1. Introduction

At least since the times of Horst Herold, president of the German Federal Criminal Office (BKA) in the days of the "German Autumn" and the RAF terror, collecting and playing with data about people has become popular.



Horst Herold, former president of the BKA Interested in this topic? ▶ bokks by Dieter Schenk

With increasing advances in information technology possibilities and capabilities of the automatic data processing are expanding incredibly fast.

The authorities - polices as well as intelligences - do believe in technical possibilities to filter out "abnormal behavior" of people just by analyzing data and informations (see eg the INDECT research project of the EU).

Thereby, however, innocent citizens come under general suspicion.

People who see themselves exposed to this danger, behave unfree. inhibited and constricted.

"Anyone who is uncertain whether his different practices are being listed at any time and as information permanently stored, used or passed on, will try not to attract attention through such behavior. (...) This would not only affect individual development opportunities of the individual but also the common good because self-determination is a basic functional condition of a democratic community caring for actionability and ability of participating of its citizens."

Federal Constitutional Court of Germany: "Census Judgement" - "Volkszählungsurteil", 15.12.1983

Overview

We want to inform about new aims on data collections in Germany and Europe, alleged established to protect from terrorist attacks.

In some cases these files may be created or used unlawfully.

Innocent citizens are covered by those databases and are being suspected in advance in this way and so far stigmatized.

In this way people with immigrant backgrounds are often unduly burdened with prejudice.

Other files are being misused to enforce the European partitioning policy (eg FRONTEX) with the approval of a thousand times the deaths at the outer limits of Europe.

We do not want any revival of the unfree and leaden times of the 70s, as described by Heinrich Boell and Rainer Werner Fassbinder in "The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum" so aptly, but we're on that way.

A free society needs free people and also uncomfortable and fundamental critical opinions and thoughts should be allowed, if not even need to be encouraged.

The suppression of basic freedoms and fundamental rights leads to the degeneration of democracy!

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More information about the Working Group on Data Retention "AK Vorrat": www.ak-vorrat.de

More informations about the local working group Hannover: http://wiki.vorratsdatenspeicherung.de/Hannover

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"The Radicalization file" and other wild datasets

Including very soon also your name?

2. Questionable data collections in Germany

It seems impossible to get any overview ot all data collections, being driven by government or governmental bureaus.

It is important to notice that there are some cases of databases, police forces and secret services are now being allowed to get access, contrary to its originally purpose.

Such "at risk" databases are for example:

- Passport database (fingerprints, biometric facial features)
- ELENA (electronic payment record)
- Census 2011 (with specific information on religion, beliefs, migration background)
- Flectronic health card
- Toll data

In other cases some data are being collectes illegal. Thus the german federal states operate for example so called "violent criminals files," on which other federal and state authorities get access on.

The Lower Saxony's file named "violent criminals sport" has been condemned by the administrative court on 16.12.2008 Hannover as illegal - nevertheless it still continues to this day.

At the worst your data will find their way into this file with only having being stayed close to a brawl while visiting a football match and being treated by the police just to check your identity.

In another example, the participants of a peaceful demonstration because of launching a new video monitoring system of the police in Hildesheim their names and personal data found their way into the police database called "NIVADIS":

"Event by 5/18/2009:

A [name] asks for an invitation to the official start of the video surveillance equipment on 5/25/2009 in the PI Hildesheim. See more in subsequent pages.

Investigation on this person. Is a member of the Working Group AK Vorra, local group [city]. Was disguised as a camera on the demo of Pirates Party on 5/25/2009. See also [reference number]. Expiration Date: 5/27/2014"

3. The new EU-radicalization file

Since 2001 the European Union is driving the **"EU terror list"**.

"The database contains numerous organizations and individuals classified as "terrorist" and with this suffering severe penalties, which causes serious human rights violations.

This data collection is neither democratic nor any legitimate subject under democratic control. For a long time the remedies have not even given a fair hearing, let alone granted legal protection against the official stigma."

Source: German Big Brother Award 2008: http://www.bigbrotherawards.de/2008/.eu



Rolf Gössner Presenter of the german Big Brother Awards 2008 on EU terror list

"The rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Dick Marty, reports the case of the Italian Egyptian origin, Youssef Nada. His name found entry to the "terror list" and Marty calls this example and its impact as a representative case of a "civil deatch penalty". The CIA suspects Nada to be one of the financiers of the attacks of 9/11. By entering this blacklist Nada got vocational ruined. Nada himself demanded and initiated four years enduring investigations by the Swiss judiciary, however, this could give no such evidence to the accusations."

Source: http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terroristische_Vereinigung

"My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest should have the same opportunity as the strongest. ... No country in the world today shows any but patronising regard for the weak. ... Western democracy, as it functions today, is diluted fascism. ... True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village."

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869 - 1948)

In April 2010, officials of the EU states have decided the explicit "Collecting data and information on radicalization process in the EU". The data, collected by the various countries should be shared throughout the European Union, a system of "risk assessment" will be installed. All this shall lead to the "radicalization file", as it was now required by the EU Council.

This system for risk assessment of "radicalization agents" is intended to produce warnings that can lead to the start of surveillance or even to direct arrests.

The British civil rights group Statewatch has published this plan as it has been informed about an undisclosed background document by the Council. Examinating this document people of Statewatch expressed their serious concerns.

They warn that in the database not only on tasks of Islamist "potential" (neologism of the politician) is detected to be, but that even "radical agents" (also a neologism) can be affected from the ranks of opponents of globalization. This allows for such a broad definition of the new weird terms that can even drop the supporters of freedom fighters in other countries among them.

Definitions as "anti-globalisation etc" seems to be a general "catch-all" covering just about every group that is opposed to the status quo.

Each agency in every state will be free to work to their own definitions and assumptions on individuals and groups and freely circulate these around the EU. What is being planned is a large-scale, automated, risk profiling system to target so-called "agents" of "radicalisation". There are millions of people in the EU with "radical" ideas (in the eyes of the state) who may easily, in their own terms, use arguments which are also used by so-called RMs without any intention whatsoever of using or encouraging violence.

Furthermore this initiative comes on top of plans under the Stockholm Programme to create an EU-wide database on political activists (protestors) under the guise of tackling "violent troublemakers".

Under both plans any and all "radicals" could be targeted and everyday political life could become contaminated by unseen and unaccountable suspicions manufactured by agencies of the state. Open, legitimate political discussion and activity could be yet another casualty of the "war on terrorism".

Source: www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/EU-plant-Radikalisierungsdatei-1010297.html http://www.statewatch.org/analyses/no-98-eu-surveillance-of-radicals.pdf