

ODNI Review Group Comments  
Michael T.

I cannot even articulate how shocked and disappointed I have been by the behavior of the US government.

My first comment is that your request, like many of the white house petitions, don't include any commitment on \*your\* part of what you will do with this information. Perhaps (and this seems likely) your group doesn't have any actual power to change anything. Or perhaps it is simply an attempt to commit to any action. Regardless, without any clear commitment on your part, I don't really expect very much from this process.

Despite the fact that I doubt very much anything useful will come from your solicitation, I will provide you my complete feedback.

The US's position in the US has been seriously damaged by this entire affair. We have betrayed the principles of our country (which other countries used to admire and strive to achieve) and we have betrayed the trust of our own citizens.

As a citizen, I fail to see how all the resources previously (visibly) available to law enforcement were not sufficient. I still have not heard an adequate explanation of why making the limits of US surveillance activities public is somehow a problem. I don't expect the US government to disclose all their \*specific\* activities, but I DO expect the limits to be public and for government to abide by those limits or face serious repercussions. Sadly, it seems that the government has been routinely and frequently violating their secret guidelines. Very disappointing.

Another comment I have is where is all the accountability here. Who is going to be held responsible for the 100s or even 1000s of cases of overreach by the government? I haven't heard anything about that.

Believe me, I completely understand that the US faces several external threats. And I have no issue with pursuing those threats. But there need to be clearly stated and public limits on what the government is allowed to do and their needs to be accountability when those rules are violated. The government are representatives of the people and the governments behavior in this regard is not only not representative of my position but is, in fact, shameful, dishonest and destructive.

I could go on and on expressing my outrage about this. There are so many points to make, I cannot even begin to formulate a coherent response. But the bottom line is that the current administration and policy makers need to take a step back, take a deep breath and try to grasp the immense damage they have done to our relations with our allies, the trust of our citizens and principles that have made our country a shining example to the rest of the world.

Shame on the US government...SHAME.

P.S. - Your comments in the solicitation about how careful you are going to be handling people's responses is almost an insult given the cavalier manner the US government has handled much more important and sensitive information.