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Oh shnitz

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EXCLUSIVE: Bezos investigation finds the Saudis obtained his private data [thedailybeast.com/jeff-bezos-inv...](#)

2,776 9:35 PM - Mar 30, 2019 



Bezos Investigation Finds the Saudis Obtained His Private Data
The National Enquirer's lawyer tried to get me to say there was no hacking.
[thedailybeast.com](#)

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We did not reach our conclusions lightly. The inquiry included a broad array of resources: investigative interviews with current and former AMI executives and sources, extensive discussions with top Middle East experts in the intelligence community, leading cyber security experts who have tracked Saudi spyware, discussions with current and former advisers to President Trump, Saudi whistleblowers, people who personally know the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (also known as MBS), people who work with his close associate Saud al-Qahtani, Saudi dissidents, and other targets of Saudi action, including writer/activist Iyad el-Baghdadi.

Experts with whom we consulted confirmed *New York Times* reports on the Saudi capability to “collect vast amounts of previously inaccessible data from smartphones in the air without leaving a trace—including phone calls, texts, emails”—and confirmed that hacking was a key part of the Saudi’s “extensive surveillance efforts that ultimately led to the killing of [*Washington Post*] journalist Jamal Khashoggi.”

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D28euQjX4AAEhhP.jpg>

As for the Saudi side of the equation: Not only does the kingdom have a close alliance with AMI—which owns the *Enquirer*, *Us Weekly*, the *Star*, *Globe*, Radar Online, and many other publications—but the Saudis have pursued investments and partnerships involving *Rolling Stone*, *Variety*, *Deadline*, the *Robb Report*, and *National Geographic*, among others.

Unlike these publications, it's clear that MBS considers the *Washington Post* to be a major enemy. Saudi Arabia is hardly the first repressive regime that seeks total control of the news media in its own country. Wanting to control the media in the United States—and using any means to do so—will hopefully prove to be an overreach.

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D28eunbX0AEo4fs.jpg>

“Our investigators and several experts concluded with high confidence that the Saudis had access to Bezos’ phone, and gained private information. As of today, it is unclear to what degree, if any, AMI was aware of the details.”

Some Americans will be surprised to learn that the Saudi government has been very intent on harming Jeff Bezos since last October, when the Post began its relentless coverage of Khashoggi’s murder.

Ffs I’m still in Epstein Barr mode so enjoy the highlights. My brain won’t allow for full thread. 🤔

Wait. Epstein Barr. That's a virus isn't it?

Fitting.

Fine...

FYI AMI, your lies telegraphed the truth.

Much was made about a recent front-page story in the WSJ, fingering Michael Sanchez as the Enquirer's source—but that information was first published almost seven weeks ago by The Daily Beast, after "multiple sources inside AMI" told The Beast the exact same thing.

The actual news in the Journal article was that its reporters were able to confirm a claim Michael Sanchez had been making:

 It was the Enquirer who first contacted Michael Sanchez about the affair, not the other way around.

AMI has repeatedly insisted they had only one source on their Bezos story, but the Journal reports that when the Enquirer began conversations with Michael Sanchez...they had ***"already been investigating whether Mr. Bezos and Ms. Sanchez were having an affair."

Michael Sanchez has since confirmed to Page Six that when the Enquirer contacted him back in July, they had already "seen text exchanges" between the couple.

If accurate, the WSJ and Page Six stories would mean, clearly and obviously, that the initial information came from other channels—another source or method.


Why did AMI's people work so hard to identify a source, and insist to the New York Times and others that he was their sole source for everything?

My best answer is contained in what happened next: AMI threatened to publish embarrassing photos of Jeff Bezos unless certain conditions were met. (These were photos that, for some reason, they had held back and not published in their first story on the Bezos affair, or any subsequent story.) While a brief summary of those terms has been made public before, others that I'm sharing are new—and they reveal a great deal about what was motivating AMI.

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D28pHwCWkAEWVhX.jpg>

AMI sent them an 8p contact to sign required they make a public statement, composed by AMI

then widely disseminated, saying the investigation concluded they hadn't relied upon

 "any form of electronic eavesdropping or hacking in their news-gathering process."

Um. Wut.

They never publicly said anything about electronic eavesdropping or hacking—

AMI also wanted them to say the story was not ...

“instigated, dictated or influenced in any manner by external forces, political or otherwise.”

External forces? Such a strange phrase.

We studied the well-documented and close relationship between MBS and AMI chairman, David Pecker. That alliance includes David Pecker bringing MBS intermediary Kacy Grine to a private White House meeting with President Trump and Jared Kushner. Mr. Pecker has also traveled to Saudi Arabia to meet with the Crown Prince. Though we don't know what was discussed in those private meetings, AMI's actions afterwards are telling. To coincide with MBS' March 2018 U.S. tour, AMI created a 100-page, ad-free, glossy magazine called *The New Kingdom*. Since MBS wasn't yet a notorious figure in the West (this was before the murder of Jamal Khashoggi), AMI's magazine introduced him to Americans as “the most influential Arab leader—transforming the world at 32,” and “improving lives of his people & hopes for peace.”

Omg the sarcasm is awesome.

The Associated Press reported that AMI sent an advance digital copy of their laudatory magazine to the Saudi Embassy three weeks before printing and distributing 200,000 issues. (Despite AP's substantial forensic evidence, the kingdom denied it received the magazine's content in advance. While we're on denials, the kingdom says Saudi Arabia had nothing to with the Bezos matter. The kingdom also says MBS had nothing whatsoever to do with the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.)

When AMI publicly insisted that nobody outside of their executives and editors "had any influence on this publication or its content," I guess they meant other than Kacy Grine, the very same MBS-intermediary Pecker had brought to The White House. I say that because AMI soon had to disclose to the Department of Justice National Security Division that their mystery magazine included content written by Grine, and that they also gave him the whole working draft for advance review, and that he suggested changes, and that they implemented his changes, and that he provided better photographs of MBS. With friends like AMI, you don't need... publicists.

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D28pl8YWsAAE6NI.jpg>

K so AMI/Pecker DEFINITELY did not go after Bezos bc external forces instigated it by using electronic eavesdropping or hacking devices while being influenced by political forces. Got it. 👍

