

Twitter Thread by I Will Never Stop



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@leahmcelrath



Trump campaign aide Rick Gates sought proposals for social media manipulation (including creation of fake online personas) and opposition intelligence gathering from Psy Group, an Israeli intel firm

(Trump referred to as “the Lion” in proposals ■)



(Those of you who've followed me a long time know I have speculated in the past about Israeli versus/in addition to Russian involvement in the social media psy-ops during the 2016 election. Remember all those hashtag “MAGA” troll/bot accounts that had hashtag “StandWithIsrael”?)

Helluva kicker on this story:

It is unclear how and when the special counsel's office began its investigation into Psy-Group's work, but F.B.I. agents have spent hours interviewing the firm's employees. This year, federal investigators presented a court order to the Israel Police and the Israeli Ministry of Justice to confiscate computers in Psy-Group's former offices in Petah Tikva, east of Tel Aviv.

The company is now in liquidation.

Relevant thread and article on Psy Group, from June by @ScottMStedman:

<https://t.co/bhfOm4Q6GK>

Breaking: Psy Group's sister company is controlled by a Russian billionaire. <https://t.co/Oh7RCcm6Mj>

— Scott Stedman (@ScottMStedman) June 25, 2018

Precursor article re Psy Group in @WSJ from May by @rebeccaballhaus and @ByronTau:

(Paywall. Sorry.)

<https://t.co/zTZwzPU3Of>

Breaking: Psy Group's sister company is controlled by a Russian billionaire. <https://t.co/Oh7RCcm6Mj>

— Scott Stedman (@ScottMStedman) June 25, 2018