

## A Draft Open Letter to Everyone in My Timeline

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### PART A

#### *1. Some notes before starting*

I am sorry that I have been out of touch for three years. I am still a potential witness in at least one large ongoing litigation by investors trying to recover their money. As a result, for reasons too long to explain, it's best to stay out of communication. I read everything that comes in through Twitter, LinkedIn and my email, but I usually can't respond without potentially causing problems.

But something has come to my attention that is so important I need to come up briefly to point it out.

[One quick note: I happen to be a lawyer but I'm not acting in any legal capacity or representing Matt Taibbi or anyone else, and my work has been unpaid.]

I just found out, much to my shock that Mike Cernovich [link to Wikipedia page] sends unsolicited Twitter DMs to Matt Taibbi. These are two, but there are more. Please take a moment to read them in light of the current news stories about Matt Taibbi. I will come back to them later.



After first seeing the stories about Matt Taibbi on November 1st, I decided to investigate myself and, ***armed with nothing but a \$10 phone card and some initial contacts***, do a fact-check of what seemed to me to be intentionally false rumors “sourced” from an anonymous Reddit thread, and from anonymous Twitter, Facebook and other social media accounts. (I’m only on Twitter, so that will be my focus. I only see Facebook if I deliberately follow a link. However, I assume the patterns are fairly similar everywhere.)

I know that there has been a lot of discussion about this that I haven’t seen because I have been busy on this project, but I will be able answer the main questions that everyone has been opining about.

One note before I go forward:

It has taken about two weeks of literally round the clock work to “fact check” the stories and review the related social media and mainstream media (“MSM”) issues. And my research has taken some large turns along the way. As a result, I’m still writing. However, due to the fact that these false rumors, which have accidentally (in most cases) been picked up in the mainstream media, hurt Matt Taibbi every moment that they are circulating, I’m going to take the very unusual step of sending out a very rough draft.

There are numerous issues, including areas that should be filled in, duplication, and links that I still have to set up. In some spots I’ve just included notes about what I still have to do there. Finally, there are tonal issues. As you will understand better at the end, parts of this letter were written at different times. I don’t have time to smooth the transitions and in some cases I was quite angry (you’ll see why) while writing them. However, I don’t have time to go back through it thoughtfully and this needs to go. And my hands are cramping. Also, some of the pieces are typed versions of my handwritten notes, which I had never expected to go public when I wrote them. I don’t have time to fix them up, so they are short and blunt, to put it mildly.

Also, due to the continuing rolling discovery while doing research, I am going to release this “*Draft Open Letter to Everyone in My Timeline*” in pieces. There are related Open Letters to certain media outlets and I will send an “eXile explainer” too, which reflects my understanding after speaking to 12 prior members of the eXile staff. The interviews include 6 women and the so often discussed “Masha” and “Sveta”. So I’m going to use a hashtag to keep them all together.

Since Matt Taibbi’s name has been taken over in what I will call a “reverse Gamergate-style targeted attack” pumping out false anonymous rumors as truth, I need to create a thread that isn’t overrun with crazy 100% falsely attributed quotes and “news” stories (and Mike Cernovich). Also, if the apparently anonymous Twitter accounts spreading these false rumors want to come rain down Gamergate-style abuse, I want them to do it in a place where people will ask what #TaibbiGate is. (ie. I’m trying to disrupt their false narrative, to create room so we can look at actual facts.)

Plus, since some of the people spreading these false rumors about Matt Taibbi have taken over Matt Taibbi's name in searches, etc., I thought I'd use theirs (with a tweak). (In fact, I'll just call this the "TaibbiGate Letter" for short.)

***(Matt is going to kill me when he sees this hashtag, but I need a clear, short hashtag to send out multiple docs and tweets. If anyone is with him, please tell him I had to.)***

***(I can hear an anonymous tweet cuing up as I say that.***

***No, he's not literally going to kill me.... )***

I am going to start by telling you some things that will seem impossible. So, before I go forward, I would like to ask you to do a few things (please humor me, it will help):

1. Look at the two DMs at the top of this letter. Read them. Look up "Mike Cernovich" on Wikipedia [add link]. He's the guy from Pizzagate. I suggest looking at the Daily Beast article [link] citation (26) under "Legal Issues" to fully acquaint yourself. Here are a couple screenshots from the article:

Have you guys ever tried "raping" a girl without using force? Try it. It's basically impossible. Date rape does not exist.

— Mike Cernovich (@Cernovich) August 12, 2012



Based on other research and his DMs above, Mike Cernovich apparently has affiliations with Gamergate and the "Alt-right" (whatever that really means) or "The New Right" (whatever *that* means). He says in the second DM: "FYI Milo and I are planning a protest at one of your book signings." The reference is to Milo Yiannopoulos whose past includes Gamergate and Breitbart "News".

2. Look at Appendix A and Appendix B – Appendix A shows in tabular form the results of my interviews with people who worked at the eXile. It includes Masha and Sveta, those women we are all so worried about but didn't speak to. As I will explain in more detail later, they say, along with all the other employees, that the passage being most commonly circulated about Matt Taibbi (the blow-jobs-under-the-table-passage) never happened. In fact, they all say that none of the passages depicting sexual harassment ever happened.

They all say that these passages are all 100% fiction, as Mark Ames (it's writer) and Matt Taibbi (it's publisher) have been saying for years. [Note: I believe that Matt Taibbi and Mark Ames were technically co-Editors in Chief, but I will confirm this. For the sake of brevity, I will just call Matt Taibbi the "publisher" to describe this relationship because Matt Taibbi was involved in the editorial decisions but did not write the passages in question.] The company that published the eXile book: *The eXile: Sex Drugs and Libel in the New Russia*, Grove Press has released a public statement on the matter saying that parts of the book are fiction: [add link].

Appendix B shows the same answers for Racket, so we can put any conspiracy theories to bed.

3. Pick up a copy of the exile or the eXile book. Everyone is very upset about it and arguing about its contents, so we've all picked it up and read it to check the context of the passages ourselves, right? Do you have one in your hand? Why not? Because it's almost impossible to get. The book is 20 years old, and never had any real circulation. It is also out of print and nearly impossible to get. (I did see some used ones online for \$325 dollars., but who knows.) The rest of the eXile is behind a pay-wall that (understandably) no one is going pay for. (Cernovich does claim to have a first edition copy and maybe he does.)

So we've seen the disturbing passages (and to be clear, I find them *deeply* disturbing, the same way I find some scenes in *Game of Thrones* and *American Psycho* to be deeply disturbing) but we only know what we've been told by anonymous Twitter accounts. Without some work, there's no way to check them. By now, I hope the division of labor (described above) in the writing has been clarified, but it's still impossible to get full context without more. (I have in my interviews with eXile employees, discovered more of that context, which I will discuss later.) Everyone involved in writing, editing and publishing the book says its fiction, but some an anonymous Reddit thread and other anonymous Twitter and other social media accounts say it's not. Why are we giving more weight to the anonymous social media accounts? Maybe because they keep running across our computer screens again and again and again?

Until I can discuss it further, I thought I'd remind everyone of Matt's writing, apart from the journalistic writing that was his main focus at eXile. So far you've heard more from Mark than from Matt. As long as we're in the game of pulling things out of context, this is Matt writing in the eXile about Masha his long-term girlfriend of

7 years while in Moscow. Matt's readers will recognize this as Matt's voice rather than Mark Ames:

*And it sat there, week after week, surrounded by stacks of yogurts and rinds of cheese and all the other stuff my girlfriend Masha and I ate. Masha was a trooper about it, but I could tell it bothered her. She tried her best to pretend it wasn't there, and as long as she managed to do that, our home life was happy. But there were times when she'd bounce into the kitchen in search of something to drink and throw open the refrigerator door and see the thermos not only sitting there on the back shelf, but actually touching the two-liter bottle of diet soda she'd planned on opening. You could see the smile disappear from her face then, and I would imagine at these times that she was suddenly remembering all the things that had gone wrong between us in the past, and that she was once again having doubts about our future together.*

4. Ask yourself why we are all so concerned about the impact on women of some passages from an out of print book from 20 years ago that has no current cultural significance whatsoever. Even though the eXile passages are disturbing, why aren't we talking about scenes in *Game of Thrones*, **which has substantially more graphic depictions of rape, sexualized murder, sexualized torture, sexual assault and sexual harassment than any of the written passages of the eXile?** (Maybe because we all want to watch the last season?)

Why aren't we putting the producers of *Game of Thrones* on lists of "accused" with sexual assaulters and harassers? Why aren't they on lists with men accused by multiple women of everything from sexual harassment, to sexual assault and raping a 13-year old girl? We are doing this with Matt Taibbi, but he is in the analogous position with a book that never had any real circulation and has far less violence. Is it because the worst passages have been put in our faces day after day after day for the past almost three weeks? And we've also seen them again and again for years before that. Is it because an anonymous Reddit thread, anonymous Twitter accounts and other anonymous social media accounts keep telling us over and over that it is true?

5. **Most importantly, please ask: How is Matt Taibbi on a List of the "accused" without an accuser?**

I believe, and in fact, I know that the answer to those questions is: Because someone has been deliberately spewing these passages – with false attributions to Matt Taibbi either as quotes, actions or things he has stood by and ignored – past our faces again and again and again first slowly and most recently in a deluge. This process goes back at least four years and probably more. [I still have to try to find how long these go back, but I have traced it back close to four years, at the moment.]

You noticed that right? That passage (the blow-jobs-under-the-table-passage) you've seen it a million times. You were worried about Masha and Sveta. Who wouldn't be? (Spoiler: They were always fine.)

By all indications, this has been and at this moment still is a targeted attempt to destroy Matt Taibbi's reputation and career, in retaliation for his financial and political writings, by making him appear to be a sexual predator (which is the term I'm using to describe someone who would sexually assault and/or sexually harass women) or at least a misogynist.

How do I know these things? Because on November 4th, after asking Matt Taibbi's consent, I started calling every single employee at the eXile and Racket to see if they had ever seen Matt Taibbi sexually assault or harass anyone, or even stand by and let it happen.

Basically, I decided to do a fact-check and went off looking for facts. In particular, I went looking for an "accuser" because I couldn't understand how anyone could be on a List of "accused" men without an "accuser". And especially, I went looking for Kara, Masha and Sveta to ask *them* what happened. They were there.

## ***2. Summary of initial results***

After weeks of research and interviews, I feel comfortable simply summarizing it as this:

### **a) Matt Taibbi is innocent**

I use "innocent" in the normal sense of the word where we don't declare someone guilty without proof, and in the current environment while we are trying to come to terms with the exceptionally difficult issues around Harvey Weinstein and others, it is still at least necessary to find an "accuser" in order to be on a List of "accused".

**For example, using no resources other than a \$10 phone card and in a matter of days, I have completely disproven the most commonly quoted passage (the blow-jobs-under-the-table-passage, written by Mark Ames), which is now globally notorious.**

Along the way, I also took the very simple step (with a pad and pen) of analyzing the basic patterns of false information that were being used to spread obviously false quotes and other information out of the "anonymous internet" (which, I will sometimes use for brevity to describe the anonymous Reddit thread, and anonymous Twitter, Facebook and other social media accounts) and into the mainstream media ("MSM"). It all leads to one place.

I have in some cases absolutely proven, and in other cases very substantially proven, **that Matt Taibbi is innocent** of the false rumors being pumped across the internet by an anonymous Reddit thread and anonymous Twitter, Facebook and other social media accounts. (As an aside, I hope that I never have to *prove someone innocent* again. It's really hard.)

Here are the results so far:

1. First, according to every single eXile employee that I have been able to reach (12 out of 18, not including Mark Ames or Matt Taibbi), they have never seen Matt Taibbi commit sexual assault, sexual harassment or even stand by when sexual assault or sexual harassment took place. (See Appendix A) They also all emphatically say that the passages of sexual assault and/or harassment in the eXile workplace that are depicted in Mark Ames' writing are absolute 100% fiction.

The results include six prior female employees. The employees I couldn't locate were people for whom not a single one of all the employees I did reach had contact information, and there was no indication of any other reason. (As was pointed out to me, this was from a "basement" operation 20 years ago in Moscow. It was to be expected.) One woman I haven't reached, Anastasia Ames, is written about publicly as Mark's current wife. It seems a fair assumption that she would agree with Mark's account. Most importantly, I have spoken to Masha and Sveta and they speak kindly of Matt Taibbi and are very clear that these events absolutely never happened – they are 100% fictional.

As a result, **Matt Taibbi has been proven innocent of the worse passage being circulated as an anonymous Internet rumor against him. The blow-jobs-under-the-table passage never happened.** The women **named** in the passage as the subject of the harassment say so, emphatically. In addition, based on the results so far, it seems virtually impossible that any systemic workplace sexual harassment by Matt Taibbi could have taken place with 12 of the 18 employees, including 6 women, somehow not noticing. Finally, although I had to stop on November 12th, for the sake of calling each employee at Racket and to begin to write, I do plan to continue until I have reached *every single employee of the eXile*.

2. I will provide a fuller explanation of the eXile, but I'll say this for now: The worst passages we are all so concerned about are no worse than *Game of Thrones* or *American Psycho*. And Matt didn't even write them. They come from columns and chapters clearly written by Mark Ames. Matt's role was that he was a co-Editor of the eXile and the eXile book that included them. So if you want Matt on that List, then every producer, writer, or publisher of fictional works that include sexual violence against women will need to be on the List too. But we won't do that because we all want to watch the last season of *Game of Thrones*, or many of us do.

The same way that *American Psycho* is a disturbing critique of a certain type of Wall Street male, the "Mark Ames" character was always intended and the time received as a critique of a certain type of American male, many of whom had descended upon Moscow at that time. And, yes, both are creepy. But the **ONLY** reason we are so concerned about the eXile, which has no current cultural significance on its own, is because it has been thrown across our computer screens over and over.

As another example of missing context, the prevalence of 15-year old girls is a *critique* of a government decision to temporarily reduce the age of consent from 16

to 14, before raising it back up again. In this way, and other ways, it is also nearly impossible to put the passages into context without a reasonable understanding of Moscow at that time. Again, this difficulty is being exploited. From conversations I've had, the depictions are unfortunately not depictions of aberrant behavior and statutory rape, rather they were criticisms of all too commonplace occurrences that were given a pass by the government at the time.

(I realize that there are still questions that can be discussed here, I just think we need to stop and get full context to make sure we aren't accidentally and unfairly condemning an innocent man in the process. And we need to be sure that we are applying the rules based on principle, not based on what has been pumped onto our computer screens.)

Note regarding Mark Ames: As you can see in the Appendix A with the eXile employee interviews, I only asked employees if they had ever seen or experienced assault or harassment by *Matt Taibbi*. I have not asked those questions regarding Mark Ames for obvious reasons: (i) Mark Ames (oddly, or maybe not oddly) is not the one showing up on the Lists, (ii) I've never met or spoken to Mark Ames, and (iii) it wouldn't be appropriate to investigate someone without their permission (which I did have from Matt Taibbi).

The fact that Mark Ames used what he calls "satire" and what I would call a mix of satire, caricature, "Literary Forgery" (if you're not aware of it please start with the Wikipedia page), and even some performance art in his columns is easy to exploit and difficult to explain. The fact is, and I will explain this in more detail later: the eXile book was widely viewed as satire at the time. Based on my own first read of the material years ago, I find it difficult to understand how anyone could actually think it was meant to be true (unless they *really* wanted to for particular reasons).

The eXile employees state that the workplace harassment passages are 100% fiction. There are other passages outside the eXile workplace that cannot be confirmed by calling everyone. However, the author says that they are fictional, and there is now clear proof that workplace harassment passages are fictional. So, from the point of view of any reputable fact-checking process, unless and until a prior female employee comes forward with allegations of sexual assault or harassment, **the passages written by Mark Ames are fictional**. And they should never have been reported as even possibly factual in the first place. (Someone needs to look at this. Media outlets should be pulling the articles, with public apologies and/or an article on the matter of the same level of publicity as the original article.)

So now comes the part that will be hard to believe:

- 1. There is reason to believe that Matt Taibbi has been the victim of what I will describe as a "reverse Gamergate-style targeted attack campaign", including the intentional dissemination of false**



**“stories” of sexual assault, sexual harassment and worse for at least four years (summarized as the “Targeted Harassment Campaign”)**

- 2. Based on suggestions in Twitter DMs from Mike Cernovich and some public social media exchanges between Mike Cernovich and Matt Taibbi (summarized as “DMs”) and public articles, there is some reason to believe that the Targeted Harassment Campaign is being perpetrated by Mike Cernovich, possibly along with others including Milo Yiannopoulos, in an attempt to destroy Matt Taibbi’s book tour and career in retaliation for certain of Matt Taibbi’s writings and because Matt Taibbi is “left”**
- 3. Given Mike Cernovich’s prior comments regarding the Black Lives Matter movement, the subject matter of Matt Taibbi’s current book: *“I Can’t Breathe: A Killing on Bay Street”*, may also be a contributing issue. As indicated by Mike Cernovich’s statement: “Good luck with the rest of your “book tour.””**
- 4. Regardless of whether Mike Cernovich, possibly in concert with others including Milo Yiannopoulos, started or perpetrated the Targeted Harassment Scheme, Mike Cernovich sent DMs to Matt Taibbi, using the existence of this scheme as the basis for what I will summarize as a “threat” against Matt Taibbi regarding planning a “protest” that would include “handing out pages of the eXile” with Milo Yiannopoulos at one of Matt Taibbi’s book signings. I use the word “threat” because even the presence of Milo Yiannopoulos at events has been known to cause disturbances and high security costs, and some events of Milo Yiannopoulos himself have been shut down for security reasons.**

These possibilities seem to be bolstered by an “article” that was on “milo.yiannopoulos.net”, but has now been taken down. I have screenshots of the “article” and will find a way to post them. (For now it would take too long.) The headline of the article when I first took a screenshot was:

MEDIA

# Rolling Stone Writer Matt Taibbi Confessed To Forcing Female Employees To Perform Anal Sex



By Staff Writer 

Posted on November 13, 2017

A revised headline seemed to have been posted overnight:

**THE LIBERAL MEDIA'S OWN SUPERSTAR JOURNALIST MATT TAIBBI ONCE CONFESSED TO FORCING WOMEN INTO HAVING NON-CONSENSUAL SEX WITH HIM TO KEEP THEIR JOBS.**

Now a writer for Rolling Stone, Taibbi admitted in a book he co-authored with fellow writer Mark Ames to having his way with women without their consent while writing for The Exile, a magazine he published out of Russia in the mid-to-late 90s.

Each version of the “article” on “milo.yiannopoulos.net” had a link to an “article” by Mike Cernovich, which is currently on Medium at: <https://medium.com/@Cernovich/matt-taibbi-the-exile-rape-force-abortion-sexual-harassment-55ccc9c9bc5b>

I have taken screenshots. The title is:



Mike Cernovich

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Mike Cernovich is a journalist, documentary filmmaker and best-selling author of Gorilla Mindset.  
<http://amzn.to/2n8aNJF>

Oct 27 · 3 min read

# Matt Taibbi Confesses to Forcing Employees to Perform Sexual Favors

Matt Taibbi claims the Exile is satire, he's lying and I can prove it.

A book co-authored by Matt Ames and Matt Taibbi is loaded with fun stories

The highlighted link to Matt Taibbi leads to a Reddit thread that Matt Taibbi's readers know well. It is under the topic "Feminism":



You may be wondering what's going on. So was I when I first stumbled into all this, but it appears to be a Gamergate-style targeted attack. I'll explain later why I call it a "reverse Gamergate" attack.

It takes time to explain what is happening, precisely because Gamergate-style attacks depend on the fact that they are anonymous, diffuse and difficult to explain. However, if you stay with me I will walk you through the whole thing.

Although such behavior is extremely difficult to prove, I will by the end of this letter give you some reason to consider the following:

1. Everything, **EVERYTHING**, you think you know about Matt Taibbi has been warped, filtered and distorted as a part of what I will shorthand as a "reverse-Gamergate" attack on Matt Taibbi. Instead of it starting with Milo Yiannopoulos

and fanning out (the type of harassment in the Gamergate targeted attacks) this one appears to have the reverse order (by design or accident).

2. For anyone who didn't follow Gamergate and events afterwards, Milo Yiannopoulos was permanently banned from Twitter. As a result, a Gamergate attack initiating from Milo Yiannopoulos is no longer possible.
3. In this case, it seems that an anonymous Reddit thread has been spewing out false and distorted information about Matt Taibbi for at least four years. It has been seeded into Matt Taibbi's Twitter timeline, his comment sections, Facebook and probably other similar social media sites, through comments and tweets advising people to go see the Reddit thread. (I'm only on Twitter, so it is difficult to account for the other sites, without more research. I have come across it on Facebook before.)
4. Almost everything currently in the anonymous Internet has been manipulated using a bunch of tricks, which I will describe later. As a result, even the things that look very certain are actually distorted or false. (Even for people who know Matt Taibbi's work well, there are still some issues that are likely not apparent or that need more context to fully appreciate.)
5. It appears that in the wake of Harvey Weinstein, these anonymous false internet rumors picked up speed to the point where they were all over the internet. Through unintentional and possible intentional "reporting on the controversy" they jumped into the "reputable" media and are now being covered in Mainstream media (MSM) outlets around the world.
6. After hunting for weeks for Matt Taibbi's "accuser", it appears by his own DMs that he may have come to me. Of course, it can be difficult to know.
7. Regardless, Mike Cernovich's "threat" to bring Milo Yiannopoulos to "protest at one of your book signings" by "handing out pages from the eXile" is a threat to Matt Taibbi's career.
8. If Mike Cernovich's statement regarding Milo Yiannopoulos is to be believed (and even if it is unclear), this results in a Gamergate-style attack, not originating from Milo Yiannopoulos but ending with him (or just the threat of him, which is enough).
9. I will provide a more detailed explanation later, but the articles linking Mike Cernovich to Milo Yiannopoulos raise additional questions.

## **BASICALLY, WE HAVE ALL BEEN GAMED, WELL ALMOST....**

But they made some big mistakes (because they're stupid – I can't stress this enough). If I get time at the end I will explain the flaws in their system.

The writings and speeches of Mike Cernovich, Milo Yiannopoulos and those associated with the "Alt-right" movement sometimes suggest that think they can do these sorts of things because they can easily use "identity politics" to turn the "left" against itself.

And in the case of Matt Taibbi they've come a little too close for comfort. (We'll have to work on that in the future.)

In the meantime:

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***3. If you want to assist, today is best, or any time later***

For now, I hope people in my timeline will assist in trying, as much as is possible, to undo the horrible, damage that has been done.

Due to the time that I've spent on this over the past weeks, I have had almost no sleep. (Seriously, I'm hoping this is still English.)

So I'm putting out this first Part A of the total #TaibbiGate Letter to try to convince people to pause the conversation to give some time to put together and show the other information that I've found.

This is important to all of us but especially to the following groups:

**To women:** We're being Gamed and they think we're too stupid to figure it out. I'll explain later how much Matt Taibbi's work is being distorted. For now, however the question is not "How much do you like Matt Taibbi?" but rather "How much do you hate Milo, Gamergate, and guys like Mike Cernovich?"

**To BLM:** Matt Taibbi's new book includes the female powerhouses of the BLM movement, so Cernovich would love to ruin it's sales (he said so)

**To Artists:** I will explain more later, but this is actually very much aimed at you. You should be concerned if any past work can be twisted out of context and distorted this way. Artists need room to experiment, to disturb us and sometimes to fail, but they should never be accused of such horrible things based on the actions of fictional characters.

**To Journalists:** This has jumped from the anonymous internet into the MSM by churning around falsehoods and Gaming "reporting the controversy". (Kind of like the old George HW Bush wire at the debate controversy.) You may see the problems but other people don't. They believe what they see in the MSM, so it needs to be the choke point to cut these rumors off. Matt Taibbi is an easy target, but if you read my piece, he's innocent, which should really concern you. (For anyone wanting more explanation, please email me at: [alayne\\_f@yahoo.ca](mailto:alayne_f@yahoo.ca). I just can't type any more right now.

**To Occupy:** They're trying to undermine his financial reporting.

**To the "Left":** Well, you saw that DM right?

And finally, **to all of Matt Taibbi's readers:**

I will explain more fully later, but for now I could use your help.

**And Matt: Please RT. I can't reach your readers without you.**

**You can't defend yourself when you're the "accused" but we've established that you're not, so now you can help out. I'd like to prevent this from happening again to anyone else. So far, it's been pretty easy to understand the whole system, so I'm thinking I may be able to nail it down with some help.**

**So, if anyone is there with Matt, please get him to RT. (Once this goes, I'm either sleeping or contacting news outlets to explain.)**

Part of the difficulty in writing this so far, is that these "articles" pop up then go down, then pop up again. (The Milo article was up, then down, then up, now down in the space of about 12 hours.)

I have taken as many screenshots as possible, but I obviously can only take so many.

That's where I'm hoping for a hand from Matt Taibbi's readers and anyone else who wants to try collectively creating what I'm going to call a "Global Screenshot". By "Global" I mean comprehensive to try to capture as many false tweets, posts, articles, etc as possible before they go down or get deleted. (Sadly, these rumors have gone Global around the world too.)

Please don't send them to me, but rather here: [taibbigatescreenshots@gmail.com](mailto:taibbigatescreenshots@gmail.com). Right now, I need to use my email to contact some of the media outlets that ran stories and also to be available for any journalists with questions. So for now (again if you don't mind), please either make a folder and put them there when you see them or just pass them along to the special email. I'll come back with a request for them later once I catch up to it.

So in order to see what we can, I'd like to capture as many shots as possible before that happens. I'm anyone interested will take a moment to grab some screenshots. Especially if you remember seeing some really egregious examples.

If you have a few minutes, or you see something that just annoys you, please screenshot (with as much info as you can) and send it here: [taibbigatescreenshots@gmail.com](mailto:taibbigatescreenshots@gmail.com)

My goal is to get information to understand even better what happened. It's best when taking the screenshots to try to include the sender's name, time if possible (so capture the part that says how old it is and leave the date stamp), and anything else.

And if anyone knows Reddit, well, I'd like to try to understand that thread.

The things I'm mostly interested in are:

1. Anything showing the whole Milo, Cernovich, Reddit thread connection.
2. I just joined Facebook so I've seen very little. But anything bad you've seen there would be great.

3. Anything by Mike Cernovich anywhere about:
  - a. the current “issues” (past stuff is fine too)
  - b. the eXile
  - c. Racket
  - d. Rolling Stone’s journalistic integrity and/or the UVA story (I have a couple already)
  - e. Matt’s journalistic integrity
  - f. His relationship with Milo
  - g. Anywhere he links to or points out the Reddit thread
4. Basically, the same list but done by Milo or his current or prior affiliations, like Breitbart and any Breitbart writer:
  - a. the current “issues” (past stuff is fine too)
  - b. the eXile
  - c. Racket
  - d. Rolling Stone’s journalistic integrity and/or the UVA story (I have a couple already)
  - e. Matt’s journalistic integrity
  - f. Milo’s relationship with Cernovich or Breitbart people
  - g. Anywhere he links to or points out the Reddit thread (I haven’t seen this except through linking to Cernovich)
5. I have most the basics but I’d like to go far and wide. So if you think people will have taken the top of a thread, maybe take a look in the bottom or follow something out sideways
6. Also, although Cernovich and Milo are my main questions, any anonymous troll sending this stuff out is good. Whether it’s the really nasty stuff like “serial rapist” or just accusations like “Matt bragged about harassing female staffers” (he didn’t). They all fit together, bolstering each other, and I’m curious how many people are sending these out.
7. Please pay particular attention for what I’ll call “Citation Gaming” and other “fake news” tells. If it’s a link try to screenshot the link and the resulting page:
  - a. Links that go to error pages (or to Milo’s “website under construction”)
  - b. Links to entire books (like the eXile) that are out of print
  - c. Screenshots of book pages or passages of the eXile – the more of these the better. As Cernovich says, he has a first edition of Matt’s book. I’d like to see if I can trace it. (Just for fun)
  - d. Links to the Google books pages of the eXile but you can’t read (or really order) the book
  - e. Any tweets (or Facebook etc.) showing screenshots of book pages or the eXile pages with or without commentary
  - f. Especially stuff like this in that Reddit thread
8. Also anything talking about how Matt’s book talks should be shut down

9. I also really expect that this article on Milo's site done by a "Staff Reporter" will go down. I'd love to know when. But I'll be sleeping. [Note: I think the article I just mentioned is already down, this is why I can't keep up.]
10. And I'm curious whether the related Cernovich and maybe pile-on Breitbart articles will stay up too.

But I'll be sleeping, or talking on the phone for a bit. So thanks for the help.

And, again, I'm not doing any of this as a lawyer. And I'm not paid.

All the best,  
Alayne



Appendix A  
**Interview Results – the eXile**

Research started: November 4, 2017  
Results as of: November 13, 2017

Responding employees do not endorse, confirm or deny anything outside the information contained in their individual table cell. Public statements made by each employee can be reached by following the links provided under each name

<p>Masha Note: There were two women named “Masha” in the office (Last name withheld for privacy)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: Yes Made anonymously on Facebook</p>	<p>Sveta (Last name withheld for privacy)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>Masha Note: There were two women named “Masha” in the office (Last name withheld for privacy)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>
<p>Megan Lehmann</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: Yes Facebook</p>	<p>Tatiana Baklastova</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>Darya Drobisheva</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>
<p>Konstantin Boukarev</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>Kevin McElwee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>John Heisel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>
<p>Jake Rudnitsky</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>Dmitry Shalya</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>Ilya Shangin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No – Sexual assault</li> <li>2. No – Sexual harassment</li> <li>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</li> <li>4. Yes – Some passages fictional</li> </ol> <p>Public statements: No</p>
<p>Anastasia Ames Note: Full name included in public writings and well known as wife of Mark Ames</p> <p>Attempted to contact, no response</p>	<p>Anonymous Employee 1 (Female) Unable to locate</p>	<p>Anonymous Employee 2 (Female) Unable to locate</p>

Anonymous Employee 3 (Female) Unable to locate	Anonymous Employee 4 (Male) Unable to locate	Anonymous Employee 5 (Male) Unable to locate
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**Explanatory Notes – Questions Asked**

1. Each employee from each workplace was asked to answer “yes” or “no” to the three questions below.

- 1. Have you ever seen Matt Taibbi sexually assault someone or have you ever been the subject of a sexual assault by Matt Taibbi**

Sexual assault

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape.

- 2. Have you ever seen Matt Taibbi sexually harass someone or have you ever been the subject of sexual harassment by Matt Taibbi?**

Sexual harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

- a) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
- b) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

- 3. Did you ever see Matt Taibbi stand by and do nothing while a sexual assault or sexual harassment took place?**

**Explanatory Notes -- General**

I have interviewed all prior employees from the eXile and Racket that I could locate and who responded to my request. The completeness of each employee list has been confirmed with multiple employees at each workplace.

As the rumors circulating on the internet do not arise from any workplaces outside of the eXile and Racket, I have not conducted interviews at any other workplace.

Matt Taibbi and Mark Ames were not included

Results will be updated as new information is received.

In some cases, first names only are used for privacy. The first names given are the actual first names of each such employee.

Employees answering questions for publication but wanting to withhold names are identified as Anonymous Participating Employee (#)

**Part 3: Explanatory Notes – specific to the eXile**

Prior employees of the eXile were asked one additional “yes” or “no” question #4

**4. Would it be fair to say that a portion of the writing in the eXile [newspaper/circular] or the eXile book (“The Exile: Sex, Drugs, and Libel in the New Russia”) is fictional?**

More information will follow, but for some initial understanding of the discrepancy between the public rumors and the employee responses, some familiarity with “Literary Forgery” may be of benefit. For example, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary\\_forgery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary_forgery)

Appendix B  
**Interview Results – Racket**

Research started: November 4, 2017  
Results as of: November 13, 2017

Responding employees do not endorse, confirm or deny anything outside the information contained in their individual table cell. Public statements made by each employee can be reached by following the links provided under each name

<p>Edith Zimmerman</p> <p>5. No – Sexual assault</p> <p>6. No – Sexual harassment</p> <p>7. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</p> <p>Public statements: Yes</p> <p>Tweet</p>	<p>Elle Reeve</p> <p>Unable to locate</p> <p>See 2014 public statement</p>	<p>Molly Crabapple</p> <p>Contract Artwork</p> <p>5. No – Sexual assault</p> <p>6. No – Sexual harassment</p> <p>7. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</p> <p>Public statements: No</p>
<p>Alex Pareene</p> <p>5. No – Sexual assault</p> <p>6. No – Sexual harassment</p> <p>7. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</p> <p>Public statements: Yes</p> <p>Two</p>	<p>Brian Spinks</p> <p>5. No – Sexual assault</p> <p>6. No – Sexual harassment</p> <p>7. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</p> <p>Public statements: Yes</p> <p>Facebook</p>	<p>Ken Silverstein</p> <p>5. No – Sexual assault</p> <p>6. No – Sexual harassment</p> <p>7. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</p> <p>Public statements: Yes</p> <p>Article</p>
<p>Anonymous Participating Employee (Male)</p> <p>5. No – Sexual assault</p> <p>6. No – Sexual harassment</p> <p>7. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</p> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>Anonymous Participating Employee (Male)</p> <p>1. No – Sexual assault</p> <p>2. No – Sexual harassment</p> <p>3. No – Ignoring of either 1 or 2</p> <p>Public statements: No</p>	<p>Anonymous Employee 5 (Female)</p> <p>Unable to locate</p>

**Explanatory Notes – Questions Asked**

2. Each employee from each workplace was asked to answer “yes” or “no” to the three questions below.

**3. Have you ever seen Matt Taibbi sexually assault someone or have you ever been the subject of a sexual assault by Matt Taibbi**

Sexual assault

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape.

**4. Have you ever seen Matt Taibbi sexually harass someone or have you ever been the subject of sexual harassment by Matt Taibbi?**

Sexual harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

- d) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
- e) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- f) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

**5. Did you ever see Matt Taibbi stand by and do nothing while a sexual assault or sexual harassment took place?**

**Explanatory Notes -- General**

I have interviewed all prior employees from the eXile and Racket that I could locate and who responded to my request. The completeness of each employee list has been confirmed with multiple employees at each workplace.

As the rumors circulating on the internet do not arise from any workplaces outside of the eXile and Racket, I have not conducted interviews at any other workplace.

Results will be updated as new information is received.

Employees answering questions for publication but wanting to withhold names are identified as Anonymous Participating Employee (#)

**Explanatory Notes – Specific to Racket**

There is public record of an incident at Racket in 2014, but there is not enough public information to make a determination.

Please see the Intercept story, by Glenn Greenwald, Jeremy Scahill, Laura Poitras and John Cook

*The Inside Story Of Matt Taibbi's Departure From First Look Media*

The story gives the fullest publicly available context around Matt Taibbi's departure. The relevant passage is:

*These simmering problems came to a head this month when a Racket staffer complained to senior management that Taibbi had been verbally abusive and unprofessionally hostile, and that she felt the conduct may have been motivated, at least in part, by her gender. Temple conducted an investigation, and First Look determined that while none of the alleged conduct rose to the level of legal liability, the grievance bolstered their case that Taibbi should not be the manager of Racket.*