

Statement issued on behalf of the Maxwell Family on the launch of their sister Ghislaine's Appeal

"It was a stitch-up from beginning to end"
Ian Maxwell

London, 28 February 2023

On 2 July 2020, our much-loved sister Ghislaine Maxwell, was arrested by the FBI in a theatrical and heavily publicised raid.

She was in hiding but not from law enforcement. She had sought sanctuary from the persecution of the media that had besieged her Manchester-by-the-Sea home and driven her to separate from her family. One U.K. newspaper had even put a £10,000 price on her head.

There was no need at all for the raid. It was a calculated publicity stunt designed specifically to criminalise her in the eyes of her future jury and the world. William Barr, the then US Attorney General had suffered the double embarrassment of his father's links to Jeffrey Epstein and the death of Epstein on his watch. He needed a proxy and, in Ghislaine, found his victim.

The DOJ and the FBI jumped to help their de facto boss. Ghislaine's lawyers were in regular contact with the US Attorney's office from the time of Epstein's arrest. Had the FBI asked her lawyers, Ghislaine would have presented herself for questioning at any time and any place.

She had no need to hide from the FBI because she knew herself to be innocent. Ghislaine did not leave the United States from the time of Jeffrey Epstein's arrest. Had she had the slightest doubt about that she would have left the US for France where, as a French citizen, she could not have been extradited.

Against the background of Barr's expressed embarrassment about the death of Jeffrey Epstein whilst in custody, Southern District of New York (SDNY) Attorney, Audrey Strauss, arranged a heavily choreographed press conference in which Ghislaine was outrageously criminalised in the eyes of the world. Following the press conference she could not have received a fair trial and did not receive one.

Ghislaine's Appeal which is launched today shows just how far the Government and the trial court erred in enabling her convictions and how essential it is in the interests of justice that the Second Circuit Court of Appeals overturn them.

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