politico – <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/03/sergey-kislyak-russian-ambassador-profile-235625?cmpid=sf>). Sessions later lied about this meeting, as well as two other meetings he had with Kislyak, while under oath during his Attorney General confirmation hearings.

Events of early July 2016

Carter Page traveled to Moscow on July 7th to give a pro-Russia speech, raising eyebrows, as he was a Donald Trump campaign adviser at the time. The Trump campaign had given him formal approval to make the Moscow trip (source: USA Today – <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/03/07/campaign-granted-page-permission-moscow-trip/98874648/>).

Computer scientists discovered what appeared to be a private email server inside Trump Tower which only communicated with a very small handful of internet addresses, most notably Alfa Bank in Russia. (source: Slate – http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/cover_story/2016/10/was_a_server_registered_to_the_trump_organization_communicating_with_russia.html).

Traffic on this Trump Tower email server spiked on the exact days in July in which Carter Page was in Moscow for his speech, suggesting it was used to communicate with him during his trip. Eventually the Trump Tower email server was shut down entirely on September 23rd. Just three days later, Carter Page announced he had left the Trump campaign, suggesting that it no longer served a purpose once Page quit. (source: Daily Kos – <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/12/18/1612323/-The-Trump-Server-Files-Part-V-Paul-Manafort-Carter-Page-and-the-Server-Quiet-Periods>).

Among the Trump Tower email server's very few other approved internet addresses for communication: a company called Spectrum Health in Michigan. This company is controlled by Betsy DeVos and her husband Dick DeVos. Trump later went on to choose Betsy DeVos as his Secretary of Education (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/opinion/russian-email-donald-trump-betsy-devos-server/1484/>).

All parties involved have claimed that this communication was nothing more than spam marketing email. However, that would be impossible because this was a private server which approved a finite number of entities for communication, and spam from unwanted sources could not have found its way to the server.

Events of summer 2016

The FBI first obtained a FISA surveillance warrant on Donald Trump campaign adviser Carter Page (source: Washington Post – https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/fbi-obtained-fisa-warrant-to-monitor-former-trump-adviser-carter-page/2017/04/11/620192ea-1e0e-11e7-ad74-3a742a6e93a7_story.html)

Mike Pence had been using a private America Online email address for government business, including sensitive intel, while he was Governor of Indiana. Just as Donald Trump was choosing Pence as his running mate, his private emails were hacked. The hacker never released them. Russia may have hacked Pence's email upon learning that he would be Trump's running mate, in order to obtain and hold blackmail material on Pence in case he became Trump's Vice President (source: Vox – <http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/3/3/14801152/mike-pence-aol-email>).

Events of Republican National Convention in July 2016

At the Republican National Convention beginning on July 18th, three Donald Trump campaign advisers – Jeff Sessions, J.D. Gordon and Carter Page – met with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, who had traveled to Cleveland for the convention. Russian GRU intel agent Konstantin Kilimnik also traveled to the convention. As a result, the Republican Party platform was then altered to bring it into alignment with Russia's views on Ukraine. Gordon later asserted that it was Trump himself who led the charge in the platform change, and that Trump had been pushing for it since March 2016 – the same month Page joined the campaign (source: USA Today – <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/03/02/exclusive-two-other-trump-advisers-also-spoke-russian-envoy-during-gop-convention/98648190/>).

On July 27th, just a few days after Donald Trump had given Russia the party platform change it wanted, he held a press conference and publicly asked Russia to hack into Hillary Clinton's emails (source: Politico – <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/trump-putin-no-relationship-226282>).

Trump then declined to hold any further press conferences for the bulk of the election cycle, suggesting he was afraid of facing followup questions about why he had asked Russia to commit a crime against his opponent, and what it might reveal about his relationship with Russia.

Events of Democratic National Convention in July 2016

Just before the start of the Democratic National Convention, a Russian government hacker known as “Guccifer 2.0” released emails which had been hacked and stolen from the Democratic National Committee, with the clear intent of helping Donald Trump by harming Hillary Clinton and the Democrats. Russia released the emails through WikiLeaks.

Two weeks later, Donald Trump’s decades-long friend and unofficial campaign adviser Roger Stone began bragging that he’d had communications with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Shortly thereafter, Stone began accurately predicting the Guccifer/WikiLeaks release of emails stolen from Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta. (source: CNN – <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/20/politics/kfile-roger-stone-wikileaks-claims/>).

Stone later admitted that he’d had direct contact with Guccifer 2.0 (source: New York Times – <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/20/politics/kfile-roger-stone-wikileaks-claims/>). Stone claimed the contact was minimal and took place via Twitter direct messages. But he later slipped up and admitted that he knew Guccifer 2.0 was a woman, referring to the hacker as “her” – a detail he could not have learned unless he had more thorough contact and conversations than mere incidental Twitter direct messages (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/politics/roger-stone-slips-up-and-reveals-personal-detail-about-trump-russia-hacker-guccifer-2-0/2083/>)

Events of early November 2016

The day before the election, Russia announced that it would sell a 19.5% stake of its oil company Rosneft to undisclosed private parties (source: Reuters – <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-rosneft-privatisation-idUSKBN1321V5>). Christopher Steele’s Trump-Russia dossier suggests that Russia may have used Carter Page as a go-between for selling the 19% stake to Donald Trump in exchange for Trump lifting Russian sanctions once in office.

Events of late November 2016

On November 17th, Donald Trump announced Russian-connected Michael Flynn was his choice for National Security Adviser. On November 18th, Congressman Elijah Cummings sent a letter to Mike Pence's office, informing him that Michael Flynn had been paid more than half a million dollars by a Turkish government intermediary. Trump and Pence gave Flynn the National Security Adviser job anyway. Pence went on to lie on national television about not having known this information, raising the question of why Pence was covering for Trump's Russia scandal. (source: Business Insider – <http://www.businessinsider.com/elijah-cummings-letter-to-mike-pence-about-flynn-turkey-lobbying-2017-3>).

It was later revealed that Flynn had been trying to get his hands on classified U.S. intel about Russia during the transition period (source: Associated Press – <https://www.apnews.com/b109774705594ae887a86b337c444e6b>).

Flynn went on to register with the United States government as a paid foreign agent. (source: NY Daily News – <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/michael-flynn-registers-foreign-agent-earned-530k-lobbying-article-1.2993217>).

Events of December 2016

Donald Trump's son in law Jared Kushner held a secret meeting at Trump Tower in New York with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. (source: Los Angeles Times – <http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-essential-washington-updates-jared-kushner-met-with-russian-1488499538-htmllstory.html>). The meeting was so secretive that Kushner and Kislyak were snuck in through a back door of the building (source: Daily Mail – <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4276780/Jared-met-Russian-ambassador-too.html>).

Then, at Kislyak's behest, Kushner met with Russian bank chairman Sergey Gorkov later in the same month. Gorkov has close ties to Vladimir Putin (source: CNN – <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/27/politics/kushner-meeting-russian-banker-tied-to-putin/index.html>).

Events of late December 2016

On December 29th, the day President Barack Obama announced sanctions against Russia, Michael Flynn made five phone calls to Kislyak. Flynn publicly denied that these phone calls involved any discussion of the sanctions. Unbeknownst to Flynn, the calls were picked up by U.S. surveillance.

In late January of 2017, Acting Attorney General Sally Yates informed Donald Trump's White House that Flynn was lying about the nature of his phone calls with Kislyak. Trump did not fire Flynn after learning this information. Instead he fired Sally Yates a few days later, using their disagreement about the Muslim ban as an excuse. In hindsight, Trump may have fired Yates to try to protect Flynn, who had deep ties to Russia. (source: Washington Post – https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/justice-department-warned-white-house-that-flynn-could-be-vulnerable-to-russian-blackmail-officials-say/2017/02/13/fc5dab88-f228-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401_story.html?utm_term=.4fd4019e467f).

Trump didn't nudge Flynn out of the White House until after the news of Flynn's lies had leaked to the media.

The Trump administration has since taken steps to try to prevent Sally Yates from testifying in congressional hearings into Trump and Russia (source: Washington Post – https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-administration-sought-to-block-sally-yates-from-testifying-to-congress-on-russia/2017/03/28/82b73e18-13b4-11e7-9e4f-09aa75d3ec57_story.html?utm_term=.11d392d22407).

Events of March 2017

On March 20th of 2017, during House Intelligence Committee public hearings, FBI Director James Comey confirmed that the FBI has an active investigation into the Donald Trump campaign with regard to Russian election meddling. Director Comey did not confirm or rule out the names of any of Trump's associates. However, committee members inquired as to

whether or not former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort was a target of the investigation.

Moments later, Donald Trump sent Press Secretary Sean Spicer to the White House Briefing Room to make false claims aimed at minimizing the length of Manafort's tenure in the campaign and the importance of his role. The next day evidence leaked out through the media that Manafort had been paid large sums of money by an intermediary of Vladimir Putin (source: Washington Post – https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/new-documents-say-trump-aide-hid-payments-from-pro-moscow-ukraine-party/2017/03/21/92ec85f2-0e11-11e7-9d5a-a83e627dc120_story.html?utm_term=.1759a0943e0c).

This suggested that Trump already knew Manafort was on on the Kremlin's payroll, and that something said during the hearings caused Trump to conclude that the FBI was onto Manafort, thus his desire to immediately distance himself from Manafort. It's known that Trump was watching the hearings live that day, because he was tweeting about them in real time.

Russia laundered the money to Manafort through Bank of Cyprus (source: Associated Press – <https://apnews.com/d43ef4166da6400ab45140978854bbbb/AP-Exclusive:-US-probes-banking-of-ex-Trump-campaign-chief>). This is the same Bank of Cyprus that Deutsche Bank used to launder money from Russia to clients in New York City (likely including Trump). This is also the same Bank of Cyprus that was run by Trump's Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and partially owned by Trump's Russian associate Dmitry Rybolovlev.

Events of late March 2017

House Intelligence Committee chair Devin Nunes attempted to sabotage his own committee's investigation into Donald Trump's Russia scandal by giving classified evidence in the investigation to Trump and then to the public (source: CNBC – <http://www.cnbc.com/2017/03/22/watch-devin-nunes-press-conference-about-russia-investigation.html>). This led to ethics investigations of Nunes, forcing him to remove himself from the investigation.

Events of April 2017

Additional reporting from Trump-Russia dossier author Christopher Steele alleged that the Russian hackers who influenced the 2016 election had been paid by the Trump Organization itself (source: The Guardian – <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/apr/28/trump-russia-intelligence-uk-government-m16-kremlin>).

Donald Trump's inauguration fund was revealed to have been funded by a number of fake people and fake companies, as well as by Russian oligarchs (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/politics/donald-trumps-inauguration-fund-fake-people-fake-companies-fake-addresses-vacant-lots/2394/>).

Weeks after Paul Manafort announced through his spokesman that he would be registering with the U.S. government as a paid pro-Kremlin foreign agent, the lobbying firm working for him on the matter officially registered as a foreign agent (source: Chicago Tribune – <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/ct-manafort-lobbying-firm-foreign-agent-20170428-story.html>).

Prominent Russians who have died suspiciously amid Trump-Russia scandal

Twelve prominent individuals born in Russia or the Soviet Union have died under suspicious circumstances during the course of the Donald Trump campaign and administration. Most of them have direct connections to Trump, or to Vladimir Putin, or to the effort to expose Trump's Russian ties.

In January of 2017 a dossier written by former MI6 agent Christopher Steele was leaked to the public, which alleged numerous connections between Donald Trump and Russia. Two weeks later Oleg Erovinkin, a former KGB General who had helped a former MI6 agent to assemble the dossier, turned up dead in the back of a car in Russia (source: Telegraph – <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/27/mystery-death-ex-kgb-chief-linked-mi6-spys-dossier-donald-trump/>).

Sergei Mikhailov, who was believed to have been a U.S. intelligence asset within the Russian government, was dragged out of a meeting in Russia with a bag over his head and is now almost certainly dead as well. (source: USA Today – <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/01/26/report-arrested-russian-intel-officer-allegedly-spied-us/97094696/>).

Back in January a Ukrainian businessman named Alex Oronov (who was not a Russian but who was born in the Soviet Union) arranged a meeting between Donald Trump's attorney Michael Cohen and Russian mafia connected former Trump business associate Felix Sater, at the behest of Kremlin-controlled Ukrainian politician Andrey Artemenko. That meeting led to a Ukraine blackmail plan being delivered to Michael Flynn's office just before he resigned. Shortly after the plot was outed in the New York Times, Oronov died. Artemenko went on to assert that Oronov died as a direct result of the plot being exposed in the media. Oronov lived in one of Donald Trump's buildings in Florida at the time of his death. Oronov was also Cohen's in-law. (source: Palmer Report – <https://www.palmerreport.com/opinion/trump-russia-conspirator-alex-oronov-dies-suspiciously-he-lived-in-donald-trumps-building/1786/>).

Mikhail Lesin, a former aide to Vladimir Putin, dropped dead in a Washington DC hotel room. Russia initially floated the claim that he died of a heart attack, but the coroner's report revealed that his head had been bashed in (source: NPR – <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/03/11/470064826/former-putin-aide-died-of-blunt-force-injuries-in-d-c-medical-report-says>).

Sergey Krivov, an apparent Russian intel agent, was later found dead inside the Russian consulate in New York. Russia also claimed he'd had a heart attack. But in a familiar tune, the coroner later found evidence that his head had also been bashed in (source: BuzzFeed – https://www.buzzfeed.com/alimwatkins/the-strange-case-of-the-russian-diplomat-who-got-his-head-sm?utm_term=.hp0knd2Rq#.rrOpVG0qm).

Russia's Ambassador to the United Nations, Vitaly Churkin, dropped dead in New York in March. It was initially blamed on a heart attack. His death became suspicious when Donald Trump's State Department invoked diplomatic immunity to prevent Churkin's coroner report from becoming public knowledge (source: Time Magazine – <http://time.com/4698898/vitaly-churkin-heart-attack/>).

Former Russian politician Denis Voronenkov, who became an anti-Putin dissident and fled to Ukraine (source: CNN – <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/23/europe/ukraine-former-russian-lawmaker-denis-voronenkov-killed/>), was shot dead just one day after proof surfaced that Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort had been on the payroll of a Russian intermediary when he helped get Kremlin puppet Viktor Yanukovich elected. Voronenkov would have been a key witness in any criminal trial against Manafort in Ukraine. (source: CNN – <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/17/politics/manafort-ukraine/>).

Russian Interior Ministry official Nikolai Volkov was murdered in March of 2017 (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/news/nikolai-volkov-murdered-eleventh-trump-russia/2088/>).

Prominent anti-Putin Russian journalist Nikolai Andrushchenko was murdered in late April of 2017 (source: Radio Free Europe – <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-journalist-andrushchenko-dies-severe-beating/>

[28439320.html](#)).

Three additional Russian diplomats have been murdered during the Trump-Russia scandal. Andrey Malanin was found dead in his Athens apartment. The Russian Ambassador to Turkey, Andrey Karlov, was murdered on live television. Petr Polshikov was found shot to death in Moscow.

That makes a total of twelve prominent Russians who have died suspiciously during the Trump campaign and Trump-Russia scandal.

A thirteenth would-be victim survived. Nikolai Gorokhov was propelled out the fourth story window of his Moscow apartment just one day before he was scheduled to testify in defense of long deceased Russian dissident Sergei Magnitsky. Vladimir Putin is putting on a show trial to posthumously convict Magnitsky of false charges in an apparent attempt at smearing his reputation. The “Magnitsky Act” in the United States has cost Putin as much as \$80 billion per year; smearing Magnitsky’s reputation could make it easier for Donald Trump to get away with repealing the act named after him. (source: Palmer Report – <http://www.palmerreport.com/news/russian-thrown-out-window-before-he-could-testify-for-vladimir-putin-foe-donald-trump-connected/2009/>). Russian state-owned media later blamed Gorokhov’s fall from the fourth story window on an incredible story involving a bathtub accident (<https://www.palmerreport.com/news/kremlin-blames-bathtub-accident-for-russian-dissident-being-thrown-out-of-fourth-story-window/2017/>).

Former U.S. intel official Clinton Watts publicly testified before Congress in March of 2017 that the best way to get to the bottom of the Trump-Russia scandal was to “Follow the trail of dead Russians.” (source: CBS News – <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/russian-meddling-investigation-misinformation-tactics-senate-intelligence-committee/>).

Summation: Donald Trump and Russia

Vladimir Putin and Russia began targeting a depleted Donald Trump as a financial conduit to the West as early as 2008. Russia began entrapping Trump to ensure control over him in 2013. Putin brought multiple U.S. political figures to Moscow at the end of 2015, who shortly thereafter became Donald Trump campaign advisers or surrogates. Additional individuals with ties to Russia were also steered toward the Trump campaign. Multiple high ranking members of the Russian government maintained sustained contact and coordination with numerous members of the Trump campaign throughout the final ten months of the election, even as Trump himself increasingly steered his political positions in Russia's favor. That coordination and control appears to have continued into the Trump transition team and the Donald Trump White House.

The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the Donald Trump campaign took pro-Russia political positions, in exchange for the Russian government hacking into Trump's opposition and releasing that material whenever strategically beneficial to Trump's election prospects. Trump and/or his campaign advisers appear to be guilty of conspiring to commit the hacking crimes that Russia committed during the election. Those crimes included cyber theft against United States citizens, cyberterrorism against the United States itself, and treason if the Russian hacking is defined as an act of war.

Additional ongoing reporting on Donald Trump's Russia scandal can be found daily on the Palmer Report website at <http://www.palmerreport.com>

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