

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING • PART 2 OF 3

# THE \$17.7 BILLION PAPER TRAIL

*\$17.7 billion in bank fines. Seven protection networks dismantled in fourteen months. This is the part that makes everything else make sense.*

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**BY DAVID E. ATTERTON / EXIT\_FIAT** | Reset Intelligence | March 2026

A Geopolitical & Economic Analysis

# WHAT PART 2 IS ABOUT: THE BLOCKERS

## OVERVIEW

### BANK LAUNDERING

Major Western banks secretly processed billions in sanctioned Iranian money — for decades.

### PROTECTION NETWORKS

Seven networks of people in power who kept the corrupt system running — cartels, politicians, intelligence connections.

### CENSORSHIP LAYER

Government-coordinated social media suppression kept this information from reaching the public.

### ALL DISMANTLED

All seven protection networks collapsed within 14 months — the writer argues this was required before any currency reform could happen.

*"This is the part most people skip. The bank fines. The sanctions networks. The cartel connections. The protection layers. It's also the part that makes everything else make sense." — EXIT\_FIAT*

# KEY TERMS & ACRONYMS EXPLAINED

## GLOSSARY

### **DOJ**

Department of Justice — the US government's main law enforcement agency

### **Cartel**

A criminal organization controlling drug trafficking (Sinaloa, CJNG)

### **FinCEN**

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network — US Treasury agency tracking financial crimes

### **CJNG**

Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación — one of Mexico's most powerful drug cartels

### **Sanctions**

Government penalties banning trade or financial dealings with a country or individual

### **FBI**

Federal Bureau of Investigation — US domestic intelligence and law enforcement

### **Wire Transfer**

Electronic transfer of money between banks — used to move large sums internationally

### **NGO**

Non-Governmental Organization — a nonprofit operating independently from government

### **Deferred Prosecution**

A legal deal where charges are dropped if the accused meets certain conditions

### **Hezbollah**

Iranian-backed military/political group in Lebanon, designated a terrorist organization by the US

### **Iran Sanctions**

US and international bans on business with Iran due to nuclear and terrorism disputes

### **Narco-terrorism**

Using drug trafficking profits to fund terrorist activities

# HOW THE SCHEME WORKED: IRAN'S SANCTIONS EVASION

## THE METHOD

*The US imposed sanctions on Iran. But Western banks found a way around them — for profit.*

1

### Iran Needs Money Moved

Iran wants to move billions through the global US dollar system, but sanctions make it illegal.

2

### Banks Strip the Labels

Banks remove ('strip') Iranian identifying information from wire transfer messages — hiding who sent the money.

3

### Money Flows Freely

With labels removed, the money flows through the US dollar clearing system as if from a non-sanctioned source.

4

### Banks Collect Fees

The banks earn enormous transaction fees. They knowingly processed these transactions for years.

5

### Caught — But No Prison

When caught, banks paid fines (deferred prosecution agreements). Not a single banker went to prison.

*KEY POINT: This wasn't rogue employees. These were institutional decisions made at the highest levels of major banks.*

# THE \$17.7 BILLION IN BANK FINES

DOCUMENTED FINES • ALL ON PUBLIC RECORD

*These are not allegations. These are guilty pleas, deferred prosecution agreements, and forfeiture orders — all in US Department of Justice court filings.*

## BNP PARIBAS

France

**\$8.9B**

2014

Biggest fine in banking history. Pled GUILTY to criminal charges. Hid thousands of transactions with Iran, Sudan & Cuba.

## HSBC

UK

**\$1.9B**

2012

Drug money + Iran sanctions violations. 25,000 transactions over 7 years. Nobody went to prison.

## STANDARD CHARTERED

UK

**\$1.6B**

2012/2019

Caught hiding Iranian identities. Fined AGAIN 7 years later for doing it again. Repeat offender. Still in business.

## COMMERZBANK

Germany

**\$1.45B**

2015

Processed payments for sanctioned Iranian entities through US dollar-clearing system.

## UNICREDIT

Italy

**\$1.3B**

2019

Pled guilty. Processed hundreds of millions in transactions for sanctioned countries.

Also fined: ING \$619M | Credit Suisse \$536M | ABN Amro \$500M | Lloyds \$350M | Barclays \$298M | Deutsche Bank \$258M

**= \$17.7B TOTAL**

# WHY THIS BLOCKED IRAQ'S CURRENCY REFORM

## THE CONNECTION

*The writer's central argument: Iraq's currency couldn't reform because a massive money laundering operation ran through its banking system.*

### × THE BLOCKING MACHINE

- Iran's sanctions evasion network ran THROUGH Iraq's banking system
- Maliki's parliamentary blocs protected the operation politically for 17 years
- Western banks (HSBC, BNP Paribas etc.) processed the money knowingly
- Any currency reform would expose and destroy this trillion-dollar pipeline

### ✓ WHAT HAD TO HAPPEN FIRST

- Maliki removed from power (ended his 17-year political block)
- Iran's financial network exposed and defunded (\$17.7B in fines)
- Iraq's banking infrastructure modernized (Temenos, ISO 20022, Ripple)
- New transparent settlement rails built so laundering becomes impossible

# SEVEN PROTECTION NETWORKS — ALL DISMANTLED IN 14 MONTHS

## PROTECTION NETWORKS

*The writer argues these seven networks all protected the same corrupt system. All collapsed simultaneously — proving coordinated planning.*

### CARTELS

**DISMANTLED**

El Mencho (CJNG) killed. El Mayo Zambada (Sinaloa) captured. 617 Sinaloa arrests in 5 days. Overdose deaths fell 25%.

### VENEZUELA

**DISMANTLED**

Maduro captured Jan 3, 2026 in Operation Absolute Resolve by Delta Force. Indicted for narco-terrorism.

### CUBA

**NEGOTIATING**

First negotiations with the US in 60+ years. Released 51 prisoners as goodwill gesture. US fuel leverage forcing talks.

### EPSTEIN NETWORK

**EXPOSED**

3.5M pages released Jan 30, 2026. 8 consequences across 4 countries in 24 days: UK, Norway, France officials affected.

### DOGE / TREASURY

**EXPOSED**

Department of Government Efficiency surfaced \$250M Minnesota childcare fraud. 78 convicted. Institutional fraud confirmed.

### IRAN

**DISMANTLED**

Supreme Leader Khamenei killed Feb 28, 2026 in joint US-Israeli strikes. Hezbollah lost ~25 commanders.

### HEZBOLLAH

**GUTTED**

Command structure decimated through 2024-2025. 400 commanders ordered to flee Lebanon for South American nodes.

# THE CARTEL DISMANTLING: BY THE NUMBERS

CARTELS • JANUARY 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026

*Between January 2025 and February 2026, the US designated eight criminal organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations — then systematically dismantled them.*

**1,271**

MS-13 Members Arrested

**260+**

Tren de Aragua Members Indicted

**617**

Sinaloa Arrests in Just 5 Days

**480 kg**

Fentanyl Powder Seized

**714,707**

Counterfeit Pills Seized

**-25%**

Overdose Deaths Fell in 1 Year

Key leaders: El Mencho (CJNG) — Killed Feb 22, 2026 | El Mayo Zambada (Sinaloa) — Captured July 25, 2024 | Maduro (Venezuela) — Captured Jan 3, 2026

# IRAN & HEZBOLLAH: THE FINANCIAL NETWORK

IRAN NETWORK

Iran didn't just influence Iraq politically — it ran a massive financial pipeline through Iraq's banking system worth billions.

## **\$9 Billion Shadow System**

FINCEN  
IDENTIFIED

FinCEN (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network) identified a \$9 billion Iranian shadow banking operation running through Iraqi banks in 2024.

## **Al-Huda Bank**

PRIMARY  
CONCERN

Iraqi bank designated by FinCEN as a 'primary money laundering concern' for processing Iranian funds.

## **\$7.78 Billion Crypto**

BLOCKCHAIN  
TRACED

Chainalysis tracked a \$7.78 billion crypto ecosystem being used by Iran to evade sanctions — outside traditional banking.

## **Halkbank / Zarrab Case**

DOJ  
INDICTMENT

A Turkish banker (Zarrab) confessed to running a \$20B gold-for-oil scheme to funnel Iranian money through global banks.

## **Hezbollah Funded**

IRAQ'S  
FINANCIAL  
ROLE

Iran used Iraq's financial system to fund Hezbollah — its proxy military force in Lebanon. This is why the two networks are connected.

## **Khamenei Killed**

FEB 28, 2026

Joint US-Israeli strikes killed Supreme Leader Khamenei — the head of the entire network — along with several family members.

# THE EPSTEIN FILES & DOGE: EXPOSING INSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION

ACCOUNTABILITY

*Two very different exposures — same underlying principle: protection networks in high places shielding corrupt systems.*

## THE EPSTEIN FILES

**Released: January 30, 2026**

**3.5 million pages of documents**

**8 consequences across 4 countries in just 24 days:**

UK: Prince Andrew arrested. Peter Mandelson arrested. McSweeney resigned.

Norway: Ambassador Juul investigated. Jagland charged.

France: Jack Lang resigned from Arab World Institute.

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*"Protection expired. Enforcement followed."*

## DOGE & TREASURY FRAUD

**DOGE = Department of Government Efficiency**

Treasury payment officers were reportedly instructed to approve payments automatically — even to fraudulent recipients, even to designated (sanctioned) organizations.

Nick Shirley, a civilian researcher, surfaced the Minnesota child care fraud:

**\$250 MILLION STOLEN**

78 people convicted.

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*"The response wasn't to disprove it. It was to discredit him. That tells you everything about how the protection layer operates."*

# THE CENSORSHIP LAYER: WHY YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS

MEDIA & CENSORSHIP

*The writer argues a government-coordinated censorship system prevented this information from reaching the public — until it was dismantled.*

## FBI-TWITTER CHANNEL

The FBI maintained a dedicated communication channel with Twitter, sending lists of accounts to suppress. Paid Twitter \$3.4M for staff time processing government requests.

## STANFORD VIRALITY PROJECT

Explicitly recommended suppressing 'stories of true vaccine side effects' and 'true posts which could fuel hesitancy.' True information. Suppressed anyway.

## HUNTER BIDEN LAPTOP

FBI agents warned social media companies about the laptop story before the 2020 election — knowing it was genuine — but told platforms to treat it as suspicious anyway.

## MUSK BUYS TWITTER (\$44B)

October 2022. Day one: fired staff running the censorship operation. Released internal documents (Twitter Files). Open-sourced the algorithm. Replaced partisan fact-checkers with Community Notes.

*"Without that \$44B purchase, every narrative challenging institutional consensus gets suppressed as 'misinformation.'" — EXIT\_FIAT*

# STEPPING BACK: THE BIG PICTURE

## ARGUMENT

THE PATTERN

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*This is not a series of unrelated events. This is coordinated, multi-theatre, multi-domain operations running simultaneously across three continents. Military. Financial. Political. Criminal. All at once. There is no precedent for this scale of simultaneous disruption in modern history.*

### MILITARY

- Khamenei killed
- Maduro captured by Delta Force
- El Mencho killed with US intelligence

### FINANCIAL

- \$17.7B in bank fines
- Iran shadow banking exposed
- \$250M Treasury fraud uncovered

### POLITICAL

- Maliki removed after 17 years
- Cuba at negotiating table
- Epstein network exposed globally

### CRIMINAL

- 8 cartels designated terrorists
- 1,271 MS-13 arrested
- Sinaloa civil war triggered

*"And none of it is random. The planning behind this goes back years. That's Part 3 — the final piece." — EXIT\_FIAT*

# CLASS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## CRITICAL THINKING

1

Major banks paid billions in fines but no individual bankers went to prison. What does that tell us about how our legal system treats institutions vs. individuals?

2

The writer says seven global 'protection networks' were dismantled at the same time. Does that feel like coincidence to you — or coordination? What evidence would change your view?

3

Sanctions are supposed to isolate countries like Iran financially. If banks secretly processed Iranian money anyway, were the sanctions working? What does that mean for future sanctions?

4

If the government was telling social media companies to suppress true information, how does that affect your trust in what you read online?

5

The writer connects bank fines, cartels, Epstein files, and Iraq's currency into one narrative. What are the risks of connecting many separate events into one grand theory?

6

What is the difference between a 'protection network' and a legitimate institution doing its job? Where is that line?

# CRITICAL THINKING: EVALUATING THIS ARTICLE

MEDIA LITERACY

*Apply the same framework from Part 1 — separate what is documented from what is interpretation.*

## WHAT'S DOCUMENTED?

The bank fines are REAL — all on DOJ public record. The cartel arrests, Maduro capture, and Epstein file release are confirmed, verifiable events.

## WHAT'S ANALYSIS?

The writer's claim that all these events are coordinated parts of ONE plan is his interpretation. That coordination is not officially confirmed.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU QUESTION?

The claim that Musk buying Twitter was part of this same plan, or that all seven networks were deliberately targeted as part of a financial reset strategy.

## WHAT'S NOT DISPUTED?

Major banks did launder Iranian money. Cartels were dismantled at scale. The Epstein files were released. These facts stand independent of the theory.

## HEALTHY SKEPTICISM?

The writer's audience is heavily the 'Iraqi Dinar investment' community — people who financially benefit from believing a revaluation is coming. Consider that context.

# SOURCES & REFERENCES

## PRIMARY GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL SOURCES

### DOJ BANK FINES & SANCTIONS

- U.S. DOJ — BNP Paribas guilty plea, \$8.9B (Case No. 14-CR-460, June 2014)
- U.S. DOJ — HSBC deferred prosecution, \$1.9B (December 2012)
- U.S. DOJ — Standard Chartered settlements, \$1.6B (2012, 2019)
- U.S. DOJ — Commerzbank AG, \$1.45B (March 2015)
- U.S. DOJ — UniCredit S.p.A., \$1.3B (April 2019)
- U.S. DOJ — ING Bank N.V., \$619M (June 2012)
- All cases searchable at [justice.gov/criminal-fraud](https://justice.gov/criminal-fraud)

### CARTEL & PROTECTION NETWORK OPS

- U.S. DOJ — FTO designations for 8 criminal organizations (Jan 2025)
- DEA — El Mayo Zambada capture (Jul 25, 2024) and CJNG leader El Mencho (Feb 22, 2026)
- U.S. DOJ — Operation Absolute Resolve: Maduro capture (Jan 3, 2026)
- CDC / DEA — US overdose death statistics (25% decline over 13 months)
- DOGE / U.S. Treasury — Federal fraud exposure and agency payment audits
- U.S. District Court, S.D. Florida — Epstein document release (Jan 30, 2026)

### FINANCIAL CRIMES & CENSORSHIP

- U.S. Treasury / FinCEN — Iranian funds flow data through Iraqi banking (\$9B identified)
- FinCEN — Al-Huda Bank designation as primary money laundering concern (2024)
- Chainalysis / FinCEN — \$7.78B Iranian crypto sanctions evasion (blockchain-traced)
- U.S. House Judiciary Committee — FBI-Twitter communication channel investigation
- Stanford Internet Observatory — Virality Project documentation
- FBI payment to Twitter (\$3.4M) — confirmed in Congressional testimony / Twitter Files
- EXIT\_FIAT / Reset Intelligence (2026) — All interpretive claims and pattern analysis