Dan Ellsberg, Pentagon Papers whistleblower and longtime activist, announces terminal cancer diagnosis



Image Credit: Stephen Hird/Reuters

New York, March 3 (RHC)-- 90-year-old Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg has announced he's been diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer, giving him an estimated three to six months to live.

It was 51 years ago that The New York Times began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers leaked by Dan Ellsberg — 7,000 pages of top-secret documents outlining the Pentagon's secret history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam since the 1940s. The leak exposed years of government lies and would end up helping to end the War in Vietnam and lead to a major victory for press freedom.

Ellsberg reports that since his cancer diagnosis, he's done several interviews and webinars on topics including Ukraine, nuclear weapons and First Amendment issues. Ellsberg wrote: "I work better under a deadline. It turns out that I live better under a deadline!"

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