

# AMERICAN FREE PRESS

VOLUME XXIV • ISSUE 27 / 28 • JULY 8 & 15, 2024 • AMERICANFREEPRESS.NET • POSTMASTER: DO NOT DELAY • MAILED JULY 5, 2024 • \$5.00

## PRESIDENT OR KING?

• Supreme Court decision on presidential immunity has some celebrating and others rightfully concerned

By the AFP Staff

On July 1, in a landmark decision, the conservative-leaning Supreme Court ruled that presidents have nearly absolute immunity from prosecution for acts that would be considered criminal if anyone else committed them. While we at AFP believe presidents should be able to carry out their constitutional duties without the threat of lawfare—like former President Donald Trump faces right now—this ruling from a court characterized as “conservative” sets a dangerous precedent that will be certainly abused by future U.S. leaders.

Our founding fathers created this nation because they had all lived under the tyrannical rule of petty monarchs who were considered above the law. They explicitly created a series of checks and balances to avoid handing too much power to one individual, like a king or emperor.

Writing for the majority on the Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote, “Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power entitles a former president to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority.



CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS  
Delivered majority opinion.

And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts.”

While we would tend to agree that presidents need immunity for official acts and no immunity for unofficial acts, the danger here lies in what constitutes an “official act.”

When President Bill Clinton let loose the attack dogs at the IRS on his enemies, he could easily argue he was acting in an official capacity as chief executive to investigate potential tax cheats that just so happened by coincidence to also be rivals.

When former President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq and the start of an aggressive war that led to the deaths of a million Iraqis, Bush could easily defend his actions—which many consider to be the worst strategic blunder in the history of the United States—by saying he was carrying out his constitutional duty to protect the United States.

When President Barack Obama had Attorney General Eric Holder work up kill lists of American citizens, who also were critics of this country, Obama could have argued he was acting in his official capacity to protect the United States and not just okaying the murder of American critics in violation of U.S. laws.

In a recent column, constitutional attorney and law professor at George Washington University Johnathan Turley excoriated President Joe Biden for claiming he, unlike Trump, would follow the law no matter what the Supreme Court says.

“What was most glaring for many civil libertarians was President Biden’s portrayal of himself as a paragon of constitutional fealty,” wrote Turley. Turley went on to detail multiple cases where Biden and his administration have been proven in U.S. courts of law to have violated U.S. constitutional principles.

In this ruling, the Supreme Court created a path for future presidents to claim their actions, no matter how self-serving or tyrannical, fell under their official duties, thus absolving themselves of consequences. This is a dangerous precedent that some will exploit, just as they have abused the Constitution by making war without Congress’s approval, spying on Americans, and locking down the country. ★

### THE INSIDE SCOOP



**GOP House members try to ensure immigrants aren’t secretly voting.**

See page 6



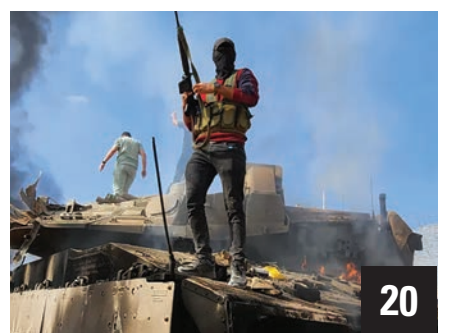
**Wikipedia dishes out bad news for influential advocacy group.**

See page 9



**Russia says U.S. behind attacks by Ukraine on Russian civilians.**

See pages 14-15



**Prominent Israeli newspaper detonates Oct. 7 bombshell.**

See page 20