Jeffrey Epstein's confidante Ghislaine Maxwell relocated to federal jail in New York City

Kevin Reed 8 July 2020

Ghislaine Maxwell, the longtime partner of convicted sex offender and wealthy New Yorker Jeffrey Epstein, has been relocated to a federal jail in Brooklyn where she will appear via remote video before a Manhattan judge on July 14.

Federal Bureau of Prison officials disclosed on Monday that Maxwell was transferred from Merrimack County Jail in New Hampshire to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn but did not say on what day she was relocated. Prosecutors have indicated that Maxwell is a flight risk and any request for bail will be denied.

On July 2, US Department of Justice officials announced that Maxwell had been arrested and charged on four counts of enticing minors to engage in illegal sexual activity and two counts of perjury, in connection with her role in grooming girls as young as 14 for abuse by Epstein and to be trafficked in his international sex ring during the 1990s.

Last year, Jeffrey Epstein was awaiting trial on multiple counts of sex trafficking and abuse of minors when he was found dead in his jail cell in the Manhattan Correction Center on August 10. Although the New York City medical examiner determined that Epstein committed suicide by hanging, the circumstances at the prison indicated and the opinion of other medical experts was that he had been strangled to death.

Although authorities, including Attorney General William Barr, claimed at the time that a vigorous investigation of Epstein's sexual abuse of young girls would be continued, it took nearly eleven months for Maxwell to be arrested

One of the reasons given for the delay was that authorities were uncertain where Maxwell was or if she was even in the United States. However, more than twenty armed agents and police reportedly raided her million-dollar mansion called Tucked Away on a 156-acre property in rural Bradford, New Hampshire on July 2, breaking down the front door and bringing Maxwell out in handcuffs.

According to the unsealed indictment, between 1994 and 1997, Maxwell and Epstein, "enticed and caused minor victims to travel to Epstein's residences in different states, which Maxwell knew and intended would result in their grooming for and subjection to sexual abuse. Moreover, in an effort to conceal her crimes, Maxwell repeatedly lied when questioned about her conduct, including in relation to some of the minors described herein, when providing testimony under oath in 2016."

Ghislaine Maxwell, 58, is the youngest daughter of the British media baron Robert Maxwell, who owned the Mirror Group Newspapers before he drowned under suspicious circumstances near his yacht called Lady Ghislaine in the North Atlantic off the coast of the Canary Islands in 1991.

Shortly after Robert's death, Ghislaine moved to New York City and met the investment advisor, multimillionaire and well-connected socialite Jeffrey Epstein with whom she developed a close relationship.

Over the next two decades, Maxwell and Epstein—with her connections to European royalty and wealthy elite and with his connections to US celebrities and the financial and political elite—established a social network through lavish parties and get-togethers at Epstein's residences in Palm Beach, Manhattan, New Mexico and his private island in the US Virgin Islands that involved sex with young girls.

A measure of the connections that Epstein had was revealed on Tuesday when the New York State Department of Financial Services announced that Deutsche Bank has agreed to pay \$150 million in fines to settle allegations that it "inexcusably failed to detect or prevent millions of dollars of suspicious transactions," despite knowing Epstein's "terrible criminal history."

According to a report in the Washington Post, "The German bank's ties to Epstein began in 2013, years after the billionaire pleaded guilty to two prostitution charges in Florida, according to the consent decree filed by the New York regulator. Deutsche Bank knew about Epstein's past, classifying him as a 'high-risk' client, but also considered the relationship potentially lucrative—\$100 million to \$300 million in revenue over time."

In 2014, the report says, bank officials met with Epstein at his New York City mansion after reports emerged about his activities. "The bank ultimately decided to continue doing business with Epstein but established new safeguards, which were largely ignored, according to the consent decree." The bank processed more than \$7 million in settlement payments that Epstein made to alleged coconspirators.

Clearly, the role of Deutsche Bank is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to corporate, financial and government participation in facilitating and covering up Epstein's criminal activities. In 2008, after dozens of young girls had given statements to Palm Beach law enforcement officials that Epstein had both sexually abused them and also paid them to help recruit a network of teenagers for his trafficking operation, the federal government intervened and blocked the local case from going forward.

At that time, US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Alex Acosta, worked out a plea deal with Epstein's legal team that included a "non-prosecution agreement" stipulating that Epstein and none of his coconspirators could be charged in the future for any crimes related to his guilt in "procuring a minor for prostitution." Ghislaine Maxwell was named as one of his coconspirators in that agreement.



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