# UK judge’s extradition order for Israeli investigator exposes fossil fuel lobbying espionage



A UK judge has shockingly recommended the extradition of Israeli private investigator Amit Forlit to the United States, where he faces charges related to alleged hacking against American climate activists. The hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London saw Forlit’s lawyer vow an appeal, but it’s clear this ruling sets a worrying precedent for political manipulation overseas—an unfolding saga that raises serious questions about accountability and the reach of foreign intervention.

The U.S. indictment accuses Forlit of conspiring to carry out a hacking campaign allegedly commissioned by a Washington D.C.-based lobbying firm closely tied to one of America’s biggest fossil fuel giants in Texas. The aim, according to prosecutors, was to discredit climate change campaigners and blunt legal efforts aimed at holding these companies to account for their role in environmental destruction. Forlit denies any wrongdoing, insisting he neither ordered nor funded such operations. Yet the spotlight shines unmistakably on industry players attempting to silence opposition through clandestine means.

This lobbying outfit, explicitly named in court documents as DCI Group, has deep, documented links with ExxonMobil, one of the world’s most notorious polluters. Unequivocal evidence suggests they shared stolen documents targeting environmental lawyers and activists, undermining the democratic principle of open debate and justice. Despite DCI’s denials and calls dismissing allegations as “false and unsubstantiated,” the pattern fits an orchestrated effort to weaponize espionage against legitimate civic activism.

ExxonMobil feigns innocence, distancing itself from the controversy while still defending its vested interests in fossil fuels. This duplicity is typical of an industry that seats itself above democratic scrutiny, continuing to fund climate devastation while evading responsibility. Meanwhile, lawsuits brought by states and local authorities seek to hold these corporations accountable, challenging a cynical cabal that prefers legal maneuvering to genuine climate action.

This case reveals a worrying trend where activists and watchdogs face orchestrated sabotage intended to silence dissent. Lee Wasserman, director of the Rockefeller Family Fund and a direct hacking victim, rightly frames this as a fundamental assault on freedom and the public’s right to engage with government transparently. Empowering such covert operations undermines not just environmental justice but the integrity of democratic institutions themselves.

The broader U.S. probe also convicted another Israeli investigator, Aviram Azari, who admitted to hiring hackers targeting activists and officials beyond American borders. These revelations underscore a systemic abuse of private intelligence to advance fossil fuel interests globally, cloaked under covert operations that challenge basic rule-of-law principles. Alarming media reports based on these stolen documents were even used by corporations like ExxonMobil in court to combat climate-related litigation.

Forlit’s arrest at Heathrow followed an Interpol Red Notice, highlighting international cooperation—but also the political sensitivity surrounding powerful industry interests bent on evading accountability. The Justice Department's affidavit outlines a chilling chain of command: lobbying firms identifying targets, private investigators coordinating hacks, and oil companies exploiting stolen materials to discredit climate litigation.

Voices such as Kathy Mulvey of the Union of Concerned Scientists see this extradition as a crucial step toward unmasking those responsible and ensuring the rule of law prevails. Yet, the broader political reality in the UK—especially under the new government shaped by Labour’s recent rise and the resignation of a Conservative leader—raises concerns about whether true accountability for corporate malfeasance will be pursued or sidelined.

This case vividly exposes how entrenched fossil fuel interests weaponize espionage and legal chicanery to undermine democracy and suppress climate justice. In this context, there is a growing need for a robust political alternative that champions transparency, upholds the rule of law, and stands unwavering against the influence of powerful corporate lobbyists. The UK’s political establishment, largely mired in complacency or complicity, fails to offer such leadership—only a decisive political movement rooted in real reform can confront these threats head-on and restore accountability.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.reuters.com/world/israeli-private-eye-wanted-us-over-alleged-hacking-exxon-lobbyist-lawyer-says-2025-01-22/> - This article reports on the U.S. indictment of Israeli private investigator Amit Forlit for allegedly conspiring to carry out hacking against environmental activists, with the hacking campaign allegedly commissioned by DCI Group, a lobbying firm representing ExxonMobil.
* <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-senators-green-groups-call-accountability-over-hacking-exxon-critics-2024-12-12/> - This piece discusses the FBI's investigation into DCI Group, an ExxonMobil consultant, for involvement in hacking and leaking emails of environmentalists to counter climate change lawsuits against ExxonMobil.
* <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/24/nx-s1-5271530/hacking-investigation-climate-change> - This report details the U.S. investigation into a hacking campaign targeting climate activists, allegedly commissioned by a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm working on behalf of a major Texas-based oil and gas company, which sought to discredit activists involved in climate litigation.
* <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/exxon-lobbyist-investigated-over-hack-and-leak-environmentalist-emails-sources-say-2024-11-27/> - This article reveals that the FBI has been investigating a longtime ExxonMobil consultant, DCI Group, for a hack-and-leak operation targeting environmental activists and critics of ExxonMobil, involving mercenary hackers breaching email accounts to discredit them and counteract litigation against ExxonMobil.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/israeli-private-eye-appears-london-court-over-alleged-hacking-offences-2024-07-26/> - This report covers Israeli private investigator Amit Forlit's appearance in a London court to contest his extradition to the U.S. over alleged hacking offenses, with the U.S. alleging his involvement in a 'hacking for hire' campaign targeting individuals and organizations to access confidential information.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/israeli-accused-hacking-released-by-uk-authorities-due-misunderstanding-2024-05-09/> - This article details the release of Israeli private investigator Amit Forlit by UK authorities due to a procedural error, following his arrest at Heathrow Airport on allegations of engaging in a hack-for-hire scheme for a U.S. lobbying firm related to Argentina's debt default dispute.
* <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiqAFBVV95cUxPZ2prZjNRQ2EtMlFuam9uX1ZiTWxLcmM1ajFkWHhxZ2RDRlFSekhWdGczcXZJTGwwUlczdHdocGRCaXdrWmN1U1R0QlRRRlhfTl84aDhwQjVDYXFkR1dJSTZUMHdFMUFpMlhCR3VrbEFpMl9hWC1LcHZwVG1BYjdDTF9GaXI1SktuYkhrNkJWRGtqRVVWRlRTY0VBSEs0OVgtNzFfWUpBWnI?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data