

Freedom instead of fear!



Surveillance is spreading through society, allowing the state and corporations to register, monitor, and control our behavior in troubling new ways. Our phone conversations and travel habits, friends and interests are increasingly being monitored by the „big brother“ of the state and the „little brothers“ of the corporate world.

The increase of surveillance is on the political agenda as well, where data retention of telecommunication and on-line transactions is being implemented across Europe. However, all the evidence tells us that this kind of police state would:

- **not improve protection from crime**
- **costs of millions of euro**
- **violate the privacy of innocent people**

When fear reigns and actions are blindly taken for the sake of doing something, concerted and lasting measures to strengthen security are just as ignored as schemes to address the real, everyday problems of the people, e. g. unemployment and poverty.

Additionally: he who feels constantly monitored and watched, can no longer unselfconsciously and courageously commit to his rights and a just society. Gradually an uncritical consumer society emerges of people, that have “nothing to hide” and give up their civil rights - for an alleged warranty of total safety. We do not endorse such a society!

We demand:

- Less surveillance
- Auditing of existing surveillance laws
- No new surveillance laws

What you can do:

- Sensitise your friends
- Write your congressman
- Get involved with civil rights groups

You can find more informations and a list of civil rights organisations at www.ak-vorrat.de

“I have nothing to hide”



Populist themes on surveillance properly adressed

“I have nothing to hide”

Why should an upright citizen have anything to hide? Simply put: There are things that should be of no concern to the government. Every human has a right to privacy which is also fixed in the German constitutional law and the European Convention of Human Rights. If you have nothing to hide, why do you close the toilet door behind yourself? Why don't you show everyone your bank account statements, your telephone bills or tell them your entire life story? Those who really think they have nothing to hide are welcome to live in a „Big Brother“ container – but they should not accuse others of wanting to keep their secrets to themselves. Furthermore: Those who cannot accuse themselves of anything need not be under surveillance in the first place.

“But I am afraid of terrorism, the state has to protect me from it”

A strong and democratic constitutional state proceeds against criminals with determination but without blindly declaring everyone a suspect. Adequate and effective are those investigations against suspicious persons and groups, that are targeted and not the random surveillance of arbitrary people who are completely innocent and innocuous. Not the fearful and overreacting state is strong, where every citizen is seen as a threat that should be inspected and controlled as good as possible. Strong is the state that defends the rights of its citizens, who pursues focused investigations, once concrete clues exist. No state can guarantee 100% security and if tried, it will no longer be a free and democratic constitutional state. Those who want protection at any price would also have to demand abolition of road traffic as it costs thousands of human lives every year. In reality we live comparatively safe. The risk of becoming a victim of serious crime or even terrorism is marginal – especially in comparison to other life risks such as illness, car accidents, poverty or unemployment.

“Having nothing to hide means having nothing to fear”

Even those who do not have to accuse themselves of anything will have to expect more frequent drastic police measures. A simple (false) suspicion or entry in a list of potentially dangerous people can lead to radical measures such as observations, house searches or questioning of the social surroundings. These measures can lead to condemnation in advance of trial – or what would you think if two police officers stood in front of your neighbour's door, asking „some questions about Mr. Smith from next door“? Even cases of entry or exit denials due to confusion of names as well as inadvertent killings by security forces happen repeatedly. Nobody can rely on being spared from the consequences of surveillance getting out of hand.