



124,000 Leaked Documents Reveal How Uber Spread “F**king Illegal” Ride-Sharing Globally

Description

A treasure trove of more than 124,000 confidential documents known as “***The Uber Files***” reveals the inside story of how Uber aggressively pushed into international markets

The unprecedented leak to *The Guardian* and shared with the *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists* (ICIJ) and other media outlets shows how the ride-sharing service wooed prime ministers, presidents, billionaires, and oligarchs for access to their home markets between 2013-17.

The files cover Uber’s operations across 40 countries during a period in which the company became a global behemoth, bulldozing its cab-hailing service into many of the cities in which it still operates today. — The Guardian

Uber’s history of disregarding local laws and regulations and even conducting law-breaking activities were detailed in the cache of **files containing emails, iMessage, and WhatsApp messages**, including conversations with co-founder Travis Kalanick and top-level execs.

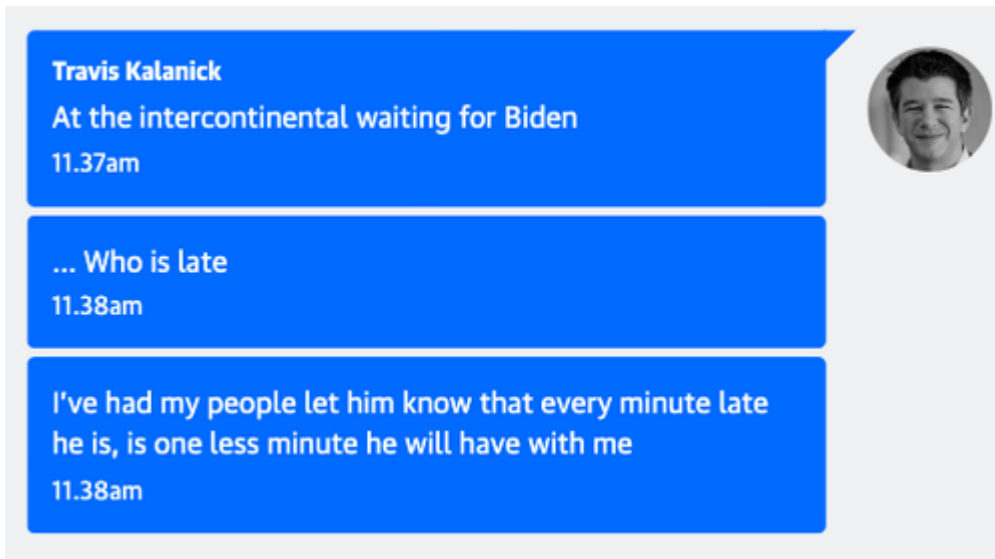


In a 2014 message to a coworker, Uber's former head of global communications, Nairi Hourdajian, reportedly stated: **"Sometimes we have problems because, well, we're just fucking illegal."**

In an exchange between Kalanick and execs, the co-founder overlooked concerns about sending French Uber drivers to demonstrate against the taxi industry. **"I think it's worth it ... Violence guarantee[s] success,"** Kalanick wrote to colleagues.

There were also messages between Kalanick and Emmanuel Macron, who helped the company into the French market — it was noted that Macron, then economy minister, secretly brokered deals with opponents in the French cabinet to allow the company to disrupt Europe's taxi industry.

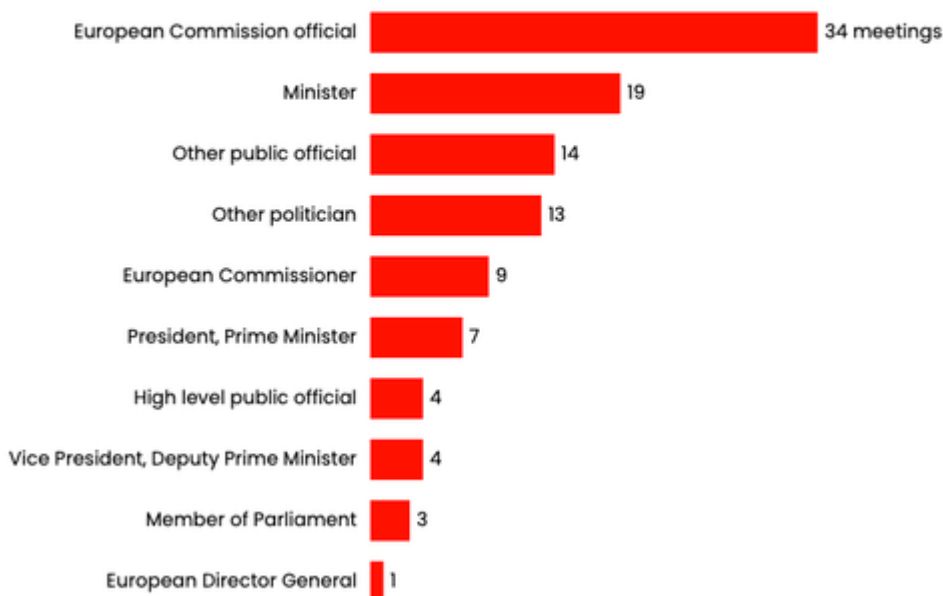
In 2016, Kalanick met with then-U.S. Vice President Biden at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He messaged his staff about Biden's tardiness: **"I've had my people let him know that every minute late he is, is one less minute he will have with me."**



Detailed in The Uber Files, company execs held 100 meetings worldwide in 17 countries.

UBER'S HIGH-LEVEL ACCESS

Leaked internal documents reveal that from 2014 to 2016 Uber executives held more than 100 meetings with public officials from 17 countries as well as representatives of European Union institutions. They included 12 meetings with representatives of the European Commission that haven't been publicly disclosed.



Source: The Uber Files

The documents **reveal for the first time Uber's \$90 million-a-year lobbying and public relations push to disrupt the global taxi industry.**

In response to the data dump, Uber spokesperson Jill Hazelbaker admitted mistakes were made when Kalanick ran the company. However, his replacement, Dara Khosrowshahi, has been "tasked with

transforming every aspect of how Uber operates” and has “installed the rigorous controls and compliance necessary to operate as a public company.”

“We have not and will not make excuses for past behavior that is clearly not in line with our present values. Instead, we ask the public to judge us by what we’ve done over the last five years and what we will do in the years to come,” Hazelbaker said.

One document revealed Uber developed a “**kill switch**” so that when authorities raided offices around the world, law enforcement seeking information on the company’s practices would be cut from access to the company’s data systems, thus preventing evidence gathering.

by Tyler Durden

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