

Whoever was responsible for the release of the Stratfor emails, i want to thank him or her from the bottom of my heart. Whoever released these emails performed a function that's an integral part of democracy, as surely as voting or running for public office.

Whether through civil disobedience or investigative reporting, which this is sort of in-between, exposing evildoing is, indeed, an integral part of democracy, that we utterly depend on.

There are many ways to expose evildoing and fight against it. In Bhopal, a number of folks have been doing it for 28 years, ever since ever since a chemical plant in their city exploded in 1984, killing 3000 in one night and 20,000 more across the years. Their main target is the Dow Chemical company, the company ultimately responsible for the disaster. To try to hold Dow accountable, the activists there have gone on hunger strikes, marches from Bhopal to delhi, and so on. They've had a lot of success getting attention for it in India, and have recently gotten the Indian government to reopen long-closed investigations.

Their real target, though, is Dow. And since Dow has no legal recourse against these activists, can't stop them - they've spent large amounts of money to hire Stratfor to spy on their victims in Bhopal, to find out what moves their victims might make next.

No one would have found out about this sick situation if there hadn't been this leak of millions of emails, of which Jeremy is accused.

Whoever did this leak exposed a lot of other corporate wrongdoing too - Stratfor was also spying on Occupy, PETA, Wikileaks, Anonymous... oh, and the Yes Men.

Yes, us. They were spying on us because in 2004, we joined the Bhopal activists in trying to shame Dow into providing redress for the 1984 disaster. We set up a fake Dow website and got ourselves invited by the BBC to speak on the 20th anniversary of the disaster as Dow. We announced to the world that we, Dow, were going to compensate the victims, clean up the site, and basically do everything that Dow should.

The world loved the announcement - but the market punished Dow by cutting billions off its stock value. There was an enormous amount of press, and millions of people found out about Dow's responsibility for the world's biggest industrial disaster.

Publicly, Dow said nothing. Privately, they paid Stratfor lots of money to spy on us.

That's very sinister - but it's also very flattering. It means that Dow and other companies see us - and the Bhopal victims, and Occupy - as a threat. A threat that can actually change things. Which it can - maybe not with each action, but cumulatively. Thanks to the activists in Bhopal, and the Occupy movement, and the millions of activists who are fighting in their own ways to bring evildoers to their knees... slowly but surely, inexorably, all these people are bringing democracy to America, just as it's always happened.

That's kind of what we Yes Men learned when we connected with the Occupy movement, who Stratfor also spied on, and discovered that all the activism, that sometimes seems pointless, actually *does* have a great effect: the Occupy movement, for example, itself the product of so much activism before it, profoundly shaped the presidential election, and continues to have even profounder effects.

The bad guys know this. And they should also know that as long companies like Dow fight people, people will fight back. As long as companies like Stratfor fight in extra-legal, unethical ways to keep tabs on those fighting for positive change, they can expect to be brought down again and again and again no matter how hard they try to put the lid on it, no matter who they try to put in jail.

Democratic action is inexorable, it won't stop.

And now, a little plug—sorry!

We Yes Men are adding our own little stream to this flood by building a sort of Action Switchboard, which will give help and advice to activists wanting to create or plug into direct actions against the enemies of democracy, actions of the funny sort that we're known for. We'll be launching it alongside our movie, *The Yes Men Are Revolting*, which is all about inspiring people, letting them know that action matters, and that we *can* take our democracy back.

Our fondest dream is that Stratfor has to open a whole special division. Before another hero brings it down to its knees once again.

Thank you.