



Establishment Attacks Tulsi with Lies About Snowden & Section 702 Ahead of her Hearing

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Glenn Greenwald (GG): The fact that Tulsi Gabbard is and long has been a supporter of Edward Snowden, based on the view, which is indisputable fact, that he took once secret programmes of how the US government was spying on American citizens without warrants, programmes that once they were revealed, US courts ruled were unconstitutional and illegal, and he made them public so that the American population, American citizens, and the rest of the world could understand what was being done to the Internet. A clearly noble act. He sacrificed his life to do it. The chances that he was going to end up in a US prison were extremely high. He did it simply out of obligation to blow the whistle on what the NSA was doing in secret in converting the Internet, once a tool of potential liberation into a tool of unprecedented surveillance and coercion. Here is Tulsi Gabbard on Joe Rogan's programme in 2019 talking about these issues.

Joe Rogan (JR): Edward Snowden, the charges against him stem from this illegal operation. In many ways, he's very patriotic. He let us know at great cost. So you would give him a pardon?

Tulsi Gabbard (TG): Yeah. We've got to address why he did the things the way that he did them. And you hear the same thing from Chelsea Manning. How there's not an actual channel for whistleblowers like them to bring forward information that exposes egregious abuses of our constitutional rights and liberties. I remember the very day that I woke up and looked at my phone, started looking through the headlines and saw those headlines about how the NSA was mass surveilling all of us and collecting our phone records, collecting our cell phone records, and I was shocked. So that was something that Snowden uncovered, something that I don't know that even as members of Congress, who would have been aware of. So now that we're aware of it, then hey, we can take action to close those loopholes, to change those policies, to protect our civil liberties, to protect our Fourth Amendment constitutional rights

as Americans. Was the NSA going to disclose that information voluntarily on their own? Absolutely not.

JR: We would have had no idea. We would have had suspicions, but then again, we'd have tinfoil hats on, and Snowden was the guy that really made it abundantly clear to everybody that not only are they doing that, but they're also lying about it. And even Obama was talking: "Oh, we're just collecting metadata". Metadata? No, you're not. You're reading messages. You can do anything.

TG: Exactly.

JR: This is just not an accurate assessment of what was going on.

TG: No.

JR: And it was outrageous to people.

TG: And you had, I think he was the director of the Department of National Intelligence at that time, James Clapper, who sat before a committee in the United States Senate and blatantly lied.

JR: Yeah.

TG: He was asked very directly, are you collecting this information? And he said no.

JR: Yeah.

TG: Are you collecting this information on American citizens? And he said no. And yet, he's somebody who you see on TV almost every day as an expert in this country, without any consequence lying to the American people.

GG: Isn't that ironic? I really think this shows you everything. James Clapper occupied the position to which Donald Trump nominated Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence. And we all know in the Senate, in March of 2013, he went to testify in the Senate and was asked by Senator Ron Wyden, the Democrat of Oregon, in a now notorious exchange: "Are you, the NSA, collecting large dossiers of intelligence and information on the communications of American citizens?" And he said: "No, sir, we're not doing that". And then Senator Wyden asked it again, and he said no, we're not doing that, not wittingly. And that was when Edward Snowden was preparing to hand us the archive. He hadn't yet done it, though. He was making preparations. And that event, watching James Clapper go before the Senate and blatantly lie by denying that the NSA was doing something that, in his hands, Snowden had the proof that they were doing, was the final straw that basically compelled him in his mind to come forward, even though he was risking his own life and his own liberty to do. And James Clapper was never fired. No one in Washington said that he was unqualified, that he became somehow inappropriate to hold that position. Because in Washington, what matters is servitude to the US security state, even when it abuses its powers against American

citizens. So here's Tulsi Gabbard, one of the very few figures of national prominence – by no means the only, most of them are now found in the Republican Party – but defending Edward Snowden and what he did based on the view that as American citizens, we should not allow our government to spy illegally, unconstitutionally on us. We have a duty to protect the Fourth Amendment and only Edward Snowden and his decision to come forward enabled us to know about that and therefore to do something about that. Other people in Washington who also support Edward Snowden have been standing up and agitating for a pardon for him, something President Trump said he came close to doing in his first term but didn't, for reasons I've gone over before. Here is Thomas Massie, the always principled Thomas Massie, the congressman from Kentucky who has long advocated for Snowden. He posted a poll, should President Trump pardon Edward Snowden? There you see based on his followers, yes pardon Snowden, 93.9%. Obviously that's not a scientific poll of any kind, but it is a poll showing that people like Thomas Massie and the Republican Party, Rand Paul has also advocated this previously, as has Matt Gaetz, believe that Snowden should be pardoned. Here is the podcast host, I'll just say that he's popular among some people, Lex Friedman, but he also went on Twitter this week. I'm not sure why and said Snowden should be pardoned. He's kind of a protege of Joe Rogan, so I suppose that's not surprising. Snowden has been on Joe Rogan's programme twice and Rogan has definitely become an outspoken supporter of Tulsi Gabbard, as you saw in that clip. Now, there's no question that the, not just the Democrats, but the people in the CIA and the NSA and the Senate Democrats who are gearing up to try and defeat Tulsi Gabbard in tend to use that support for Edward Snowden, as well as their concern about illegal spying, as the main points of attack against her. As though defending the Fourth Amendment privacy rights of American citizens and opposing unconstitutional abuses of power by the US security state somehow render you ineligible or unqualified for a high position in the Intelligence Committee, those are exactly the kind of people we should want. Running those agencies are people who don't want those agencies breaking the law and violating the Constitution to spy on Americans.

Here from the New York Times today, laying the groundwork for Tulsi Gabbard's defeat, there you see: *Tulsi Gabbard's Unorthodox Path to Trump's Intelligence Team*. "Ms. Gabbard grew up in a secretive offshoot of the Hare Krishna movement and has made a dizzying journey from conservative to liberal darling to Trump ally". And here's what they report about the way in which Congress is seeking to sabotage her nomination, quote: "... in the run up to her hearing, Ms. Gabbard has struggled to explain views that riles some conservatives on the intelligence committee considering her nomination. One concern is her defence of Edward Snowden, the former US intelligence contractor, now a Russian citizen, who leaked highly classified documents about mass surveillance techniques to the Guardian and the Washington Post in 2013. Senator Tom Cotton, the Arkansas Republican, who chairs the intelligence panel, has said he should, quote, 'rot in jail'".

Snowden is an American citizen. He has always been an American citizen. His position has always been that he wants to come back to the United States, as I will get to. He did not choose to be in Russia. They purposely trapped him in Russia, precisely in order to then turn around and say: Oh, look, he's in Russia, therefore he should be discredited. Over the

weekend, former Obama's former CIA Director John Brennan, who has been caught lying more times in almost anyone in Washington, which is obviously saying a lot – he just had his security clearance stripped because of the role he played in spreading the lie that the Hunter Biden laptop was Russian disinformation to help Joe Biden win the 2020 election – went on MSNBC. And here's what he argued, and this is what all these kinds of establishment people and liberals are doing, is they're trying to appeal to Trump and saying: "Mr. Trump, we respect you so much and the important job you're doing. Don't let Tulsi Gabbard ruin it by being the Director of National Intelligence, where she'd be able to manipulate you by withholding information she doesn't want you to have or giving you false information she thinks you should". Here's what he said.

John Brennan (JB): Again, it's the President's Daily Brief, but also the role that the Director of National Intelligence, Director of CIA play in order to ensure that the people who have to make those decisions in the Security Council are fully informed about what the reality is, what the intelligence is, what our intelligence gaps are. And if they withhold things or if they skew things, it really is going to be detrimental.

MSNBC: Real quick before we let you go, Director, do those agency heads have, in that moment you're describing, in that room, have that realisation that, wait a minute, that's not what we told you? I mean, in other words, how does that coordination become undone when the person who's putting the final brief has skewed the information?

JB: Well, I like to think that Secretary of State Rubio, who is very familiar with the intelligence profession, is going to be speaking up because you have the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defence, the Attorney General, others who are going to be there. So you want to make sure, again, that you have people who are informed, but also people who want to know the truth, and not just people who want to give President Trump what he wants to hear. That is so, so dangerous, and none of the six presidents that I work for ever wanted the intelligence community to give them what they wanted. They wanted the intelligence community to give them what they needed.

GG: No prior president has wanted the intelligence community to give them what they wanted. Is he at all familiar with what happened in the Iraq War because he was working then for the intelligence community under George Bush and Dick Cheney? Where Dick Cheney repeatedly went to the CIA and to the intelligence community and badgered them to produce reports saying Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and was in an alliance with al-Qaeda, regardless of whether or not they were, because he wanted to be able to justify the war in Iraq. This claim that Tulsi Gabbard is going to manipulate the intelligence to try and keep things from Trump is completely fabricated out of nowhere. John Brennan is a pathological career-trained liar, and he's been caught lying so many times.

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