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## **Pre-fascist America: We're losing the Republic - Jesselyn Radack**



Photo: EPA

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When Obama came in to office he said he was not going to look at all the crime that had been committed during the past four years. It was like a “Pact with the Devil”. Yet Obama did look back, at the people who exposed the crimes, not at the lawbreakers themselves. In part two of an interview with the VoR Jesselyn Radack, the National Security and Human Rights Director for the Government Accountability Project, spoke about those matters and discussed the case of Edward Snowden. She said it’s of no import that the U.S. government has said he is not a whistleblower. The criminals cannot classify the person who has uncovered them.

[Part 1 of the interview](#)

Regarding the unprecedented way the U.S. has gone after Snowden Jesselyn said: “Under international law it’s definitely illegal, for the persecuting country, in this case the U.S., to be pressuring the countries of refuge to deny or expel the person to whom asylum has been granted. The world sees how silly and ridiculous it is that President Obama continues to launch a worldwide manhunt for someone who has already been granted asylum by five countries!”

You are listening to an interview in progress with Jesselyn Radack, the National Security and Human Rights Director for the Government Accountability Project. You can find the previous parts to this interview on our website at [english.ruvr.ru](http://english.ruvr.ru).



**Robles:** *What about the leadership in the U.S., isn't there anyone in the government, senators or anybody, who wants to bring back some sort of concept of legality or accountability?*

**Radack:** Yes, there have been a group... There was a group of 26 members of Congress who said that they wanted to engage in debate and have a hearing about this and found this behavior ridiculous, but unfortunately since 9-11 Congress has been pretty much going along with everything that the presidents, both Bush and Obama, want and most of Congress is actually not informed.

So with the people who... For example, like with the latest, with the NSA programs, there were only about eight members of Congress read into these programs, and a couple of Congressmen, like Congressman Udall and Senators Udall and Wyden, said over and over that: "If Americans knew what was being done under these secret legal interpretations, they would be outraged!"

But no one knew what that was until Mr. Snowden came along, and "Hell Hath No Fury" like the kind of militarized, corporatized, industrial surveillance complex we've turned into. We are not behaving like a democracy at all. It's, like I said, it's embarrassing. It's horribly embarrassing at best and it's completely frightening and illegal at worst.

**Robles:** *What would you characterize the U.S. system right now as being? I have asked this to several Constitutional Lawyers, experts and stuff. Would you call it a Fascist State, or a Corporate Fascist State, or something different?*

**Radack:** I think we're on the road to Fascism.

Someone from East Germany said: "You know, we are a post-fascist state and you guys are pre-fascist state and you don't even realize it is happening."

Unfortunately, that is the way we have been behaving and certainly the checks and balances that have worked for better or worse, I mean, they have worked, not perfectly but, for 200 years, the better part of 200 years, they have worked reasonably well; now they are completely thrown of whack.

The courts have been prevented from hearing cases challenging the worst abuses, like torture and drones and secrete monitoring, because the Government comes in and asserts a State Secrets Privilege.

The Congress has basically been kowtowing to whatever the president wants, or they're being lied too also, I mean I should say "also", they're being lied to for example by the Director of National Intelligence James Clapper who got caught in a blatant lie, and all he did was write a letter saying "I said the least untrue thing possible".

**Robles:** *The "least untrue thing"?!?*

**Radack:** The "least untrue thing I could"! He ended up writing a letter of apology for not being clear when he completely lied.

We just... In the wake of Snowden revelations, have one person after another, we've had three major top people in the FBI and the Director of Intelligence and the Attorney General. All, basically, lie to Congress with impunity. There is no kind of "Contempt of Congress" or real kind of accountability there.

I feel like unfortunately, that lack of accountability has been going on since the Bush Administration.

When Obama came in to office he said he was going to look forward, not backwards, at all the crime that had been committed during the past four years. And that was like a pact with the devil, because if you just ignore past crimes, we're going to continue to commit crimes and he actually has shown that he is willing to look back, at the people who exposed the crimes, not at lawbreakers themselves.

**Robles:** *Now, Mr. Snowden made... He had a press conference there in the airport, at Sheremetyevo, it's not too far from me, and I found it interesting that U.S. Ambassador Michael McFaul called one of the human rights workers from Human Rights Watch to tell her*

– and I'm sure it was... It "seemed" like some sort of warning – that Mr Snowden was not a whistleblower, but a criminal.

**Radack:** Well... You know what? The government doesn't get to decide who is a whistleblower. Why would it be up to the lawbreaker to determine whether the person revealing their crimes... Whether it's legal?

The government always says so-and-so is not a whistleblower. They said that about Tom Drake who they now have also conceded is a whistleblower.

You become a whistleblower; you don't need the government face to "Bless it". You become a whistleblower by operation of law, by disclosing fraud, waste, abuse or illegality, which is exactly what Mr. Snowden did. And it's of no import that the government has said he is not a whistleblower.

**Robles:** *Isn't this kind of interference illegal? I mean the way they've been trying to interfere with Mr. Snowden's requests for asylum, etc.?*

**Radack:** Yes. Under international law it's definitely illegal, for the persecuting country, in this case the U.S., to be pressuring the countries of refuge to deny or expel the person to whom asylum has been granted.

It's completely inappropriate. That's exactly what is happening here and again it's really over the top. It's really... it's kind of this culmination of this war on information, that has been going on in America over the past 13 years since 9-11. And we have behaving in this abominable, embarrassing, deplorable way.

The President is literally driven to distraction by leaks, so-called "leaks", which I consider most often are disclosures about wrongdoing by his government. And I think right now the world sees how transparent this is, and how silly and ridiculous it is that President Obama continues to go with... To launch a worldwide manhunt for someone who has already been granted asylum by five countries.

**Robles:** *The lunacy of it! I mean, you would think... "The leader of a democratic country, he discovers somebody is committing war crimes, he would say: . 'Whoa! We've got to go after those people!' " Or someone is defrauding the government, for example, or, the NSA is spying on everybody. What happened to rule-of-law and morals in the U.S.?*

**Radack:** Well, we got lied to. In terms of our current elected leader, we thought he was going to be "Hope and Change", from the quite lawless Bush Administration and instead he has been more of the same and even worse.

**Robles:** *Even worse!*

**Radack:** Even worse. Instead of torturing people they're just going to "Drone" them from the face of the Earth.

Instead of intimidating whistleblowers, we're going to actually try to put them in jail for espionage. So, it's a very scary place and I think a lot of people feel we're losing the Republic. And we may be "too far gone", I hope that's not true, but it's certainly something that people are worried about.