



Obama's Russian Summit Snowden Fit Can't Stop New Revelations To Come

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American civil libertarian and journalist Glenn Greenwald told a hearing of the Brazilian Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday that he has been speaking frequently to National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden since he left the Moscow airport, and Snowden "is very pleased with the debate that is arising in many countries around the world on internet privacy and U.S. spying. It is exactly the debate he wanted to inform."

There is more to come. Greenwald testified that he plans to release new revelations "within the next 10 days or so" on secret U.S. surveillance of the Internet, gleaned from some of the 15,000 to 20,000 classified NSA documents which he received from Snowden. He said that he has recruited the help of experts to evaluate some of the "very long and complex" documents received. The revelations could include more on U.S. government spying on Brazilian and other Ibero-American communications. Brazilian senators reportedly questioned Greenwald closely on NSA capabilities to spy on such Brazilian commercial secrets as its offshore oil reserves, as well as military and presidential activities.

In his London *Guardian* column the next day, Greenwald ripped into President Obama's cancellation of his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the grounds that Russia had "defied his personal directive to hand over Edward Snowden, despite the lack of an extradition treaty between the two nations."

From within the U.S. Establishment, University Professor Emeritus Richard Falk joined Greenwald in mocking Obama's fit over Russia's refusal to extradite Snowden as demanded. Falk headlined his August 8 op-ed, posted on Aljazeera, "Snowden's Asylum: 'It's the Law, Stupid'," as he made the point that not only does Russia not have an extradition treaty with the U.S., even if it had, espionage is "the quintessential 'political offense' in international law, and as such is routinely excluded from any list of extraditable offenses."

"Russia's grant of temporary refugee status to Snowden for one year was in full accord with the normal level of protection to be given to anyone accused of nonviolent political crimes in a foreign country, and pursued diplomatically and legally by the government that is seeking to indict and prosecute. In effect, for Russia to have turned Snowden over to the United States under these conditions would have been morally and politically

scandalous considering the nature of his alleged crimes," Falk wrote. And given the nature of what Snowden revealed, "if the world were composed of equal sovereign states and a global rule of law existed, the United States would have meekly apologized and, at the very least, promised to refrain from such behavior in the future."

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