

An idiomatic English translation of IAN MAXWELL's INTERVIEW WITH PARIS MATCH Published 4 March 2021

Paris-Match: Why do you want to talk to us today?

Ian Maxwell: My sister, Ghislaine Maxwell, filed her third bail application last week. To do this she has raised \$28.5 million. This sum was assembled for the most part by her and her husband, as well as by the family and friends of Ghislaine, who retain their great affection for her. She is asking for her release on bail so that she can prepare her defence calmly and with dignity in the four months preceding her trial, due to start in mid-July. It is vital that she is able to prepare herself whilst in home confinement. My sister is hoping for that and she has a right to it. In order to provide the judge with the necessary assurances, Ghislaine has also offered to renounce her British and French nationalities, retaining only her American citizenship. This is a huge sacrifice for her. She is immensely proud to be French - France is our country, we were all born there, our mother was born there and she now rests there. So this offer is made at real personal cost to her and her lawyers hope that this renunciation will reassure the judge, proving to her that she has no plans to flee. We are awaiting her response during the course of this month.

PM: You are talking to us on your own today – does your brother, Kevin and your sisters, Isabel and Christine, share your feelings?

IM: Of course! What a question! You know, we were brought up by an autocratic father, a real alpha male. From our childhood, we developed deep sibling bonds and we are a tightly knit crew. Our family has experienced multiple tragedies but we can count on each other and we are bound together by love and loyalty.

PM: Have you seen your sister Ghislaine? Can you talk to her, phone her?

IM: Since the COVID pandemic, visits have been prohibited in the prison system. This is a ruling imposed on everyone, not just our sister. Her lawyers can talk to her on the phone, but they are not allowed to call her on weekends, when she has to endure two days of total silence. My brothers and sisters, like her many friends, of course write to her a lot and often. Only, since we don't all live in America, it can take up to six weeks

for our letters to reach her. This wall of silence is torture. She has subscribed to a newspaper, but this too arrives several weeks late. Her isolation is knowingly, purposely maintained, it is ferocious and destructive. But that's not the worst of it. I'm giving you these details to emphasize that my sister, like any citizen in a democracy, has the right to a fair trial and therefore to be able to prepare her defense decently. This right is effectively being denied her, it is ridiculed and trampled on. Ghislaine has computer access but with no internet connection, on which she is allowed, a few hours a day, to study the two million pages of evidence. Since she doesn't have a table in her cell, and sometimes no paper, it is hard for her to deal with such incredibly voluminous documentation without being able to annotate it and work on it properly. Is it right, in the United States in 2021, for an accused person pre-trial - therefore presumed innocent - to not have the material, psychological and legal wherewithal to organize their own defense? A French citizen, locked up in a medieval dungeon in New York, is today being deprived of her basic rights.

Paris-Match: Describe for us her daily life in the Brooklyn Federal Prison, where she has been detained since last July

IM: Ghislaine is being tortured - and I weigh my words carefully when I say this. The conditions of her detention are appalling. At night, a white beam lights up her cell every fifteen minutes, she has not had a normal night's sleep in eight months. She has brown tap water to drink with her barely digestible food. Her guards are forbidden to speak to her, a wall of silence locks her in and suffocates her. They inflict degrading tasks upon her, forcing her to brush the floor, or sticking their fingers in her mouth. She has lost 10 kilos, her hair is falling out, her vision has worsened a lot. Her physical condition is horrifying. Her jailers have locked her in a dungeon in which they are determined to break her.

PM: And why, in your opinion, would American justice want to weaken her like this? it?

IM: Jeffrey Epstein was arrested, incarcerated and he died in prison, dead at the hands of American justice. Suicide or murder, I won't get into that debate. But when Epstein died, the world's press pounced on my sister to eat her alive. A wholly unfounded narrative has gone round the world, completely without foundation, describing her as a witch, a criminal and

all this based on memories of alleged victims dating back 25 years. American justice realized they were going to need someone to pay for Epstein's crimes, for the horrors committed by this man whose sudden death they bear responsibility for. Although the charges against Ghislaine are really flimsy, they decided that it would be her who would cop the penalty for him. My sister didn't do anything other than be his friend, that's all. I'm going to tell you something that you may not know. The father of William Barr, the US Attorney General at the time of Ghislaine's arrest, is the man who launched Jeffrey Epstein into the world. This man ran the famous Dalton School. He recruited Epstein as a teacher, he trusted him, he believed in him. Ghislaine's main accuser's own father did the same thing as her – believing in Jeffrey Epstein.

PM: Do you really think that your sister, despite the detailed circumstantial and numerous testimonies which accuse her, would be innocent of the six charges brought against her?

IM: Absolutely. Ghislaine is completely innocent. I am a few years older than her and have known her all my life. She is a woman with great values, highly empathetic, very well educated and someone imbued with a profound moral sense.

PM: But the victims are clear, their testimony overwhelming?

IM: Not in my view. But that is, however, what the media peddle, which is completely false. The accusers are alleging as fact events that would have occurred a quarter of a century ago. There is no hard evidence, no hard facts. Isn't it strange that the judge keeps the names and testimonies of the three alleged victims anonymous? Ghislaine's defense will not learn the names of these accusers until six weeks before the trial. It's scandalous. The defense has the right to examine these accusations, to verify them, to confront them, to criticize them. Never has such an arbitrary procedure been conducted by the courts of the United States.

PM: If your sister is innocent, as you claim, why did she evade justice for a year? An escape, isn't that a sign that you don't have a clear conscience?

IM: She never ran away. That whole period is a media invention. I would remind you that until last summer she faced no charges, she was neither a suspect nor was she charged. When Jeffrey Epstein was arrested, justice was not interested in Ghislaine. She was named in civil proceedings and

she responded to the defamation charges brought against her by an alleged victim of Epstein in July 2016. The year before her arrest, my sister had to invent a way to live, quite simply. She went under the radar, she took cover from the madness of the press pack that was chasing her. Her lawyers always knew where she was, they knew exactly where she was. Ghislaine never left American jurisdiction. Her arrest on July 2, 2020 was a complete circus, it was designed as a giant spectacle to feed the press. They put on a real show when it would have been perfectly possible simply to call my sister in. She would have shown up for the meeting immediately. She would have done so voluntarily and discreetly. This case is a judicial masquerade. We are asking for nothing more, nothing else, other than for a fair, just and balanced legal process in which our sister's presumption of innocence and her right to be defended, is respected. Why only listen to Epstein's victims? What happened to the search for evidence? Why forbid my sister the exercise of her fundamental rights?

PM: When was the last time you saw her?

IM: In June 2019, the seven of us met up in London at my partner's house. We had not been all together for six years as we all live in different countries and have busy schedules, so occasions for such reunions are unfortunately rare. The previous time we were all together was for our dear mother, when she celebrated her 90th birthday. This time, we were able to get together on what would have been the 96th birthday of our father, Robert Maxwell, and we were all there. It was terrific. Ghislaine was in great shape, she was looking forward to the coming summer, she was happy, kind as always. My sister has been depicted as a socialite, insubstantial and superficial, yet she is, on the contrary, a solid citizen. She's been engaged in real battles such as for the protection of the oceans which have been dear to her heart since her childhood when she first saw the films of Commander Cousteau. Neither Ghislaine nor any of us, her siblings, were raised to be socialites. Of course, we were well off financially but our parents inculcated in us the importance of effort and of work; our father in particular was very demanding, and we each made the best of our abilities. I am relieved though that neither of my parents are alive today to witness this tragedy.

Ghislaine was a courageous little girl, her life was difficult from the start. When she was born on Christmas Day, she had two peaceful days, days

when she was fully loved. Two days after her birth, however, our older brother Michael, then aged 15, was in a terrible car accident which left him in a coma for seven years until he died. My little sister had to stand up for herself, for her very existence, to survive this terrible tragedy which had engulfed our mother. She has always had tremendous amounts of energy. Today she wants nothing more than to be able to decently prepare, to look her accusers in the eye and to prove her innocence.

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