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It's time for Mike Espy to make this right. Last week it came to light that not only had Espy represented an African despot currently on trial for crimes against humanity, but he lied about the extent of the work he did for him. Despite previous claims that he ended the contract early and only took a portion of the payment he was owed, Espy actually did collect the full \$750,000 from the contract and only ended his work 15 days early.

Mike Espy should give away this blood money that he once eagerly accepted. To keep it is a disservice to all those who have been harmed by this cruel leader through the years.

Tonight, we launch rejectbloodmoney.com to make sure Mississippians know the truth behind Mike Espy's relationship with the warlord, since he has only lied about it.

For more on Espy's history with the Ivory Coast despot, please see below.

ESPY IS A FORMER LOBBYIST WHO REPRESENTED AN IVORY COAST DESPOT WHO ORDERED THE KILLING, TORTURE, AND RAPE OF HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS

Espy Lied About Collecting \$750,000 For Lobbying On Behalf Of A Corrupt African Despot's Government

Mike Espy Made \$750,000 Lobbying On Behalf Of A Corrupt Ivory Coast Despot. "A Democratic Senate hopeful in Mississippi cashed in \$750,000 after lobbying on behalf of an African despot currently on trial for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court. Mike Espy, a former lobbyist and U.S. agriculture secretary under President Bill Clinton, is running against Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who was appointed as a temporary successor to longtime Republican Sen. Thad Cochran after his retirement in April." (Lukas Mikelionis, "Democrat Mississippi Senate Hopeful Misled About \$750G Lobbying Contract With African Despot," [Fox News](#), 11/16/18)

Espy Originally Told The Media He Had Only Accepted Part Of His Lobbying Fee From The Ivory Coast Government, But He Actually Cashed In For The Full Amount. "But Fox News can reveal that Espy was paid \$750,000 in 2011 by then Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo's government. The payment appears to contradict Espy's previous statements that he accepted just a portion of it. 'I have voluntarily suspended it,' Espy told the Hill back in 2011 about the contract with the Ivory Coast government. 'Events are spiraling rapidly. It is very difficult to work in that context.'" (Lukas Mikelionis, "Democrat Mississippi Senate Hopeful Misled About \$750G Lobbying Contract With African Despot," [Fox News](#), 11/16/18)

Not Only Did Espy Collect The Full \$750,000 Figure, He Also Dropped The Contract Just 15 Days Before It Was Supposed To End, Contradicting His Previous Comments.

"He said he dropped his three-month contract with the country just a little more than a month on the job and collected just \$400,000 of the \$750,000 amid the outcry of Washington D.C. lobbyists profiting from a brutal regime. Yet according to a FARA Supplemental Statement filed with the Department of Justice in 2011, not only did Espy

collect the full \$750,000 figure, he also dropped the contract just 15 days before it was supposed to end, contradicting his comments.” (Lukas Mikelionis, “Democrat Mississippi Senate Hopeful Misled About \$750G Lobbying Contract With African Despot,” [Fox News](#), 11/16/18)

“Espy Represented The African Ruler Who Lost The 2010 Election, But Refused To Concede To His Opponent, Unleashing Extrajudicial Killings, Torture, And Rape Of His Political Opponents, According To The U.S. State Department. He’s currently being tried at the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.” (Lukas Mikelionis, “Democrat Mississippi Senate Hopeful Misled About \$750G Lobbying Contract With African Despot,” [Fox News](#), 11/16/18)

Espy Acted As The Mouthpiece For The Ivory Coast Government, Accusing The Ruler’s Opponents Of Stealing The Election And Saying Attempts To Remove The Leader Would Be Met With Force. “At the time of the turmoil, the Ivory Coast government approached Espy to represent him in talks with the Obama administration and the UN. He acted as an English-speaking mouthpiece for the regime, making pro-government comments on state television and telling the Daily Telegraph in 2010 that the ruler believes the election was “stolen” and any attempts to remove him from power will be met with force.” (Lukas Mikelionis, “Democrat Mississippi Senate Hopeful Misled About \$750G Lobbying Contract With African Despot,” [Fox News](#), 11/16/18)