

## It's always the lies that get them in the end

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It's not bad luck that results in two senior US presidential advisers being either found, or pleading, guilty to corruption charges in a single day. Nor is it coincidence. It's lies that did that, and the belief that they could get away with those lies so long as the web of deceit that their behaviour involved would not be discovered.

And we know why they believed that those lies would not be found out. Offshore secrecy did for Manafort: he presumed that the money trails that led to him could be covered by the simple artifice of using the offshore secrecy that so many co-called professional people sell from tax havens.

Michael Cohen fell for the belief that the US's own ability to hide the details of the affairs of companies - which has made that country the number one secrecy jurisdiction in the world in the Tax Justice Network Financial Secrecy Index - would deliver the same outcome.

But the world of secrecy is changing. And with that the lies came out.

And it's always the lies that undo the likes of Manafort and Cohen. And maybe others in due course.

That's why I have for years been involved in campaigning for transparency. The world can do without corrupt politicians, corrupted advisers and corrupted democracy. All are the inevitable consequence of offshore. Which is yet another reason why we can do without the deliberate corruption that offshore sets out to sell to those seeking to hide their nefarious activities from view.

Manafort and Cohen have fallen. Others take note. Transparency will do for you too. And the world will be all the better for that.