



### Significant Epstein Files Release Consequences Abroad Highlight the Lack of Similar Domestic Fallout Thus Far

The recent release of over 3 million pages of documents related to the Epstein files has seen a sharp divide in ramifications abroad compared to domestically here in the United States. At the international level, the network of political elites tied to the release have been facing intense scrutiny and public controversy, causing political fallout and resignations across Europe and elsewhere. In the United Kingdom, Peter Mandelson – former ambassador to the United States – resigned from the Labour Party and now faces a criminal investigation for relaying sensitive government information to the deceased convicted sex offender. This has triggered a major leadership crisis for the current U.K. government under Prime Minister Keir Starmer. In Slovakia, Miroslav Lajčák – a national security advisor to the Prime Minister Robert Fico – also resigned from his position in the aftermath of the Epstein files release. There were also significant consequences in Norway affecting an array of public officials including ambassadors, a former prime minister, and the country’s crown princess. Even this week, both Canada and the United Kingdom suspended ties to United Arab Emirates (UAE) firm DP World due to its CEO’s ties to Epstein. All told, outside of the United States, the release of the latest batch of files has resulted in immense pressure that has significantly harmed the credibility of individuals tied to them, making it difficult to maintain positions of power and a trustworthy public image.

Here in the United States, however, powerful figures whose names have been frequently found in the Epstein files have all but escaped any similar consequences thus far. This may be partially due to the fact that there is no concrete evidence tying specific figures to actual criminal acts, but despite this, ample documentation does shed light on extensive ties between notable public figures and Epstein – lending itself to understandable questions as to their potential awareness and involvement. At the very least, many observers have argued that there should be serious investigations into those who were found to have a long history of ties to Epstein, especially given the years of knowledge of his criminal activities and the massive scale of them as well. Of course, prosecutors must have evidence of specific illegal acts in order to build a case. Furthermore, statements alone are not enough for criminal prosecution; there must be witnesses willing to testify and time makes prosecution harder because evidence fades. For instance, records can be lost, physical evidence can disappear, and the statute of limitations may expire, but perhaps one of the most difficult things prosecutors are dealing with – besides searching for substantial proof that individuals in the files knew minors were involved,

participated in the trafficking, and knowingly conspired – is navigating how the Department of Justice inadequately redacted the files.

In a recent highly contentious Congressional hearing with U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, various lawmakers pointed out their legitimate concerns over how several of the victims' personal information was left open to the public, while at the same time, the names of co-conspirators and information about U.S. President Trump himself were blacked out. This raises understandable questions about what the public is being allowed to see and who, if anyone, is being protected. There are still documents linked to the Epstein files that have yet to be released – something that Congressmembers highlight goes against the Epstein Files Transparency Act, which was signed into law by President Trump late last year and stipulates that all files must be released. Furthermore, on top of the fact that documents are still being withheld, U.S. lawmakers have accused the Justice Department of inappropriately redacting various names in the files, with whole pages blacked out for reasons unbeknownst to the public. Democratic U.S. Representative Ro Khanna and Republican U.S. Representative Thomas Massie viewed versions of the files that were not publicly released. After reading through some of these, Khanna saw fit to read aloud a set of six names he found in the documents including Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Nicola Caputo, Leonid Leonov, Leslie Wexner, Zurab Mikeladze, and Salvatore Nuara. These names were previously concealed by the Justice Department and are not names of victims, so Khanna inquired as to why they were hidden. Khanna, Massie, and others have criticized the Justice Department for their lack of transparency in justifying their actions, which they contend amounts to a mishandling of the documents, and have therefore urged them to comply with the Epstein Files Transparency Act going forward.

Critics who have questioned the lack of fallout and the manner in which the process of the files release has played out also point out that throughout it, President Trump has attempted to redirect attention away from himself and the files entirely. For example, he has threatened lawsuits against outlets like the Wall Street Journal, which have been unsuccessful because their reporting is considered independent. Trump has also posted statements on social media and the White House Official Government Webpage that attempt to frame the files as a political issue. On Truth Social back in July, he wrote that the files were a “Democrat Epstein Hoax” meant to “deflect and distract from the greater success of a Republican President.” This is despite the fact that during his 2024 campaign, one of his major promises was that the Epstein files should and must be released immediately, yet now over a full year into his second term, we still only have limited access with valid questions as to why this is the case and what the administration may be attempting to conceal. Adding to the unease is how countries across Europe, and even Canada, have implemented various reactive measures and acted swiftly against those mentioned in the Epstein files, compared to the lack of similar domestic fallout in the United States.

In many countries, the release of the Epstein files has caused societal outrage, leading to the resignation of key figures. These consequences are largely due to social pressure rather than mere government intervention, proving that society can influence action, even without legal ramifications. By contrast, the United States has not had many visible repercussions against

people in the Epstein files. Experts note that under Trump's current presidency, U.S. relationships with other countries have been strained – as exemplified in the withdrawal from UN agencies, sanctions against the UN, and other similar decisions. Thus, even with widespread international scrutiny over the Epstein files, the Trump administration has largely ignored external pressure. This combined with domestic legal policies, complicated influential networks, and questions surrounding the transparency of the release process has left many American figures free from significant consequences thus far.