

CNN's *AC360*

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8:28:08 p.m.

2 minutes and 50 seconds

ANDERSON COOPER: How unprecedented is all of this?

JEFFREY TOOBIN: Well, this crusade — criminal crusade against political adversaries is completely unprecedented in — in — in all of American history. I — I really — I think that's true. Now, when the Bolton matter, I think in fairness to the Justice Department, it needs to be pointed out that those search warrants were approved by an independent magistrate, both in Washington and Maryland. So, there was at least some check observed, but when you look at the full range of criminal investigations, whether its Senator Adam Schiff or New York Attorney General Tish James or Lisa Cook, the Fed governor, who the President attempted to fire today, whether that's legal is a separate question — Miles Taylor, who's on tonight — all of these are political adversaries under criminal investigation. And I should add to that list, Barack Obama, whom the President said committed treason and is now under investigation. This kind of crusade against enemies is absolutely unprecedented.

COOPER: Miles, how concerned are — what happened to Bolton could happen to you?

MILES TAYLOR: Anderson, we think it's likely. I mean, we think that there's a decent chance. I mean, if you know, past is any indicator of what the President's done, we think this is certainly possible. But one of the things I want to point out is I think people can get a little disassociated from this whole thing when they focus on the elites who are being targeted. Maybe it worries the average American that John Bolton or Chris Christie or Senator Schiff or Miles Taylor is being targeted, but they don't think it really affects them. That's where I think people are wrong. This is affecting them. In the United States of America you don't need a permission slip to criticize the President of the United States. But now, through his retributive actions, the President is making it as such and he's warping every institution in our society. His revenge against the media affects the news you consume, his revenge against educational institutions, affects where you send your kids to school, his revenge against legal institutions might make it harder for you to get a lawyer. Heck, he's sending troops into your cities. I mean, this campaign is going to touch every single American and by the way, if you think none of those things matter to you, did you ever like a tweet that was critical of Donald Trump? Have you ever friended someone on Facebook that's critical of him? Well, next time there's a tornado or a flood in your community, your aid, your disaster aid could be tied to that. That may sound crazy, but the President himself has said, he will start making aid decisions in the office of the President and we've already seen he wants to reward allies and punish enemies. This doesn't just affect elites. This revenge campaign affects everyone.

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TOOBIN: I think it's important to recognize about the American legal system, there is no check on investigations. Someone under investigation can't say, look, this case against me is nonsense, and you, court, tell the FBI or whoever it is to stop investigating me. Our system doesn't work that way. It relies on the good faith of federal investigators. And that means people like Miles have to hire lawyers. They are at risk in keeping the jobs they have or getting new jobs. Their reputations are damaged and that is something that the federal government can do without any check from any court anywhere. And that is a tremendous burden that is imposed on these people, and there's nothing that can be done about it.

COOPER: And Miles, what have you and your family dealt within — since you've been speaking out against President Trump?

TAYLOR: Well, Anderson, I've been talking about this not so that people play the violin for us, but I think as Jeffrey was just saying, it's really important for people to understand that just being added to that blacklist, just having the President order his agencies to investigate you is enough to detonate your life and in our case, it has meant that we've had stalkers coming after us, stalkers threatening my wife and my one-year-old daughter. We've had to hire a team of attorneys. You know, the business that I was running was destroyed by this. My business partners forced the dissolution of our company because they too were scared of being in Donald Trump's crosshairs if they stayed associated with me. I'm the sole income earner in my household. I mean, really, really quickly, you watch these things unravel. You see friends, you see family members who you thought would be in the trenches run for the hills. The level of social fear, Anderson, in this second Trump administration is exponentially higher than the first. So once you're added to that blacklist, it's a wrecking ball to your life, regardless of whether they bring charges against you.