

# OMNI CIVIL LIBERTIES/SURVEILLANCE

**NEWSLETTER #4**, January 31, 2012, for a CULTURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE. Compiled by Dick Bennett. (#1 Jan. 28, 2008; #2 Jan. 22, 2011; #3 Oct. 25, 2011) Here is the link to all

OMNI newsletters: <http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/>  
For an informed and resistant citizenry. See: National Security State, Top Secret, Intelligence Industry Complex, Imperialism, Fascism, and more.

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## OBAMA'S 2012 STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

The Silent Guest at the State of the Union Speech  
Posted by: "Mike Woloshin" [mike71atkron86vfp26@hotmail.com](mailto:mike71atkron86vfp26@hotmail.com)  
mikewoloshin2002  
Fri Jan 27, 2012 From Veterans for Peace  
National Website: [www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)  
Chapter Website: [www.chicagovfp.prg](http://www.chicagovfp.prg)

The silent guest at the State of the Union  
This guest blog was written by **ACLU of Massachusetts** Privacy Rights

Coordinator Kade Crockford.

Last night, President Obama book ended his State of the Union address by praising the US military. The beginning of the speech:

We gather tonight knowing that this generation of heroes has made the United States safer and more respected around the world. For the first time in nine years, there are no Americans fighting in Iraq. For the first time in two decades, Osama bin Laden is not a threat to this country. Most of al Qaeda's top lieutenants have been defeated. The Taliban's momentum has been broken, and some troops in Afghanistan have begun to come home.

The end of the speech:

Which brings me back to where I began. Those of us who've been sent here to serve can learn from the service of our troops. When you put on that uniform, it doesn't matter if you're black or white; Asian or Latino; conservative or liberal; rich or poor; gay or straight. When you're marching into battle, you look out for the person next to you, or the mission fails. When you're in the thick of the fight, you rise or fall as one unit, serving one Nation, leaving no one behind.

**The defense industrial complex was likely thrilled. Americans can unite in war, the message went.**

Obama's speech predictably described his economic outlook and plans for reasserting US dominance in the global marketplace. It addressed education, war, the mortgage crisis, jobs, manufacturing, immigration, energy, infrastructure, deficit reduction, institutional reform in Washington, popular cynicism with the government, and veterans issues, among others.

**But there was a major, symbolically resonant hole in the speech. Obama only said the word 'liberty' once,** in reference to the revolutions of North Africa. He said 'freedom' once, but in the context of the US military, not civil liberties. He did not say the word 'transparency,' and he said 'accountable' twice, both in the context of the financial crisis.

**The out of control, civil liberties destroying federal 'intelligence' and surveillance bureaucracy got a pass.** Listening to Obama's speech last night, you wouldn't know that the billions of dollars a year **surveillance industrial complex** exists, or that it is intimately integrated with the defense industrial complex through private corporations like Booz Allen, which profit massively off of both. The speech likewise didn't mention that the US system provides a constitution with robust liberties that should keep such a system at bay.

The constitutional law scholar in chief made no mention of those rights we hold most dear. In a year dominated by vigorous social movements in the United States, he did not even pay lip service to freedom of expression at home. On the other hand, nor did he brag about any of his administration's attacks on our core rights.

He made no mention of his FBI's investigations of antiwar activists in the Midwest, or of the DOJ's numerous prosecutions of young Muslim men on terrorism charges only possible because the FBI set them up.

Obama and his political advisors didn't see fit to describe the FBI's massive biometrics gathering scheme, or Immigration Customs Enforcement's contributions to said program. They did not brag about the historic levels of secretive government spending dedicated towards spying on ordinary US Americans. They did not describe the sixteen federal agencies that receive hundreds of millions or billions of taxpayer dollars every year towards this endeavor, completely absent public debate.

Yesterday on our blog, we addressed Obama's miserable civil liberties record, describing his attacks on whistleblowers and his war on transparency and accountability at the highest levels of government. The surveillance state that underlies these abuses is the subject of much of our work at the ACLUm of late.

Obama did not say one word last night about this massive government bureaucracy, because the surveillance state can only succeed when it operates in the shadows. That's why it is up to us, ordinary citizens and muckraking journalists, activists and Twitter leaders alike, to shout and investigate and protest and agitate. We must expose the underbelly of the US system, the secretive monitoring and data gathering and tracking, before it is too late.

The President will not discuss these issues in the light of day, in part because he doesn't have to: the expansion of the surveillance state has become a bipartisan project.

**Obama made one thing clear by avoiding the issue last night: we are our only hope if we want a vigorous defense of liberty and core political rights. Last night's speech shows us that no President, Democrat or Republican, will willingly give up the many powers the office has usurped.**

Like the revolutionaries who are celebrating one year into their fight for the rule of law in Egypt, we are our best shot. If we want the rule of law restored at home, we must fight for it.

Don't let the political class silence us, even by omission. Don't be

silenced by the fear campaigns.

As renowned internet freedom fighter and high-profile target of government surveillance Jacob Appelbaum has said, courage is contagious. The first step is breaking the silence about surveillance.

NYPD, Pentagon to Place Mobile Scanners on Streets of NYC  
RT.com January 20, 2012, RSN

Excerpt: "By using scanners such as the Terahertz Imaging detectors, New Yorkers will be forced to endure more than just an unknown number of eyes prying under their clothes. The consequences could be biologically catastrophic, with the scanning technique tied to problems with the human body's ability to operate."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/news-section2/316-20/9529-nypd-pentagon-to-place-mobile-scanners-on-streets-of-nyc>

### **THE SURVEILLANCE CATALOG**

Capitalism and the Spy Market: An Analysis

Lawrence Davidson, To The Point Analyses

Saturday 26 November 2011, Truthout

"The trend toward an ever greater abuse of power through the act of spying has apparently created its own capitalist market. And the products designed to meet the demand of that market are now there for all to see. But many citizens will not look because they feel that the government is only interested in 'subversives' and not them. This is a naive assumption. The Surveillance Catalog is a danger to us all. But then, perhaps as the writer Larry Niven asserts, 'privacy is just a passing fad.'"

Read the Article <http://www.truth-out.org/capitalism-and-spy-market-analysis/1322323475>

TELL THE FBI, DON'T MAP ME Oct. 25, 2011

From the ACLU

Dear Dick,

Tell Attorney General Holder: Put an immediate end to the FBI's unconstitutional use of racial profiling to map American communities.

You'll be outraged by what we found out.

**The ACLU has uncovered and analyzed thousands of FBI**

**documents and found that America's most powerful law enforcement agency is using its vastly expanded investigative authority to collect racial and ethnic information and "map" American communities around the country – based on crude stereotypes about which groups commit different types of crimes.**

The last thing America needs is the FBI running unconstitutional investigations of innocent Americans and mapping communities based on racial stereotypes and suspicion not backed by a shred of evidence.

Tell Attorney General Holder: Put an immediate end to the FBI's unconstitutional use of racial profiling to map American communities. (Do not forward: This link will open a page with your information already filled in.)

The evidence of abuse the ACLU has gathered results from Freedom of Information Act requests filed by ACLU offices in 33 states and the District of Columbia. In Michigan, New Jersey and California, we had to enforce compliance with our requests through lawsuits.

Let me be clear. What we uncovered shows that the FBI isn't mapping crimes or evidence of criminal behavior. It is mapping innocent people based on nothing but their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin, and using crude stereotypes to link these groups to national security threats or crime. Our freedoms are at risk when people can be subjected to investigation based solely on who they are, where they live, or what they believe.

We've uncovered the FBI mapping innocent people, so we're mapping the FBI. Our just-launched **Mapping the FBI initiative will publish thousands of documents from FBI field offices. And, we'll be issuing "Eye on the FBI" alerts exposing how the bureau's own documents show patterns of misconduct and abuse.**

But, we need you to sound the alarm as well.

Sign our "Don't Map Me" petition telling Attorney General Holder that you don't want the FBI mapping you or your

community based on race, ethnicity, national origin or religion.

The FBI should be devoting itself to true threats – not wasting resources on suspicion-less investigations of innocent Americans and mapping communities based on crude stereotypes.

Let's act together to put an end to race-based snooping in our lives and our communities.

For freedom,

Anthony D. Romero

Executive Director, ACLU

**United States Space Surveillance Network** - Wikipedia, the free ...

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Space\\_Surveillance\\_Network](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Space_Surveillance_Network)[Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

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The **United States Space Surveillance Network** is a critical part of **United States Strategic Command's** (USSTRATCOM) mission and involves detecting, tracking, ...

**NSA warrantless surveillance controversy** - Wikipedia, the free ...

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NSA\\_warrantless\\_surveillance\\_controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NSA_warrantless_surveillance_controversy)[Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

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The NSA warrantless **surveillance** controversy (AKA "Warrantless Wiretapping") concerns **surveillance** of persons within the **United States** during the collection ...

**Muslim Protesters Demand End to Surveillance**

[www.voanews.com/.../usa/Muslim-Protesters-Demand-End-to-Surveil...](http://www.voanews.com/.../usa/Muslim-Protesters-Demand-End-to-Surveil...)[Cached](#)

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Nov 19, 2011 – Hundreds of Muslims staged a rally and public prayers in New York City Friday, to protest alleged ethnic and religious profiling in their ...

**Video surveillance** used more by small towns ... - **USA Today**

[www.usatoday.com/news/.../2011-02-10-1Asurveillance10\\_ST\\_N.ht...](http://www.usatoday.com/news/.../2011-02-10-1Asurveillance10_ST_N.ht...)[Cached](#)

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Feb 9, 2011 – **Surveillance** video cameras are sprouting in midsized communities across the **USA** as police borrow the crime-fighting tool from big metro ...

END SURVEILLANCE NEWSLETTER #4