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**From:** Noam Chomsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 29, 2018 12:21 PM  
**To:** J  
**Cc:** Valeria Chomsky  
**Subject:** Re:

It's a powerful and convincing statement, but my feeling is that it would not be wise to submit it for publication. Taking the stance of a reader who comes to the matter from afresh, perhaps having heard some rumors but knowing nothing, the reaction I suspect will be of the "where there's smoke there's fire" kind. Few are willing to think through the arguments and factual details or to try to adjudicate conflicting claims. I've seen this happen over and over on other matters -- many years of having been accused of Holocaust denial, for example.. Ugly and bitter as it is, I suspect the best course now is not to stir the pot by raising the issue publicly, opening the door to charges and accusations that can no doubt be answered in the court of logic and fairness -- but that's not the public domain, where innuendo and suspicion and accusation reign.

Anyway, for what it's worth, that's the way it looks to me, in part on the basis of experience.

The great work that you have been doing speaks for itself. My feeling is that you should keep at it, and simply develop a thick skin to fend off whatever ugliness breaks through now and then, diminishing over time.

Noam

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 8:33 AM J <jeevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> > wrote:

I'm considering submitting this to the oped of the wash post id like your thoughts

"Sweetheart deal!" So goes the attack on the resolution of the more than a decade ago federal investigation involving our client Jeffrey Epstein. The attack is profoundly misplaced, supported neither by the law nor the facts. Nor is it supported by the structure of our constitutional republic. To the contrary, Jeffrey was subjected to an extremely aggressive federal intrusion into what would typically be considered a quintessentially local criminal matter in south Florida. The offense investigated — at its core, sexual favors for hire — has long been treated as a matter entrusted to laws of the several States, not the federal government. The conduct — for which Jeffrey took full responsibility — was a classic state offense and was treated exactly that way by able, honest prosecutors in Palm Beach County. ~~At~~ Nevertheless, without a request from the state prosecutors, the federal government intervened. For their own opportunistic reasons many are now criticizing the federal decision-makers at the time, including now-Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta (then-United States Attorney in south Florida), for not going far enough.

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The critics are wrong on the facts and the law. They also ignore a fact going to the heart of fundamental fairness: In the decade since paying his debt to society, Jeffrey Epstein has led a life characterized by responsible citizenship, numerous acts of generosity and good deeds.

Here are the true key facts: Jeffrey Epstein, a successful self-made businessman with no prior criminal history whatsoever, engaged in illegal conduct that amounted to solicitation of prostitution. That conduct was wrong and a

violation of Florida state law. Although n= coercion, violence, alcohol, drugs or the like were involved, some of the=women he paid were under the age of 18. Those facts were c=refully assessed by experienced state sex crime prosecutors who aggressive=y enforce state criminal laws. No one turned a blind eye to potentia= offenses to the public order. To the contrary, the Palm Beach State=Attorney's Office conducted an extensive fifteen-month investigation, =ed by the chief of the Sex Crimes Division. Mr. Epstein was then ind=cted by the state grand jury on a single felony count of solicitation of p=ostitution.

During that intense investigation, the state p=osecutors extensively gathered and analyzed the evidence, met face-to=face with many of the asserted victims, considered their credibility =80 or lack thereof — and considered the extent of exculpatory e=idence, including sworn testimony from many that they lied =bout being eighteen years old to be allowed into Mr. Epstein's hom=. After months of negotiations, the state prosecutors believed they =ad reached a reasoned resolution of the matter that vindicated the public =nterest — a resolution entirely consistent with that of cases invo=ving other similarly-situated defendants. The system worked as it sh=uld have.

=hen, in came the feds. The United States Attorney's Office exten=ively and aggressively investigated whether Mr. Epstein had engaged in a c=mmmercial human trafficking ring, targeted minors, or used the interne= or traveled interstate in the process. But that's not =hat this was and that's not what happened. That is prec=sely why the federal authorities' ultimate decision to defer=C2 prosecution to the state was the right one. <=>

However, the federally-demanded r=solution was not without conditions. The federal prosecutors insisted on v=rious unorthodox requirements that Mr. Epstein's experienced =efense team had never seen imposed on any defendant anywhere. Under the fe=erally-forced deal, Jeffrey was required to request that the state pr=secutors demand the imposition of a thirty-month sentence that included =AOboth jail time and the strictest conditions of probation: life=ime sex-offender registration. Those draconian measures were far more=than warranted by the state grand jury's indictment and would=not have otherwise been required under the previously agreed-upon state di=position. As part of this highly unusual deal, the government re=quired Jeffrey to pay for a highly experienced group of attorneys=to bring claims against him on behalf of a government list of asserted vic=ims. Jeffrey was required to waive the right to challenge those claims wit=out being provided the asserted victim's identities by the governm=nt until after he was incarcerated. Importantly, the feds' decis=on to decline prosecution in deference to the state in exchange for t=ese extraordinary requirements was reviewed and approved at the =ultiple levels of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jeffrey took full=C2 responsibility, complied with the feds' demands, served =is sentence, and in the process was treated exactly the same (includi=g his time served) as any other state-incarcerated individuals. =His conduct while in custody was exemplary, and so characterized by the st=te custodial authorities.

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Jeffrey Epstein has paid his deb= to society. The challenges to his Agreement with the Government =AOmust also be understood as challenges to the millions Mr. Epstein paid t= the asserted victims and their lawyers pursuant to that agreement. A=ongst the beneficiaries of the Epstein-Federal Government Agreement were t=e many victims who collectively received many millions as a result of the =onditions imposed on Mr. Epstein that prevented him from meaningfully cont=sting civil liability — moneys that would be at issue if requests =o invalidate the agreement were granted.

Our nation faces vitally important challenges, many involving the treatment of women and basic human dignity. Voices are rightly being raised speaking truth to power, especially about women in the workplace. But Jeffrey's offenses of yesteryear, which were entirely outside of the workplace, have long since been redressed by the criminal justice system. He fully and faithfully has performed every promise and obligation required of him by state and federal authorities. In the spirit of the bedrock American belief in second chances and fundamental fairness, that chapter in Jeffrey's otherwise-productive and charitable life should be allowed to close once and for all.

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=C2 please note

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