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Pentagon hacker loses fight against trial in US

UFO enthusiast Gary McKinnon faces trial in America accused of the “biggest military hack of all time” after

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URL: <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/54755/Pentagon-hacker-loses-fight-against-trial-in-US>

yesterday losing a plea against extradition.

By **GEOFF MAYNARD**

00:00, Thu, Jul 31, 2008

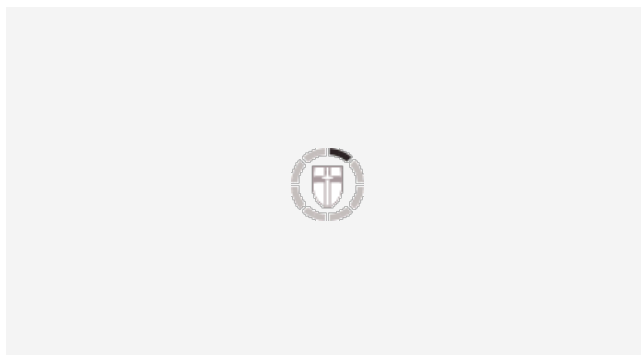


Lawyers said he could be jailed for up to 70 years – including the prospect of being sent to Guantanamo Bay as a terrorist suspect – if convicted in the US of sabotaging vital defence systems.[>

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He has admitted accessing 97 US military and Nasa computers but has never been charged in Britain and said he hacked into the Pentagon looking for information about UFOs.[>

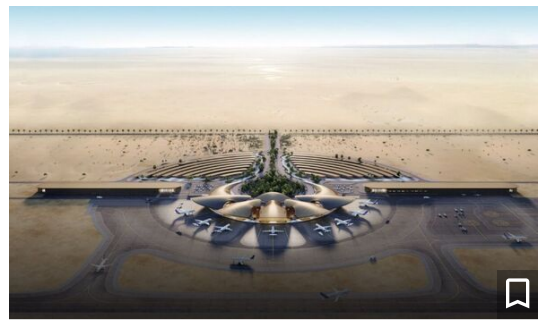
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The House of Lords rejected a plea by unemployed McKinnon, 42, from Enfield, north London, to quash an extradition request granted to US authorities in 2006.[>

[>

His legal team vowed to carry on the fight with an appeal to the European Court.[>



[>

From the bedroom of a house belonging to his girlfriend's aunt, he used a home computer via the internet to wander around the networks of a wide number of US military institutions. [>

[>

But he has maintained he was motivated by curiosity and that he managed to get into the networks only because of lax security.[>

[>

US authorities claim he stole 950 passwords and deleted files at Earle naval station in New Jersey which is responsible for replenishing arms for the Atlantic fleet.[>

[>

He was also charged with hacking into 16 Nasa computers and one defence department system.[>

[>

A statement by solicitors for McKinnon, who was not at the House of Lords, said: "Gary McKinnon is neither a terrorist nor a terrorist sympathiser.[>

[>

"His case could have been properly dealt with by our own prosecuting authorities. Instead, we believe that the British Government declined to prosecute him to enable the US government to make an example of him.

[>



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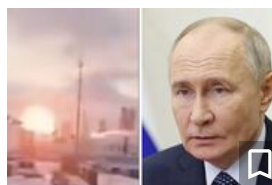
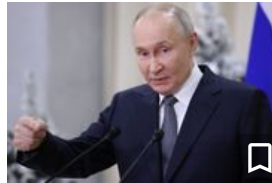
“American officials involved in this case have stated that they want to see him ‘fry’. The consequences he faces if extradited are disproportionate and intolerable and we will be making an immediate application to the European Court to prevent his removal.”[>

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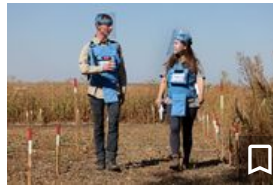
McKinnon’s supporters say he is being made a “scapegoat” for security shortcomings.[>

[>

After a previous hearing he said: “My intention was never to disrupt security. The fact that I logged on there and there were no passwords means that there was no security.”[>



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