

Federal judge: Paul Manafort faces 'very real possibility' of spending rest of life in prison

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With several of the major players already having agreed to cooperate and provide full confessions of their part in the money laundering and other illegal activities uncovered by the special counsel's probe in the United States, Paul Manafort [pictured] is under relentless pressure to tell what he knows about the sources of the approximately \$80 million he allegedly laundered. *

By **ALI DUKAKIS** for ABC's Good Morning, America - March 14, 2018 Former Trump campaign chairman [Paul Manafort](#) could spend the rest of his life in prison, according to a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia, assigned to oversee the case. The longtime political lobbyist faces an 18-count indictment in Virginia, which was handed up by a federal grand jury as part of special counsel [Robert Mueller](#)'s investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III for the Eastern District of Virginia has set strict terms for Manafort's home confinement. In it, the judge writes that it will include "24-hour-a-day lockdown" home incarceration with location monitoring in his Alexandria condo except for medical necessities, meetings with his defense attorneys and court appearances. Ellis explained that Manafort is "a person of great wealth" and "has the financial means and international connections to flee and remain at large, as well as every incentive to do so" in the order made public on Tuesday. "Specifically, given the nature of the charges against the defendant and the apparent weight of the evidence against him, defendant faces the very real possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison," wrote Ellis. "In this regard, [Manafort] poses a substantial risk of flight and the above-mentioned conditions are the least restrictive conditions that will reasonably assume defendant's appearance at trial," Ellis added in the order, which indicates it was originally filed Friday. While Ellis did not mandate Manafort forfeit any assets, Ellis did order that the defendant agree to and sign a pledge to pay a \$10 million unsecured bond if he misses a court appearance. [ellip;] [https://www.yahoo.com/gma/federal-judg ... -abc-news-topstories.html](https://www.yahoo.com/gma/federal-judg...-abc-news-topstories.html)

*UBO Comment: With his long-time closest business associate Rick Gates already having agreed full cooperation with the special counsel's probe, Paul Manafort is – as the article above makes quite clear – under immense and increasing pressure to begin fully exposing his part in the gigantic money laundering case in which something like \$80 million left Ukraine. Should he begin cooperating, Manafort appears certain to face – even before his federal court trial – hours of grilling before U.S. House and Senate committees in open hearings that will be televised in full. This is, of course, a matter of greatest interest in the United States but the money laundering case will unquestionably focus attention on Viktor Yanukovich and the Party of Regions, since the evidence so far suggests that most of the money was the allegedly corrupt income of the Yanukovich presidency. As Ukrainian citizens make their decisions about the 2019 presidential election, information emanating from the U.S. Congress and courts appears certain to have considerable impact.

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