



Asif William Rahman

- Age 34 at time of sentencing
- Former CIA analyst
- From Vienna, Virginia



CDSE

Center for Development
of Security Excellence

CASE STUDY

Unauthorized Disclosure

WHAT HAPPENED

Asif William Rahman, 34, of Vienna, Virginia, was an employee of the CIA since 2016 and held a Top Secret security clearance with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI). As part of his official duties, he was tasked with compiling binders containing country specific, region specific, and global information to brief and inform other U.S. Government personnel.

According to court records, on October 17, 2024, Rahman accessed and printed two Top Secret documents containing national defense information regarding a U.S. foreign ally and its planned actions against a foreign adversary. Rahman removed the documents, photographed them, and transmitted them to individuals he knew were not eligible to receive them. By October 18, 2024, the documents appeared publicly on multiple social media platforms, complete with classification markings.

From October to November 2024, Rahman repeatedly accessed and printed classified national defense information, including documents classified up to the Top-Secret and further compartmented levels, that he learned about during his employment and transmitted these documents to multiple individuals he knew were not eligible to receive them.

After October 17, 2024, Rahman engaged in a deletion campaign of work products on his Top Secret workstation to conceal his illegal activities. Among other things, he deleted and edited work products that contained his personal opinions before creating a false narrative regarding those deletions.

Rahman was indicted by a grand jury on November 7, 2024, and was arrested by the FBI as he arrived to work on November 12, 2024. On January 17, 2025, Rahman pleaded guilty to two counts of willful retention and transmission of classified information related to national defense. On June 11, 2025, he was sentenced to 37 months in prison.

INDICATORS

Access Attributes – As a CIA analyst, Rahman held a Top Secret security clearance with access to SCI.

Security and Compliance Incidents – Rahman violated security rules regarding the handling of classified information when he accessed, printed, removed, photographed, and transmitted two Top Secret documents to individuals he knew were not eligible to receive them.

Allegiance to the United States – Rahman accessed and printed Top Secret documents containing national defense information regarding a U.S. foreign ally and its planned actions against a foreign adversary. He later disclosed these documents to individuals he knew were not eligible to receive them.

IMPACT

- “Asif Rahman violated his position of trust by illegally accessing, removing, and transmitting Top Secret documents vital to the national security of the United States and its allies,” said Erik S. Siebert, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. “The urgency with which Mr. Rahman was identified, arrested, charged, and prosecuted is a testament to the commitment and professionalism of the investigators and prosecutors who brought him to justice. This case should serve as a stern warning to those who choose to place their own goals over their allegiance to our nation.”
- “By stealing and divulging classified information and then attempting to conceal his crimes, Asif Rahman not only violated the law; he also betrayed his oath as a government [sic] employee and his responsibility to the American people,” said Assistant Director Roman Rozhavsky of the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division. “Now he will pay the price for putting American lives and U.S. national security at risk. Let this be a warning to all clearance holders: The FBI will exhaust all avenues to find and bring to justice anyone — no matter who they are — who endangers our nation by disclosing sensitive information without authorization.”
- “For months, this defendant betrayed the American people and the oaths he took upon entering his office by leaking some of our Nation’s [sic] most closely held secrets,” said John Eisenberg, Assistant Attorney General for National Security. “As this case demonstrates, the Department of Justice will continue to protect our nation by vigorously investigating and prosecuting leakers who compromise our nation’s security.”

ADDITIONAL

- Rahman deleted and edited journal entries and written work products on his workstation electronic devices to conceal his personal opinions on U.S. policy and drafted entries to construct a false narrative regarding his activities.

Questions to consider:

- Did Asif William Rahman display any concerning behaviors prior to his illegal activities that could have provided warning signs regarding his intentions?
- If Rahman did display concerning behaviors, was it possible to mitigate those behaviors and take him off the critical pathway?

Resources for further exploration:

- [Job Aid Potential Risk Indicators: Insider Threat](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaid/insider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf)
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaid/insider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf>)
- [Understanding Espionage and National Security Crimes Job Aid](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaid/ci/ci-jobaidseries-understandingespionage.pdf)
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaid/ci/ci-jobaidseries-understandingespionage.pdf>)
- [Insider Threat Mitigation Guide](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/Insider%20Threat%20Mitigation%20Guide_Final_508.pdf)
(https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/Insider%20Threat%20Mitigation%20Guide_Final_508.pdf)

Supporting Through Reporting!

Contact the appropriate POC to report any observed potential risk indicators:

Name: _____ Agency/Department: _____
Title: Supervisor/Security Officer/ITP Senior Official/ITP Manager