

‘Pandora’ records show how the rich shield trillions

Journalists group uncovers tax dodges of the powerful

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE** and **JONATHAN MATTISE**
Associated Press

Calls grew Monday for an end to the financial secrecy and shell companies that have allowed many of the world’s richest and most powerful people to hide their wealth from tax collectors.

The outcry came after a report revealed the way that world leaders, billionaires and others have used offshore accounts to keep trillions of dollars out of government treasuries over the past quarter-century, limiting the resources that could be put to work helping the poor or combating climate change.

The report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists brought promises of tax reform and demands for resignations and investigations, as well as explanations and denials from those targeted.

The investigation, dubbed the Pandora Papers, was published Sunday and involved 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries.

Hundreds of politicians, celebrities, religious leaders and drug dealers have hidden their wealth in shell companies and used other tactics to hide their investments in mansions, exclusive beachfront property, yachts and other assets, according to a review of nearly 12 million files obtained from 14 firms located around the world.

Many of the tax dodges are legal.

Gabriel Zucman, a University of California, Berkeley, economist who studies income inequality and taxes, said in a statement one solution is “obvious”: Ban “shell companies — corporations with no economic substance, whose sole purpose is to avoid taxes or other laws.”

“The legality is the true scandal,” activist and science-fiction author Cory Doctorow wrote on Twitter. “Each of these arrangements represents a risible fiction: a shell company is a business, a business is a person, that person resides in a file-drawer in the desk of a bank official on some distant treasure island.”

The more than 330 current and former politicians identified as beneficiaries of the secret accounts include Jordan’s King Abdullah II, former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, Czech Republic Prime Minister Andrej Babis, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ecuador’s President Guillermo Lasso, and associates of both Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The billionaires called out in the report include Turkish construction mogul Erman Ilıcak and Robert T. Brockman, the former CEO of software maker Reynolds & Reynolds.

Some of those targeted strongly denied the claims on Monday.

“The new data leak must be a wake-up call,” said Sven Giegold, a Green party lawmaker in the European Parliament. “Global tax evasion fuels global inequality. We need to expand and sharpen the countermeasures now.”

Oxfam International, a British consortium of charities, applauded the Pandora Papers for exposing brazen examples of greed that deprived countries of tax revenue that could be used to finance programs and projects for the greater good.

“This is where our missing hospitals are,” Oxfam said in a statement. “This is where the pay-packets sit of all the extra teachers and firefighters and public servants we need.”

The European Commission, the 27-nation European Union’s executive arm, said in response to the revelations that it is preparing new legislative proposals to enhance tax transparency and reinforce the fight against tax evasion.

The Pandora Papers are a follow-up to a similar project released in 2016 called the “Panama Papers” compiled by

the same journalistic group.

The latest bombshell is even more expansive, relying on data leaked from 14 different service providers doing business in 38 different jurisdictions. The records date back to the 1970s, but most are from 1996 to 2020.

The investigation dug into accounts registered in familiar offshore havens, including the British Virgin Islands, Seychelles, Hong Kong and Belize. But some of the secret accounts were also scattered around in trusts set up in the U.S., including 81 in South Dakota and 37 in Florida.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat who heads the Senate Banking Committee, decried “these gross abuses of our legal and tax system” which he said “enable criminals and fuel global inequality by allowing wealthy elites to avoid paying their fair share while working families are

forced to make up the difference.”

The investigation found advisers helped Abdullah set up at least three dozen shell companies from 1995 to 2017, helping the Jordanian monarch buy 14 homes worth more than \$106 million in the U.S. and the U.K. One was a \$23 million California ocean-view property bought in 2017 through a British Virgin Islands company.

Abdullah denied any impropriety in a comment Monday by the Royal Palace, citing security needs for keeping the transactions quiet and saying no public funds were used.

U.K. attorneys for Abdullah said he isn’t required to pay taxes under his country’s law and hasn’t misused public funds. They said most of the companies and properties are not connected to the king or no longer exist, though they declined to provide details.

Blair, U.K. prime minister

from 1997 to 2007, became the owner of an \$8.8 million Victorian building in 2017 by buying a British Virgin Islands company that held the property, which now hosts the law firm of his wife, Cherie Blair, according to the the investigation. The two bought the company from the family of Bahrain’s industry and tourism minister, Zayed bin Rashid al-Zayani. Buying the company shares instead of the London building saved the Blairs more than \$400,000 in property taxes, the investigation found.

Cherie Blair said her husband wasn’t involved in the purchase, which she said was meant to bring “the company and the building back into the U.K. tax and regulatory regime.” She also said that the “seller for their own purposes only wanted to sell the company,” which is now closed.

A lawyer for the al-Zayanis said they complied with U.K.

laws.

The report also analyzed a transaction involving the British monarchy.

Britain’s Crown Estate, the property business owned by Queen Elizabeth II, said it would review the 67 million-pound (\$91 million) purchase of a London building from a company reported to be a front for the family of Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev. The Guardian newspaper said the deal raised questions about whether the transaction should be investigated on money-laundering concerns. Aliyev, who has ruled Azerbaijan since 2003, has been accused of corruption and rights abuses.

The Crown Estate said it had conducted checks before the purchase but is now “looking into the matter” again.

Khan, the Pakistani prime minister, vowed in a tweet to recover the “ill-gotten gains” and said his government

would look into all citizens mentioned in the documents and take action, if needed.

The report revealed Putin’s image-maker and chief executive of Russia’s leading TV station, Konstantin Ernst, got a discount to buy and develop Soviet-era cinemas and surrounding property in Moscow after he directed the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. Ernst said the deal wasn’t secret and denied suggestions he was given special treatment.

In 2009, Babis, the Czech prime minister, put \$22 million into shell companies to buy a chateau property in a hilltop village in Mougins, France, near Cannes, the investigation found. The shell companies and the chateau were not disclosed in Babis’ required asset declarations, according to documents obtained by the journalism group’s Czech partner, Investigace.cz.

Babis has denied any wrongdoing.

LEGAL NOTICES



Legals

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 39 Country Corners Road, Amherst, Massachusetts

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Martha M. Faison to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for Urban Financial Group, Inc. and now held by Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Finance of America Structured Securities Acquisition Trust 2019-HB1, said mortgage dated January 13, 2012, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, in Book 10813 at Page 5, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 4, 2018, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 13166 at Page 222, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated November 6, 2009, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 13477 at Page 324, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated January 27, 2020, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 13526 at Page 86, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on October 19, 2021 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SITUATED IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

THE LAND AT AND KNOWN AS LOT #6, HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE, AMHERST, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS AND BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, TOWN OF AMHERST, SITUATED ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF COUNTRY CORNERS AND IS SHOWN AS LOT 6 ON A PLAN ENTITLED “HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS DEFINITIVE SUBDIVISION PLAN” DATED DECEMBER 5, 1972 BY BSC ENGINEERING, INC., FILED IN THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK 85, PAGE 94, MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING: AT A POINT ON THE DIVISION LINE OF LOT 6 AND LOT 7 ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDELINE OF SAID COUNTRY CORNERS.

THENCE: TURNING AND RUNNING ALONG THE SAID SOUTHERLY SIDELINE OF SAID COUNTRY CORNERS BY A CURVE TO THE LEFT, SAID CURVE HAVING A LENGTH OF NINETY FIVE AND 48/100 FEET (95.48’) AND A RADIUS OF TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY AND 67/100 FEET(270.67’) TO A POINT OF TANGENCY.

THENCE: TURNING AND RUNNING ALONG THE SAID SOUTHERLY SIDELINE OF SAID COUNTRY CORNERS N. 89° 36’ 49” E., EIGHT AND 31/100 FEET (8.31’) TO A POINT.

THENCE: TURNING AND RUNNINGS. 00° 23’ 11” E., THREE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE AND 93/100 FEET (321.93’) BY LOT 5 TO A POINT.

THENCE: TURNING AND RUNNINGS. 87° 46’ 09” W., TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE AND 33/100 (229.33’) BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF JOHN W. AND ROSER. OLVER TO A POINT.

THENCE: TURNING AND RUNNING N. 19° 49’ 32” E., THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT AND 69/100 FEET (368.69’) BY SAID LOT 7 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID LOT9S) ARE ALSO SHOWN ON A PLAN ENTITLED “PLAN OF LAND SHOWING RESTRICTIONS & EASEMENTS, EXISTING AND PURPOSED IN AMHERST, MASS. PREPARED FOR HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES” DATED AUGUST 23, 1974 SCALE: 1” = 100’ PREPARED BY BSC ENGINEERING, INC., BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND RECORDED IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK OF PLANS 92 AT PAGE 75.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a topographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated May 17, 1979, and recorded in Book 2098 at Page 71 with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Wilmington Savings Fund Society,
FSB, as Trustee of Finance of America
Structured Securities Acquisition Trust 2019-HB1
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 19-11950

208460

Sept 28
Oct 5, 12



American Heart Association®
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Legals

AMHERST CONSERVATION COMMISSION Notice of Public Meeting Wednesday, October 13, 2021

The Amherst Conservation Commission will hold the following virtual Public Meeting under MGL Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Rivers Protection Act, and Article 3.31 - Wetlands Protection under the Town of Amherst General Bylaws. Virtual login can be accessed from the following link: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/96982361133>

Phone access is available by calling: US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968

Webinar ID: 969 8236 1133
International numbers available: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/96982361133>

7:35 PM Request for Determination - Alon Confino for removal of shrubs and installation of a fence in the buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 30 Hedgerow Lane (Map 12C, Parcel 26).

218452

Oct 5

Legals

PELHAM PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 9, the Pelham Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:15 PM in the Ramsdell Room at the Pelham Free Public Library, 2 South Valley Road, Pelham, MA. The nature of the hearing is to consider an application by the Amherst Department of Public Works for a Site Plan Approval for the property located at 86 Amherst Road, Pelham MA. The property is shown on Assessors Map 3, Parcel 18A, Village Center Rural Edge (VC-RE) and Water Supply Protection Overlay Zoning Districts.

The applicant proposes to construct a water treatment plant to replace the existing Centennial Water Treatment Plant to treat surface water from the Pelham Reservoir System to supply the Amherst water distribution system, in accordance with the Pelham Zoning Bylaw, Sections 125-8 and 125-26.

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96573830957?pwd=NUNsNDNNTVhseHVMKzVwYW5sVDhPd209>
Zoom Meeting ID: 965 7383 0957
Passcode: 224326
Telephone Access: 646 876 9923

The complete application and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Rhodes Building, 341 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01102.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and manner designated. Please note that if attending in person, face coverings are required.

Judith Eiseman, Chair
Pelham Planning Board

Oct 5, 12

217404

Do you have a Legal Notice to publish?

Publishing a notice is easy! Email your notice to legals@gazettenet.com with your contact information and date of publication. With legal notices, sooner is always better. 72 hours ahead of publication is ideal, but the absolute last minute deadlines are:

Monday’s paper Friday at 9am
Tuesday’s paper Friday at 4pm
Wednesday’s paper.....Monday at Noon
Thursday’s paper.....Tuesday at Noon
Friday’s paper Wednesday at Noon
Saturday’s paper Thursday at Noon

Please note that with the exception of certain standard notices such as informal probate notices, name changes, conservator/guardian notices and citations on petitions of formal adjudication, all legal notices must be typed and sent to legals@gazettenet.com.

We do not have a typesetter and cannot accept hard copies of zoning hearings, ordinance, public meeting notices, requests for bids, etc. These must be sent in a Word doc or in the body of the email.

Please call **Pam** at **413-584-5000** with any questions about placing legal notices in the Gazette.

Legals

AMHERST CONSERVATION COMMISSION Notice of Public Meeting Wednesday, October 13, 2021

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Phone access is available by calling: US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968

Webinar ID: 969 8236 1133
International numbers available: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/96982361133>

7:35 PM Request for Determination - Anna Marie Gijzen for replacement of existing swimming pool in the buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 407 Old Farms Road. Review under Wetlands Bylaw only (Map 18C, Parcel 28).

218443

Oct 5

Legals

AMHERST HISTORICAL COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING DEMOLITION DELAY

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, and Article 13, Demolition Delay, of the Amherst Zoning Bylaw, the Amherst Historical Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 20 at 6:30 PM to consider the following demolition application requests.

The Public Hearing will be conducted virtually at <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/89600580278>. To join the meeting via telephone: Call (312) 626-6799 or (646) 876-9923 and enter Webinar ID when prompted: 896 0058 0278. A hyperlink to the hearing will be posted on the Town’s online calendar.

1089 North Pleasant Street (5C-22) North Amherst Community Farm - Complete deconstruction of c.1850 timber framed wooden barn.

For more information email Benjamin Bregier, Planner at bregierb@amherstma.gov Oct 5

216800

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE Easthampton Planning Board

In accordance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 11, notice is hereby given that the Easthampton Planning Board will hold the following public hearing on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:00pm via remote meeting:

Eric Berzins - seeking a Special Permit under Section 12.7 of the Easthampton Zoning Ordinance to install parking, storage, and recreational uses. Property is located on Fort Hill Road (Map 131, Lot 23) in the Industrial (I) zoning district.

Applications can be viewed online: <https://easthamptonma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/179>

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the matter may participate in the remote meeting at the time designated above via Zoom: Computer/Smart Device (video & audio): zoom.us/join Phone (audio only): (646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 827 7760 7042

Jesse Belcher-Timme, Chair, Easthampton Planning Board Oct 5, 12

218557

Legals

AMHERST CONSERVATION COMMISSION Notice of Public Meeting Wednesday, October 13, 2021

The Amherst Conservation Commission will hold the following virtual Public Meeting under MGL Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Rivers Protection Act, and Article 3.31 - Wetlands Protection under the Town of Amherst General Bylaws. Virtual login can be accessed from the following link: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/96982361133>

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Webinar ID: 969 8236 1133
International numbers available: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/96982361133>

7:30 PM Request for Determination - Town of Amherst Department of Public Works for expansion and paving of parking area at Baby Carriage Brook Treatment Plant, and repaving of the access road in the buffer to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at Well #4 Road (Map 24C, Parcel 1).

218441

Oct 5