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WORLD

Hillary Clinton's Big Benefactor Has Trade Links with Iran

BY **RORY ROSS** / APRIL 18, 2015 6:15 AM EDT

Enemies of Hillary Clinton waiting to discredit her bid for the White House are likely to seize on news that one of the biggest benefactors to the Clinton Foundation has been trading with Iran and may be in breach of US sanctions imposed on the country.

Ukrainian oligarch Victor Pinchuk, 54, has courted the Clintons for at least nine years – in the United States, the Alps and Ukraine.

Earlier this year, he was confirmed as the largest individual contributor to the Clinton Foundation, whose aims include the creation of “economic opportunity and growth”. He also has links to the Tony Blair Foundation and represented its biggest single donor in 2013.

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The fourth richest man in Ukraine, Pinchuk owns Interpipe Group, a Cyprus-incorporated manufacturer of seamless pipes used in oil and gas sectors.

Newsweek has seen declarations and documents from Ukraine that show a series of shipments from Interpipe to Iran in 2011 and 2012, including railway parts and products commonly used in the oil and gas sectors.

Among a number of high-value invoices for products related to rail or oil and gas, one shipment for \$1.8m (1.7m) in May 2012 was for “seamless hot-worked steel pipes for pipelines” and destined for a city near the Caspian Sea.

Both the rail and oil and gas sectors are sanctioned by the US, which specifically prohibits any single invoice to the Iranian petrochemical industry worth more than \$1m.

However, US sanctions laws are complex and, in certain areas, ill-defined. Interpipe may qualify for penalties due to the mere presence on American soil of North American Interpipe Inc, its United States subsidiary.

The US authorities can also penalise non-American companies with no base in the US at all which it judges to be working counter to its foreign policy, as happened to Zhuhai Zhenrong, a Chinese oil company, in 2012.

Being denied access to US markets and the US banking system could prove catastrophic to Interpipe, given that accountancy giant Ernst & Young has raised questions over its viability.

The person in charge of this list of non-US companies is the Secretary of State, who between 2009 to 2013 – the period during which Pinchuk's company was trading with Iran – was Hillary Clinton.

In November 2014, the now-retired Republican congressman, Steve Stockman, wrote to the US Department of the Treasury, questioning Interpipe's dealings with Iran.

Newsweek has seen a copy of that letter, in which Stockman refers to a “body of evidence” detailing “exports from Interpipe to Iranian entities” that “may have contravened US sanctions to Iran”.

Pinchuk is considered to be one of the world's foremost collectors of contemporary art. He counts Sir Elton John and Bill Clinton among his close friends and the Ukrainian owns a house in central London, which he bought for a record-breaking £80m.

Pinchuk became particularly friendly with Bill Clinton. In 2010, he invited the former president to his 50th birthday party in the French ski resort of Courchevel. In return, Pinchuk attended Clinton's 65th in 2011, and was a guest at the inauguration of Clinton's Presidential Library. The Clintons spoke at Pinchuk's Yalta European Strategy conference, which seeks integration between Ukraine and Europe.

Pinchuk's office did not respond to requests for comment on this story from *Newsweek*.

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Why does this article frame the story as Clinton enemies salivating over the latest "scandal"? Why isn't Newsweek (and other national press entities) demanding answers from Mrs. Clinton as to why she has apparent conflict-of-interest type relationships with our enemies?

That she and her foundation are taking money as nearly transparent quid pro quos for influence with the US government is appalling. In earlier times, she and her husband would have been facing jail time.

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because its nothing that's why. Its a world wide charity that has taken donations from a foreign businessman. Republicans like to associate him with terrorism because he is from the middle east. Let me put it too you this way. Every time you get in your car you are supporting this man. I don't see you not driving your car in protest.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#) · April 19 at 6:48pm**Leisha Spier Robbins** · [Top Commenter](#)

Darryl Touchet...how can people be so blind. Blindly voting with the party despite what a horrible candidate she is. GOP is no better. Just sickens me to watch.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#) · April 19 at 9:40pm**Greg Brown** · [Works at Melissa Data Corp.](#)

Darryl Touchet Equating corruption (and that's exactly what it is) with putting gas in my car. You sir are a deep, deep thinker.

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The Secretary of State, already in hot water for peddling influence based on bribes paid to a political front called a charity is caught with Iran stuffing her pocket. Yet, the first sentence of the story is attacking those who may try to hold her accountable. Nobody pretends that Newsweek is anything but Democrat propaganda, but this may even be a bit too obvious for them.

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It's getting difficult to tell the Democrats and Republicans apart. America is full of sheep who blindly follow their party regardless of the candidate. We are nearly always choosing the lesser of two evils.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#) · April 19 at 9:38pm**Kenneth Russel Brahmer** · [Top Commenter](#) · [IT Director at Federal Civil Service](#)

Leisha Spier Robbins When next you vote, ignore party candidates you dislike. Do a 'write in' of who you think would be a good president for everyone. If enough do that, then neither party gets a majority and real democracy will have a chance.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#) · April 20 at 7:45am**Richard Brier** · [Top Commenter](#) · [El Camino College](#)

Troy C, I would like to get behind you sir, to have the ability to know more about the facts ,than those invaloved have, I see you are truly a SUPERMAN, among men.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 4 hours ago**Ken Miller** · [Deltona, Florida](#)