



**DES MOINES, IOWA:** In this Jan. 28, 2016 file photo, Moderator Megyn Kelly waits for the start of the Republican presidential primary debate. — AP

## HANNITY SAYS FOX COLLEAGUE MEGYN KELLY BACKS CLINTON

**NEW YORK:** A battle is brewing between two of Fox News' biggest stars after conservative host Sean Hannity accused colleague Megyn Kelly of backing Hillary Clinton.

The spat began Wednesday night on Kelly's program, when the anchor criticized both GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump and the Democratic candidate, Clinton, of avoiding tough media interviews. She said Trump "will go on Hannity and pretty much only Hannity and will not venture out to the unsafe spaces these days."

Hannity responded on Twitter, writing "u should be mad at @HillaryClinton Clearly you support her. And @realDonaldTrump did talk to u." When another Twitter user told Hannity he should stand by his colleagues, the host said, "Sure. When they stand by me." Hannity is a vocal supporter of Trump and has acknowledged giving him campaign advice. — AP

## IRANIAN-TURKISH TYCOON ASKS US JUDGE TO DISMISS CASE

**NEW YORK:** Defense lawyers asked a US federal judge Wednesday to throw out a case against an Iranian-Turkish tycoon accused of defying sanctions on Tehran. Reza Zarrab, 33, was arrested in Miami in March en route to Disney World and charged with conspiring to violate US sanctions against Iran, defraud US banks and launder money by helping Iranian entities transfer funds through US institutions.

His lawyers-including Ben Brafman who defended former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn-argued Zarrab had not broken US laws because he was a foreigner living abroad. "As a foreign national sitting in Turkey he hasn't violated US criminal law," said one of Zarrab's attorneys, Paul Clement, before Judge Richard Berman. "He's not subject to the jurisdiction of the US."

"This is an unprecedented expanded prosecution." However, Assistant US Attorney Michael Lockard said "foreign nationals are not permitted to use US financial institutions to benefit Iran."

Wearing a blue prison uniform, Zarrab listened to the proceedings with the assistance of an interpreter. Brafman also challenged the legality of Zarrab's Miami arrest because customs officers had requested the businessman's cell phone passcode and a list of his businesses and bank accounts before he was allowed to call a lawyer. "They have orchestrated this and allowed him to incriminate himself," Brafman said.

In response to that argument Lockard said it was not out of line for airport customs agents to request access codes from suspicious passengers, and that Zarrab had given his consent. Zarrab, who operates a gold brokerage, currency exchange, shipbuilding company, furniture manufacturing business and real estate construction firm, has passports from Iran, Macedonia and Turkey-countries that either have no extradition treaty with America or do not extradite citizens. His lawyers unsuccessfully tried in March to let him swap the grimness of a federal lock-up for a swanky Manhattan apartment with round-the-clock security. — AFP

# NSA CONTRACTOR ARREST HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGE OF INSIDER THREAT

## SECOND CASE OF SECRET DATA REMOVAL

**WASHINGTON:** The arrest of a National Security Agency contractor accused of stealing classified information represents the second known case of a government contractor being publicly accused of removing secret data from the intelligence agency since 2013.

The latest arrest came despite efforts to reform security after the Edward Snowden disclosures, especially in regard to insider threats. Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was arrested by the FBI in August, after federal prosecutors say he illegally removed highly classified information and stored the material in his home and car. A defense attorney said Martin did not intend to betray his country.

The arrest was not made public until Wednesday, when the Justice Department unsealed a criminal complaint that accused Martin of having been in possession of top-secret information that could cause "exceptionally grave danger" to national security if disclosed.

### Effective or adequate

The fact that Snowden and now Martin - both working for Booz Allen Hamilton as contractors for NSA - were able to leave the NSA with highly classified documents, especially given the supposed security upgrades put into place, raises the question of whether the intelligence agency's efforts to tighten internal security afterward were effective or adequate. The NSA declined to comment.

"One key thing we don't have visibility into now is how he was caught, because that would provide some insight into whether the reforms that were put in post-Snowden were effective or not, or their relative efficacy," said Rajesh De, who was the NSA's general counsel when the Snowden story broke and remained there until last year. Snowden's 2013 theft of documents that were leaked to journalists revealed the NSA's bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the senior Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement that "it is painfully clear that the intelligence community still has much to do to institutionalize reforms designed to protect (U.S. government secrets) from insider threats." While details remain sparse, Martin's arrest also illustrates the difficulty of guarding against an insider threat given that employees that, by virtue of their clearance level and jobs, must be entrusted with the nation's secrets. It's unlikely, given the thousands of people in the intelligence community, "you're going to be able to stop every incident of somebody taking documents if they're determined to do so. But the real question is how quickly can you detect it, how quickly can you mitigate the harm of any such incident," De said.

Adm. Mike Rogers, who heads the NSA, has repeatedly spoken since 2013 about efforts the agency has taken to ensure that such a thing doesn't happen again. He has said the agency tried to

strike a balance so as to not overly upset workers, who are law-abiding citizens, with aggressive internal security mechanisms. On Wednesday evening at a Harvard University event, Rogers declined to offer details on the ongoing investigation but officially confirmed that the contractor was employed at the NSA, which monitors and collects sensitive information and data, mostly from overseas.

Among the classified documents found with Martin, the FBI said, were six that contain sensitive intelligence - meaning they were produced through sensitive government sources or methods that are critical to national security - and date back to 2014. All the docu-

found stolen property valued at "well in excess of \$1,000," the complaint said. He voluntarily agreed to an interview.

"Martin at first denied, and later when confronted with specific documents, admitted he took documents and digital files from his work assignment to his residence and vehicle that he knew were classified," the affidavit says. "Martin stated that he knew what he had done was wrong and that he should not have done it because he knew it was unauthorized."

He has been in custody since his arrest in August. "There is no evidence that Hal Martin intended to betray his country," his public defenders, James Wyda and Deborah Boardman, said in a



**GLEN BURNIE, MARYLAND:** Debbie the wife of Harold Thomas Martin III, talks to reporters outside of her home on Wednesday. — AP

ments were clearly marked as classified information, according to a FBI affidavit accompanying the complaint.

### No specification

The complaint does not specify which documents Martin is alleged to have taken. He was arrested around the same time U.S. officials acknowledged an investigation into a cyber leak of purported hacking tools used by the NSA. That toolkit consists of malicious software intended to tamper with firewalls, the electronic defenses protecting computer networks. Those documents were leaked by a group calling itself the "Shadow Brokers." The complaint does not reference that group or allege a link to Martin.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama takes the situation "quite seriously. And it is a good reminder for all of us with security clearances about how important it is for us to protect sensitive national security information."

The New York Times first reported the arrest of a NSA contractor who worked for Booz Allen Hamilton. Booz Allen said in a statement that after learning of the arrest of one of its employees, it contacted law enforcement authorities to offer its cooperation and fired the worker.

At Martin's home, investigators

statement. "What we do know is that Hal Martin loves his family and his country. He served honorably as a lieutenant in the United States Navy, and he has devoted his entire career to serving his country. We look forward to defending Hal Martin in court."

The complaint charges Martin with unauthorized removal and retention of classified materials and theft of government property.

In 2013, journalists relying on classified documents stolen by Snowden revealed the NSA's bulk collection phone records and spurred a national debate on privacy and national security. Rogers has said that since those revelations, he's repeatedly reminded the workforce of their agreement to never divulge the sensitive information they've been given access to. In prior comments, Rogers has said security isn't just about technical and insider threat preparation, but also about ensuring professional behavior.

"At times, I have some people telling me, 'Hey, what this should show you is you can't trust contractors,'" said Rogers, in a speech at Stanford University in 2014, noting that some of the biggest compromises of information came from direct U.S. employees. "This idea that you can't trust contractors, I just don't think I'm concerned about the long-term implications of that." — AP