The Awan Congressional

Scandal Group of IT aides hired by 44 House Democrats gained unauthorized access to congressional servers

2016 (Cont.)

WikiLeaks begins

publishing stolen DNC

emails. Rep. Debbie Was-

emails show Imran Awan had her password.

The Committee on House

Administration (CHA) and

House leadership receive a

briefing by the Office of In-

spector General. The brief-

ing reveals that the Awans

were logging in to servers

of 15 House members they

It also reveals that between

exessive logons to a Demo-

cratic Caucus server and

three of its workstations.

The main server was ac-

of 27 times per day.

cessed 5,735 times during

the time period, an average

The inspector general con-

siders this unusual since

which they worked were

The briefing also says that

the IT workers took steps to

computers in offices in

accessed less than 60

conceal their activity.

The Office of Inspector

leadership another brief-

ing, this time warning of

"continuing unauthorized

The investigation is taken

away from the inspector

general and handed

expertise.

to Capitol Police, who

don't have cybersecurity

General gives House

access."

times in total.

October 2015 and April

2016, the Awans made

didn't work for.

serman Schultz (D-Fla.) resigns as its chair. The

ongressional data belonging to at least 44 House Democrats has been put at risk by a group of IT aides. Imran Awan, a Pakistani national and naturalized American citizen, has worked for Congress since 2000. Several of his family members, including his brother Abid Awan and his wife Hina Alvi Awan, were added to the congressional payroll after Imran hit the pay cap—making as much as a congressman.

The individuals were hired as IT aides

and paid up to \$160,000 a year, despite having little to no IT experience. In total, six IT workers connected to Imran joined the payroll.

In September 2016, the House Office of Inspector General briefed House leadership that the Awans had had frequent unauthorized access to congressional servers, including those of 15 members they were not employed by.

They also made excessive logons to the Democratic Caucus server, on average

27 times per day, which according to the IG report could have been used to "store documents taken from other offices or

evidence of other illicit activity." Two computers used by the Awans had Dropbox installed on them, which is

prohibited under House rules. "While file sharing sites, such as Dropbox, have legitimate business purposes, use of such sites is also a classic method for insiders to exfiltrate data from an organization," the IG report states.

The IG report also states that thousands of files, many of which had the hallmarks of containing sensitive material, were found in the Dropbox account.

It is unclear whether the files left Congress. However, the material the IT aides had access to would be of great interest to groups, businesses, and foreign intelligence agencies. In February 2017, four months after the IG sounded the alarm bell, the IT aides had their access to congressional servers revoked.

1997



United States from Pakistan under the diversity lottery program.

2000



Imran Awan begins working as an IT contractor in Congress for InterAmerica.

2004



Imran Awan gains American citizenship.



direct employee of Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.), and three other House Democrats.

2005



Imran Awan hits the congressional pay cap, making as much as a congressman. His brother Abid Awan joins the payroll.

2007



Abid Awan hits the pay cap. Imran Awan's wife, Hina Alvi Awan, joins the payroll.

2009



Abid Awan opens a car dealership, Cars International A. He reportedly takes out a loan of \$100,000 from Ali al-Attar, an Iraqi political figure of Iranian heritage, who is wanted by the IRS and FBI on unrelated tax fraud charges.

2011



Abid Awan's wife, Natalia Sova, is added to the House payroll.



Abid Awan files for bankruptcy, discharging \$1.1 million in debts.



Rao Abbas is added to the House payroll as IT administrator. Bankruptcy documents show Abid Awan owed him money. Abbas's most recent job was working at McDonald's.

2013



A high school friend of Imran Awan, Hasseb Rana, is hired by congressmen. Rana's father says Imran made him do the work of others, and he quit in frustration.

2014



Imran's brother Jamal Awan joins the payroll at age 20 and is soon making as much as a congressman.



Police reports show that between October 2015 and July 2016, two women of Pakistani origin call the police about Imran Awan. One of the women is bloodied when police arrived on



Ariz.) fires Jamal Awan for "incompetence," while other House Democrats keep the IT staffers on their payroll.



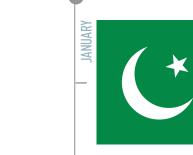
According to an investigation by the House Office of Inspector General, \$120,000 worth of equipment goes missing from a congressional office. It is later reported to be the office of Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.), where Abid Awan was responsible for the equipment at the time.



The Committee on House Administration notices the offices where the Awans work are falsifying invoices for tech equipment so that large purchases are treated as petty cash and not inventoried by central authorities. An employee of CDW Government, a major contractor, agreed to manipulate the invoices. Much of this equipment is missing, and the Awans' relatives later say it was

shipped to Pakistan.

2017



Imran Awan travels to Pakistan despite an ongoing investigation by Capitol Police.



According to an indictment, Imran Awan impersonates his wife, Hina Alvi Awan, to gain approval for a \$283,000 wire transfer to Pakistan from the Congressional Federal Credit Union. On the same day, Hina takes out \$202,859 from her retirement account, falsely claiming it would be for



medical expenses.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fl.) adds Hina Alvi to her payroll in addition to Imran, despite the ongoing investigation.



A server belonging to the House Democratic Caucus is physically stolen after the inspector general's report names it as evidence in a hacking probe, three senior government officials tell The Daily Caller.



sergeant at arms, bans the IT workers from the House network.



The Committee on House Administration tells members and the public that the issue is "theft."

2017 (Cont.)



men who entrusted their data to the Awans fire them.



Imran Awan and Hina Alvi Awan hurriedly move out of their residence and rent it out to a Marine. Imran reportedly threatens to sue the Marine if he doesn't return IT equipment he forgot in the house. The Marine determines that the equipment is government property, and the FBI and Capitol Police collect it.



Hina Alvi Awan goes to Pakistan with her children-without notifying their schools-and is found with \$12,400 in cash and with many of her possessions, some of which were in cardboard boxes.



Imran Awan's stepmother, Samina Gilani, says in civil court documents that Imran wiretapped her and extorted her. The dispute involves money stored in Imran's father's name in Pakistan.

- Imran Awan leaves a laptop with the username "RepDWS" in a decommissioned phone booth in a House building around midnight, along with a letter to prosecutors.
- Wasserman Schultz tells the Capitol Police chief that there will be "consequences" if he doesn't return the laptop to her, notwithstanding its status as evidence. She repeatedly implies it is "a member's." She hires an outside lawyer to block prosecutors from looking at it.

2017 (Cont.)



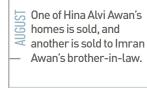
A House official tells The Daily Caller that the reason the Awans haven't been charged with Capitol Hill crimes is that members refuse to press charges.

Imran Awan tries to leave the country and is arrested by the FBI at the airport. The charges involve fraud in obtaining the money that was wired to Pakistan on Jan. 18, 2017. Prosecutors say Imran was carrying a phone on him whose contents had just been wiped, and a laptop with only one notable file on it, a résumé.



It emerges that Imran Awan retained Chris Gowen, a former personal aide to Hillary and Bill Clinton, as his lawyer.

2017 (Cont.)



Imran Awan and Hina Alvi Awan are indicted for bank fraud for the retirement scheme and for getting a second mortgage by stating it would be reinvested in upgrades for the house, but instead sending it overseas. Imran is made to wear a GPS monitoring device. He and his wife are co-defendants.



Media reports reveal that Imran still has a secret email account, 123@mail. house.gov

Wasserman Schultz now says, "This was not my laptop. I have never seen that laptop. I don't know what's on the laptop."

2017 (Cont.)



a deal with prosecutors to return to the United States.



The Awans' lawyers accuse House members and staff of participating in cooking the books, saying that members "expect" IT staff like the Awans to "adjust the pricing" of equipment that is purchased. In response to questions about the high salaries the Awans received without having IT backgrounds, one of their lawyers says they got "on-the-job training."

Lawyer Chris Gowen says the bank fraud was only discovered as a side effect of the underlying probe into the Awans' Capitol Hill activities.

2017 (Cont.)



Intelligence committee members who employed the Awans told The Daily Caller that the issue is about nothing more than bank fraud—even though the whole family was banned from the House network six months before Imran Awan's arrest.



Lawyer Chris Gowen says he feels "very strongly" that the "RepDWS" laptop should not be used as evidence, citing attorney-client privilege. There are months of delays as prosecutors

discuss the point.



The court date, postponed five times, is now set for this May.





