

ODNI Review Group Comments  
Tom K.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to start by saying that I do not condone the release of classified information that has happened. However, now that it has indeed happened, I am upset each time I hear another report about abuses of the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution that are happening at the NSA. I believe that the NSA has a fundamentally sound mission and that nations should have some freedom in trying to determine the intentions of their enemies. What upsets me about our government's practices though is that we are not simply targeting our enemies.

The reports indicate that we are collecting data from hundreds of millions of Americans and even more innocent foreigners. This must stop. The temptation to abuse this system is simply too great. The temptation to use this information in ways that violate the 1st and 4th amendments is so great that there is no amount of oversight that will keep our current or future leaders from abusing this information.

I would like to think that the people who lead this country hold themselves to a higher standard, and would resist the temptation to abuse this data. However, they have proven again and again that they do not. We need to look no further than the Nixon administration's breaking in to the DNC headquarters. If they would blatantly violate the law then, what would stop a future administration from equally blatantly violating any oversight that is placed on the data we are gathering now?

The only solution to keeping this data safe, and securing our democracy, is to not allow our government to gather this data in the first place.