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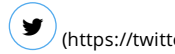
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# Democracy Now!: What the Prosecution of NSA Whistleblower Thomas Drake is Really About (/stories/2011/5/18/977111/-)



By Jesselyn Radack (/user/Jesselyn%20Radack)  
Wednesday May 18, 2011 · 5:06 PM CEST

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I was just on Democracy Now! (http://www.democracynow.org/2011/5/18/inside\_obamas\_orwellian\_world\_where\_whistleblowing) discussing the prosecution of whistleblower Thomas Drake, who used to be a senior executive at the National Security Agency (NSA). I'm glad people are finally paying attention to this case, thanks to Jane Mayer's explosive cover story in the *New Yorker* (http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/05/23/110523fa\_fa\_ct\_mayer), which Glenn Greenwald (http://www.salon.com/news/politics/barack\_obama/?story=/opinion/greenwald/2011/05/16/whistleblowers) referred to as the "must-read article of the month."

The government would have you believe that this is a case involving the disclosure of classified information to a journalist. It is not. It's a "retention" case about 5 innocuous pieces of information that Drake allegedly took home, if at all, by mistake. His real crime? Committing the truth by revealing gross waste, mismanagement and illegality at NSA.

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target of a federal criminal "leak investigation" (now closed) myself, I know what a David vs. Goliath struggle it is to fight the government. Drake blew the whistle on government illegality and now he's the one being prosecuted. It's that simple.

Please sign the petition  
(http://www.change.org/petitions/demand-accountability-for-the-selective-prosecution-of-nsa-whistleblower-tom-drake) urging congressional oversight of this case.

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May 18 · 05:06:05 PM (/comments/977111/41611788#comment\_41611788)

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(/user/aliasalias)

**aliasalias (/user/aliasalias) ▶ Jesselyn Radack**

May 18 · 07:58:42 PM (/comments/977111/41614716#comment\_41614716)

#### from the New Yorker article

Gabriel Schoenfeld, a conservative political scientist at the Hudson Institute, who, in his book "Necessary Secrets" (2010), argues for more stringent protection of classified information, says, "Ironically, Obama has presided over the most draconian crackdown on leaks in our history—even more so than Nixon."

Read more <http://www.newyorker.com/...>  
([http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/05/23/110523fa\\_fact\\_mayer#ixzz1MjMolluP](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/05/23/110523fa_fact_mayer#ixzz1MjMolluP))

My question is, how can this get at least as much attention as the Bradley Manning confinement in Quantico received? I see no reason to not think all the public pressure caused Obama to reconsider the conditions of Manning's imprisonment, and have him moved to a better circumstance. Obama undoubtedly did it because he is in full campaign mode and it was bringing a lot of negative attention. This situation is at least equally bad in terms of law, policy, and what's most important to Obama...it looks bad for his image.

Is there a P J Crowley for this situation, is there someone within this administration that might be swayed into bringing attention to this situation of "the most draconian crackdown on leaks in our history..."?

Are there no voices within the administration, or mainstream media (can you get this on Rachel Maddow's show?) that will openly disagree with this, *selective*, attack on whistle blowers?

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(/user/rudewarrior)

**rudewarrior (/user/rudewarrior)**

May 18 · 05:15:03 PM (/comments/977111/41611922#comment\_41611922)

#### Transparency in Gov't, now! n/t

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(/user/Jesselyn Radack)

**Jesselyn Radack (/user/Jesselyn Ra... ▶ rudewarrior**

May 18 · 07:53:59 PM (/comments/977111/41614662#comment\_41614662)

**You want to know what's going on?** Surely, you jest.

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(/user/katiec)

**katiec (/user/katiec)**

May 18 · 09:12:54 PM (/comments/977111/41615902#comment\_41615902)

**Thank you!....** For helping to get this issue out there. I really hope you repost this soon -- can't believe this isn't getting responses and recs.

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(/user/Sagebrush Bob)

**Sagebrush Bob (/user/Sagebrush Bob)**

May 18 · 09:36:42 PM (/comments/977111/41616234#comment\_41616234)

**Must see video of Thomas Drake Part 1:**

Part 2:

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(/user/Sagebrush Bob)

**Sagebrush Bob (/user/Sagebrush Bob)**

May 18 · 09:41:07 PM (/comments/977111/41616303#comment\_41616303)

**Jesselyn** You might want to change the link on the Democracy Now! graphic so that it goes to the Democracy Now! web page ([http://www.democracynow.org/2011/5/18/inside\\_obamas\\_orwellian\\_worId\\_where\\_whistleblowing](http://www.democracynow.org/2011/5/18/inside_obamas_orwellian_worId_where_whistleblowing)) you're citing.

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(/user/2020adam)

**2020adam (/user/2020adam)**

May 19 · 05:56:26 AM (/comments/977111/41622427#comment\_41622427)

**Loved hearing you on the show!** Thanks so much for your fantastic work. This trial is one of many underreported ways in which this DOJ has worked to fully legalize the anti-Constitutional components of the GWOT.

Recommended 0 times

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