

## Reality Leigh Winner, 25, arrested and charged with leaking top-secret NSA docs on Russia hacks to The Intercept



Reality Leigh Winner, 25, has been arrested over charges she leaked top secret National Security Agency documents referenced [in this Intercept story about Russia's cyberwar](#) on U.S. voting infrastructure. She is identified as an NSA contractor.



*The Daily Beast* spoke with Winner's mother, Billie Winner-Davis.

"She's very passionate. Very passionate about her views and things like that, but she's never to my knowledge been active in politics or any of that," Winner-Davis told the Daily Beast.



Reality Winner, via her Facebook page.

Snip:

Winner had been a government contractor with Top Secret clearance at a Georgia facility since February, according to the DOJ. On May 9, the government claims she printed classified information from the facility and mailed it to a media outlet.

Winner's mother Billie Winner-Davis told *The Daily Beast* even after the DOJ announcement that her family still was not sure why Winner had been arrested.

"I don't know what they're alleging," she said, asking for specifics from the DOJ's press release. "What do you know?" Winner-Davis said the allegations against her daughter were vague when they spoke Sunday.


"I don't know who she might have sent it to," she said. "[DOJ] were very vague. They said she mishandled and released documents that she shouldn't have, but we had no idea what it pertained to or who."



The most detail she got was about Winner's pets.

"She called us yesterday night. She asked if we could help out with relocating her cat and dog," Winner-Davis said. It is unclear when her daughter might be able to seek bond, Winner-Davis said.

"She has a hearing on Thursday about that," she said.



Winner-Davis said her daughter never talked about her work, and her family did not know the specifics of her recently acquired job as a government contractor. She added that her daughter was passionate about her beliefs, but that she did not know her to be particularly political.



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An affidavit filed by an FBI agent said the investigation moved quickly after authorities learned less than a week ago that the document had been obtained by a news organization, because the organization had asked for a comment on the classified material.

The government learned of the leak after a reporter contacted an individual working at another government contractor seeking an opinion about the document. That person

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i don't buy the idea that the "crease" in the leaked doc was an important clue--they would have checked print records no matter what  
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On Twitter, she expressed frequent dissatisfaction with Trump administration policies, and retweeted a joke about government leaks, as well as a tweet by famous whistleblower Edward Snowden.

Winner is a U.S. Air Force veteran. As a parting gift in November, she wrote, her colleagues gave her a signed and framed photograph of Anderson Cooper, which she showed off in a Facebook post.

 **Ben Collins**  @oneunderscore\_\_  
[@KELLYWEILL](#) Reality Winner had retweeted Edward Snowden and was vocally anti-Trump on Twitter. [thedailybeast.com/accused-](https://thedailybeast.com/accused-)



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Easy to view arrest of @theintercept's source as the first salvo in a Trump admin. war on leaks. I suspect Obama DOJ would've done it too.

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↩️ ↻️ 484 ❤️ 1,338



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@theintercept To get @theintercept's source, FBI didn't use the very aggressive tactics it used in the past to get leakers. Didn't target reporters' info.

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Various sources this morning report that Uber had an all-hands meeting in which staff were told more than 20 employees are being fired as the result of a company investigation into claims of discrimination and sexual harassment.

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What we already know is bad. But it's worse than we know. Senator Mark Warner, ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, says Russia's attacks on our election systems were more broad in scope, and targeted more states, than what the leaked NSA documents published yesterday by The Intercept indicate.

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