

ODNI Review Group Comments
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I find the eavesdropping, data-collection, meta-data gathering and storage, attempts to weaken or break encryption and security processes and protocols, and all recently revealed and currently known surveillance and data gathering upon the American citizens perpetrated by the NSA and other governmental agencies blatantly unconstitutional and warrantless.

The revelations of multiple programs including, but not limited to, PRISM, BULLRUN, MANASSAS and others are a chilling and terrifying rise of the security state and need to be stopped. There is a complete lack of disclosure, approval, or oversight of any of these programs and the FISA court is a rubber stamp.

American citizens have lost multiple constitutionally mandated rights as a result of the Patriot Act and other laws, many of which were secretly implemented, secretly justified, and secretly enforced.

The ability of the bloated and powerful governmental agencies to gather, view, save, and use against citizens all of their electronic movements, communications, and habits is chillingly similar to tactics used by the Nazi and Gestapo regime. Our abilities to communicate and travel without physical and other intrusions into our persons, privacy, and security have been at the least hampered, and at the worst, destroyed by the TSA, NSA and other agencies.

Citizens must be free and feel free to call, discuss, comment, travel, and otherwise freely exist and think. The so-called authority of the NSA and other agencies to not only spy on American citizens who have done no wrong, to investigate, retain, and use without warrant or probable cause information obtained without consent or constitutional authority and arrest, detain, or even assassinate American citizens without trial or court process is a travesty.

Simply creating or passing laws that are blatantly unconstitutional does not make such activity legal. The checks and balances that have been in place for hundreds of years have been systematically removed due to executive decisions and secret courts and secret justifications. The fact that the NSA is using gag orders and secrecy orders to even prevent the disclosure of its actions is intolerable.

If the democracy envisioned by our founding fathers, the country created on the bedrock of freedom and the constitutional rights keeping the government in check and run by the people, for the people, and of the people is to live on, then action and change needs to happen now. Indeed, I fear it may already be too late to save or restore that which has been lost.

It is already apparent that many people have changed their behavior out of fear and distrust of our own government. We censor our words on social sites, on blogs, and on

our emails. We censor our comments and wonder about the effect simply signing petitions or calling an organization will have upon us. No longer do we travel down a road without wondering how much of our daily travels to and from work, home, and friends is monitored, collected, stored and someday will be used against us. Our medical records, banking transactions, library checkouts, even our eating habits have become fodder for a corrupt regime that is blatantly disregarding the Constitution of the United States and the rights of its citizens.

The recent revelations would have been considered fodder only for crazy conspiracy theorists or science fiction writers such as George Orwell. It is beyond dismaying and disheartening to find out that the stuff regarded as simply fiction is not only true, but likely just the tip of the iceberg.

Corporations have folded, shut down, or relocated to other countries because they feel safer outside of the United States. The country that is tasked with preserving life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness has embarked on a decades long attempt to eliminate, curtail, or severely restrict the basic rights of its citizens. We have lost the trust of not only countries and allies around the world, but of our own citizens. The public has been deemed the enemy and a once-free government that embraces the dictates and politics of a tyranny will fall unless steps are taken to restore the balance and freedoms that have been lost.

You want to know what we think? It is wrong, it is illegal, and we no longer trust our own government. Simply writing this email fills me with trepidation and worry, but men and women far more courageous than myself fought and died for the freedom for me to write this email. I will honor their sacrifice and the legacy of this country and its constitution and will continue to speak out and do what I can to protect My country, My constitution, and My rights.