Academics Against Mass Surveillance

Last summer it was revealed, largely thanks to Edward Snowden, that American and European intelligence services are engaging in mass surveillance of hundreds of millions of people.

Intelligence agencies monitor people's Internet use, obtain their phone calls, email messages, Facebook entries, financial details, and much more. Agencies have also gathered personal information by accessing the internal data flows of firms such as Google and Yahoo. Skype calls are "readily available" for interception. Agencies have purposefully weakened encryption standards - the same techniques that should protect our online banking and our medical files. These are just a few examples from recent press reports. In sum: the world is under an unprecedented level of surveillance.

This has to stop.

The right to privacy is a fundamental right. It is protected by international treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. Without privacy people cannot freely express their opinions or seek and receive information. Moreover, mass surveillance turns the presumption of innocence into a presumption of guilt. Nobody denies the importance of protecting national security, public safety, or the detection of crime. But current secret and unfettered surveillance practices violate fundamental rights and the rule of law, and undermine democracy.

The signatories of this declaration call upon nation states to take action. Intelligence agencies must be subjected to transparency and accountability. People must be free from blanket mass surveillance conducted by intelligence agencies from their own or foreign countries. States must effectively protect everyone's fundamental rights and freedoms, and particularly everyone's privacy.

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Signatories

Subscription to the Declaration is now closed.
Thank you for your support.

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- Rob van Son (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands Cancer Institute/Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital)
- Piet Hein van Kempen (Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Radboud University Nijmegen)
At the Hot Potatoes conference, the following academics have contributed their insights and expertise on the topic of mass surveillance:

- Feer Verkade (Emeritus Professor, Special aspects of Private Law, University of Amsterdam)
- Michael Vliek (Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Amsterdam)
- Titus Stahl (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Goethe University Frankfurt)
- Fritz Strack (Professor of Psychology, University of Würzburg)
- Thorsten Strufe (Professor for Peer-to-Peer Networks, TU Darmstadt)
- Gerd Stumme (Professor of Computer Science, Universität Kassel)
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- Michael Waidner (Professor for Security in Information Technology, Technische Universität Darmstadt; Director, Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology)
- Jutta Weber (Professor for Media Studies, University of Paderborn)
- Kai Wulff (Assistant Professor, Institute for Automation and Systems Engineering, Technische Universität Ilmenau)
- Heinrich Amadeus Wolff (Professor of Public Law, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt Oder)
- Nils Zurawski (Professor of Criminology, Universität Hamburg)
- Gregor Wurst (Professor of Church History, with special regards to the Ancient Church and Patristics, University of Augsburg)
- Jan Wehrheim (Institut für Soziale Arbeit und Sozialpolitik, Universität Duisburg-Essen)
- Maria Bottis (Assistant Professor, Ionian University)
- George Katrougalos (Professor of Public Law, Demokritos University)
- Minas Samatas (Professor of Political Sociology, University of Crete)
- Marcelo Thompson (Assistant Professor of Law, Hong Kong University)
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- Chiaria Fonio (Senior Researcher in Sociology, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milan)
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- Andy Moore (Associate Professor, Information School at the University of Washington)
- Milton Mueller (Professor, Syracuse University School of Information Studies)
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