

Relations between the United States and the Russian Federation today are tense with disagreements, the origin of which lie in the international satisfaction granted by US lawmakers to a fugitive criminal accused of tax fraud in Russia, a former US citizen – William Browder who in 1998 renounced US citizenship for tax reasons.

In December 2012, after a massive three-year lobbying campaign, the United States passed Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 setting forth the never-existent story of a "lawyer" Sergey Magnitsky, who allegedly exposed corruption crimes and embezzlement from the Russian treasury, for which he was arrested, tortured and beaten to death in November 2009.

This Act was in fact the beginning of a new round of the Cold War between the United States and Russia, putting on the scales the interests of a group of scammers and interstate relations.

At the root of the Act is the story of Sergey Magnitsky, monstrous in its depth, which no one ever even took the trouble of verifying.

According to open sources, the lobbying of the decision against Russia began in 2006, immediately after Browder was banned entry into Russia, several senators and public figures were involved in the process. In 2008, Browder officially announced a lobbying company on the issues between Hermitage Capital and Russia, and after the death of Magnitsky (synchronized with the need to focus attention on the problems of Hermitage Capital) – the lobbying campaign became known as the Magnitsky Act.

In the course of the internal investigation into the reasons for providing political support to Browder in the United States, it was found that from the very beginning of the Hermitage Capital activities in Russia, spearheaded by its chief consultant Browder, the company's largest investor was Ziff Brothers Investments (a group of companies headed by three brothers – Dick, Robert, Daniel, billionaires from New York with serious ties in Washington).

According to available information Ziff Brothers financed the two Obama election campaigns, and the American media call them "the main sponsor of the Democrats". It cannot be ruled out that they also financed Hillary Clinton campaign.

The alliance of the ZIFF Brothers Fund and the Hermitage and Browder was formed after the death of the strategic owner and chief investor of the Hermitage – Edmond J. Safra. Since the end of 1999, the largest client of Browder was Ziff Brothers Investments, through which aggressive buyup of Gazprom shares begins, within a scheme bypassing the legislative ban in Russia for foreign companies to buy those shares in the domestic market.

The scheme employed to buy shares not only allowed them to be purchased at prices 1.5 times lower than it should have been, through American depository receipts, but also allowed the investors and their consultants avoid state control and

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monitoring of sources of capital, its movement and investment activities taxation in the US and Russia.

In the period from the end of 1999 to 2004, owned by these American investors, two companies registered in New York – Speedwagon Investors 1 and 2- owned by these American investors, illegally bought in the names of Russian companies – Cameya, Lori, Excalibur, Sterling Investments – over 133 million shares of Gazprom for the amount exceeding \$ 80 million, through three Cypriot companies Giggs Enterprises Limited, Zhoda Limited, Peninsular Heights Limited.

As soon as Browder's activity became the subject of attention of Russian law enforcement bodies and he was banned to enter the country on a tourist visa, in January 2006 all assets controlled by Ziff Brothers Investments were siphoned off from the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

Reportedly, the American owners of the above chain of companies, in 2006 received an income of over \$ 800 million, including 66 million shares of Gazprom they received as dividends.

Roughly estimated, the damage to the budget of the Russian Federation caused by this activity in the form of unpaid taxes amounted to over 1 billion rubles.

At the same time, no information was found in any open sources of tax and investment (exchange) registries of the United States relating to the declaration by those companies of their investment activities abroad and their payment of taxes in the amount of 35%, which may indicate a major tax evasion in the US, as well as of legalization of criminal proceeds from transactions falling within the scope of the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act .

Realizing the real risk of exposure to law enforcement agencies of Russia and the United States, as well as to the deceived or misled clients, Browder invents a bold scheme of embezzlement of budget funds from the Treasury of Russia, the main element of which was the creation of an alibi of non-involvement in the embezzlement in the form of imitation of theft from the Hermitage Fund of three Russian portfolio companies.

In order to shift the attention of law enforcement bodies and the public from the illegal activities of the largest American investors in Russia, a major fraud was planned and pulled off through the companies that were part of the Hermitage Fund, managed by another banking structure – HSBC. The story of embezzlement from the budget of 5.4 billion rubles became known as "the Magnitsky case", and the "case" has nothing to do with the real facts.

Browder, moving from country to country, enlists the support of many leading politicians, lobbying for his own interests, repeating the same canned rhetorics and under oath in the European Parliament and the US Congress. Using the grief of the

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family of Magnitsky to his own advantage, Browder exposes them as a human shield to distract attention from the details of his own crime.

However, immediately after the Magnitsky Act was passed, Browder's group faced the fact that its application – namely, the imposition of direct sanctions against specific individuals – was not as simple as it seemed to be at first. They needed an impulse to be given to it in Europe and the US.

To give even more reasoning, Browder starts his political processions across Europe, and in the US he initiates a lawsuit against Prevezon group of companies (Southern District of New York), owned by Russian businessman Denis Katsyv, who had never been mentioned in connection with the Magnitsky case before.

As a result, none of the European countries passed a national law similar to the one they had passes in the US, PACE only passed a resolution based on the report of Andreas Gross, which entirely reiterated the circulated false story of Browder.

But in the course of collection of evidence in the civil case in the United States, Browder was interrogated, and his testimony clearly departs from the information he reported both in the House Foreign Affairs Committee before the adoption of the Magnitsky Act, and in all his public statements. It shall also be noted that Browder would shrink from testifying in court for a long time, until he was forcibly made to testify by Judge Griesa.

The civil case against Katsyv was suspended in view of Browder's motion to dismiss American lawyers after they said in court that they had collected evidence to the fact that the person who had the motive and the opportunity to steal \$ 230 million from the Russian budget was Browder himself and his employees (the hearing was scheduled June 9, with Michael Mukasey (former US Attorney General 2006-2009, judge emeritus) to be the counsel of Prevezon for the appeal.

Browder, realizing that sooner or later his lies will come to light in the jury trial in New York, intensifies his activities on the globalization of his false history and on the confirmation of his alibi during the period of suspension of the case. With the help of his long-time ally Senator Cardin, he has the Global Magnitsky Act passed in the Senate last December, and in April he forwards it to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Browder's plan is simple: placing the Global Magnitsky Act on the table of the new President of the United States, to prevent the new Administration from revising the interstate relations between the United States and Russia, so diligently antagonized at the instigation of Browder and those interested in it.

But in the course of consideration of the Act in the Foreign Affairs Committee last month, for the first time in Congress, the story of the Magnitsky case was questioned, and its real initiator, William Browder, was called a crook who walked over the whole Congress (Rep. Dana Rohrabacher). Rohrabacher propose an

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amendment of striking the name of Magnitsky out from the name of the US legislation and proposed to check the objectivity of the whole story history underlying the Act of 2012. However, political nature of the matter, and reluctance to go into this complicated history on the part of the majority of committee members prevented them from conducting an objective analysis of this story.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that the Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Cardin act for subsequent approval in other House Committees, the arguments brought forward during the hearing by Mr. Rohrabacher, and supported by several other members of the committee, worked.

It is expected that on June 14-15, 2016, the Foreign Affairs Committee will hold open hearings with witnesses from the sides of both Browder and his opponents (lawyers, journalists, human rights activists).

Browder's opponents – Russian citizens, will present to Congressmen the facts and evidence of the falsity of Browder's testimony in the same committee in 2012, after which the Act was passed that laid the foundation to open confrontation between our countries, to complications in relations on all key geopolitical issues and to the ban on the adoption of Russian children by Americans.

It is necessary to support the normal hearings of this urgent issue in the house Foreign Committee.

Now there is a unique opportunity to demonstrate in Congress the falsity of the version of events set forth by Browder, and to show his true motives for lobbying this antagonistic Act, his personal attitude to the facts, and not to let politicians who earn their political dividends on fomenting a cold war with Russia to use this false story.