Responsibility Meter Report

FBI search of Washington Post reporter's home in leak investigation

policing · Virginia, United States · 2026-01-14

Event harm: 71.6 · Confidence: 80.0

Summary

Federal investigators searched Washington Post reporter Hannah Natanson's home and seized devices as part of a leak investigation tied to a Defense Intelligence Agency IT specialist. The search triggered challenges over press freedom, warrant scope, and the treatment of journalists in national-security investigations.

Top actors

1. FBI search team | culpability 46.8 | confidence 93.0
2. Justice Department leadership overseeing the leak probe | culpability 46.4 | confidence 88.0
3. Federal magistrate approving the search warrant | culpability 32.1 | confidence 76.0
4. U.S. public funding base | culpability 10.6 | confidence 63.0

Formulas

eventHarm = (20*severity + 12*scale + 15*irreversibility + 12*targetVulnerability + 15*rightsInvasion + 16*intentionality + 10*duration) / 5

actorResponsibility = (15*authorship + 18*decisionPower + 10*interpretivePower + 12*executionControl + 10*knowledge + 8*foreseeability + 8*discretion + 6*benefit + 8*concealment + 5*repeatSystemRole) / 5

confidence = (25*sourceQuality + 20*evidenceCompleteness + 20*roleCertainty + 20*attributionCertainty + 15*recencyStability) / 5

culpability = actorResponsibility * eventHarm / 100

Sources

- Associated Press: AP report on the search of Hannah Natanson's home
- U.S. Department of Justice: DOJ release on charges against the DIA IT specialist in the leak case