

By Glenn Greenwald

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Numerous media outlets -- *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, and NPR, among others – last night published classified files on more than 700 past and present Guantanamo detainees. The leak was originally provided to WikiLeaks, which then gave them to the *Post*, NPR and others; the *NYT* and *The Guardian* claim to have received them from “another source” (WikiLeaks [suggested](#) the “other source” was Daniel Domscheit-Berg, a former WikiLeaks associate who WikiLeaks claims took, without authorization, many WikiLeaks files when he left).

The documents reveal vast new information about these detainees and, in particular, the shoddy and unreliable nature of the “evidence” used (both before and now) to justify their due-process-free detentions. There are several points worth noting about all this:

(1) Given that multiple media outlets have just published huge amounts of classified information, it is more difficult than ever to distinguish between WikiLeaks and, say, the *NYT* or the *Post* under the law. How could anyone possibly justify prosecuting WikiLeaks for disseminating classified information while not prosecuting these newspapers who have done exactly the same thing? If Dianne Feinstein, the DOJ and Newt Gingrich are eager to prosecute WikiLeaks for “espionage” – [and](#) [they](#) [are](#) – how can that not also sweep up these media outlets?

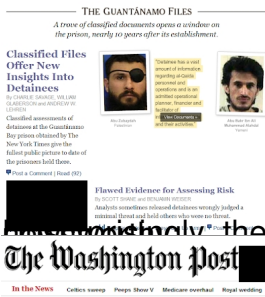
(2) Once again we find how much we now rely on whistleblowers in general – and WikiLeaks and (if he did what's accused) Bradley Manning in particular – to learn the truth and see the evidence about what the world's most powerful factions are actually doing. WikiLeaks is responsible for more newsworthy scoops over the last year than all media outlets combined: it's not even a close call. And if Bradley Manning is the leaker, he has done more than any other human being in our lifetime to bring about transparency and shine a light on what military and government power is doing.

(3) The difference among the various newspapers in how these leaks are being presented is stark, predictable and revealing. *The Guardian* emphasizes exactly what is most important about these documents: how oppressive is this American detention system, how unreliable the evidence is on which the accusations are based, and how so many people were put in cages for years without any justification:



On its front page, the *Telegraph* trumpets the “**more than 150 innocent people held at the U.S. prison**”

The *NYT*, by stark contrast, emphasizes how Dangerous and Menacing these Evil Terrorists are shown to be (while at least noting underneath that many were held without cause):



Washington Post is the most absurd of all; here's what they found most



highlight some of the most extreme incidents highlighted just some of the key points from that article. data/cu account why