

14 September 2023

Journalists' open letter to Members of the European Parliament calling for the absolute prohibition of spyware surveillance

Dear honorable Members of the European Parliament,

Ahead of the upcoming vote of the draft report on the proposed European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), journalists in Europe are urging you to introduce an absolute ban on the surveillance of journalists through spyware in this text.

Some of us, and many of our colleagues across Europe and the world, have been unlawfully targeted in the past years, including by EU Member States. Some of whom have used intrusive surveillance weapons against us, threatening and potentially breaching confidential communications with our sources, invading our private lives and putting our safety at risk.

Spyware is today a major threat to press freedom. It gives access to a disproportionate and unrestricted amount of data: all the individual's communications, photos, contacts and online behaviour data are collected - without the knowledge of the victim. The EU must urgently put an end to it.

For us journalists, digital security and data integrity are essential to guarantee our safety, and confidentiality and protection to our sources. We must be able to trust our devices and channels of communications in order to provide public interest and quality journalism.

Several EU governments have infected journalists' phones with spyware while using national security as a pretext. Including the same grounds in future legislation would threaten our ability to hold governments to account, which is a cornerstone of EU democratic values. We need full and immediate protection.

Although a number of safeguards have been considerably added in the course of parliamentary work, too many loopholes remain. The European Parliament can still close them and offer us the shield we need from illegal surveillance.

We call on you today to prohibit the use of spyware against journalists in the EMFA.

Best regards,

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22. Josef Peter Glanz, Österreichischer Rundfunk - ORF, Austria
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29. Steven Vanden Bussche, Apache.be, Belgium
30. Joel Matriche, Le Soir, Belgium
31. Priyanka Shankar, Independent, Belgium, India
32. Irina Nedeva, Bulgarian National Radio, Bulgaria
33. Dora Kršul, Telegram.hr, Croatia
34. Bojan Arežina, Hrvatska radiotelevizija – HRT, Croatia
35. Denis Romac, Večernji list, Croatia
36. Silvana Mendusic, Telegram.hr, Croatia
37. Giovanni Vale, Freelance, Croatia
38. Barbara Majstorovic Ivezic, Nova Tv, Croatia
39. Zdenko Duka, Freelance, Croatia
40. Iva Ivanac, Hanza media, Croatia
41. Sanja Jurisic, NovaTV, Croatia
42. Domagoj Novokmet, N1, Croatia
43. Goran Borkovic, Forum.tm, Croatia
44. Andrej Dimitrijević, Telegram.hr, Croatia
45. Ivan Pandžić, 24sata, Croatia
46. Igor Alborghetti, Freelance, Croatia
47. Davor Pongračić, Cropix photoagency, Hanza Media, Croatia
48. Igor Lasić, Novosti, Croatia
49. Tomislav Kukec, Jutarnji list, Croatia
50. Berislav Jelinic, Nacional News Corporation, Croatia
51. Tea Radović, Radnička prva, Croatia
52. Vida Grujin, Radio Dalmacija, Croatia
53. Miroslav Ambruš-Kiš, Freelance, Croatia
54. Radoslav Dejanović, Freelance, Croatia
55. Valentina Wiesner, Večernji list, Croatia

56. Drago Pilsel, Freelance, Croatia
57. Vladimir Šetka, Hrvatska radiotelevizija – HRT, Croatia
58. Paparella Saša, Vida Tv, Croatia
59. Serđo Obratov, Croatian News Agency, Croatia
60. Joško Grgin, Portal grada Kaštela, Croatia
61. Ružica Cigler, Freelance, Croatia
62. Damir Dević, Hrvatska radiotelevizija – HRT, Croatia
63. Goran Gazdek, Freelance, Croatia
64. Josip Gavranovic, HTV, Croatia
65. Mato Jerkić, Bel-press d.o.o., Croatia
66. Vlado Vurusic, Jutarnji list, Croatia
67. Monika Đogaš, Bel-press d.o.o., Croatia
68. Hrvoje Zovko, Hrvatska radiotelevizija – HRT, Croatia
69. Mašenjka Bačić, Oštro, Croatia
70. Maja Sever, Hrvatska radiotelevizija – HRT, Croatia
71. Gordana Grbic, Novi list, Croatia
72. Jelena Prtoric, Freelance, Croatia
73. Ante Ljubičić, Yammam FM, Croatia
74. Ana Malbaša Major, Nova TV, Croatia
75. Helena Puljiz, Freelance, Croatia, International
76. Staffan Dahllöf, Freelance, Investigative Reporting Denmark, Denmark
77. Soraya Morvan Smith, France 24, France
78. Olivier Tesquet, Télérama, France
79. Jacques Monin, Radio France, France
80. Delphine Banas, Le Républicain Lorrain, France
81. Laurent Richard, Forbidden Stories, France
82. Edouard Perrin, Independent, France
83. Emmanuel Poupard, Courrier de l'Ouest, France
84. Elise Descamps, Freelance, France
85. Clément Pouré, Freelance, France
86. Maria João Carvalho, Formerly Euronews, France
87. Caroline Harrap, Freelance, France
88. Corinne Renou-Nativel, Independent, France
89. Pascal Hansens, Investigate Europe, France, Belgium
90. Peter Freitag, Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Germany
91. Annette Rose, Freelance, Germany
92. Ute Korinth, Independent, Germany
93. Frederik Obermaier, Paper trail media, Germany
94. Anna Loll, Freelance, Germany
95. Lukas Knöfler, Freelance, Germany
96. Bernd Seydel, Freelance, Germany
97. Klaus Enderle, Deutsche Welle, Germany
98. Annkathrin Weis, Freelance, Germany
99. Mika Beuster, mittelhesse.de, Germany
100. Jan R. Bertram, WEIN+MARKT Fachverlag Dr. Fraund, Germany
101. Stefan Frerichs, ARD Online, Germany
102. Barbara Deller-Leppert, Freelance, Germany

103. Ditmar Pauke, Independent, Germany
104. Judith Schäfer, DIE RHEINPFALZ Verlag und Druckerei GmbH & Co. KG, Germany
105. Dennis M Stamm, DIATRA-Verlag gGmbH, Germany
106. Jan R. Bertram, WEIN+MARKT Fachverlag Dr. Fraund, Germany
107. Daniel Moßbrucker, Freelance, Germany
108. Nicola Timpe, SoVD Zeitung Hamburg, Germany
109. Michael Rauhe, Hamburger Abendblatt, Germany
110. Naïs Baier, Freelance, Germany
111. Eberhard Kügler, NDR, Germany
112. Ramona Richter, Freelance, Germany
113. Sabine Anton-Katzenbach, Freelance, Germany
114. Andrea Seliger, Freelance, Germany
115. Johannes Wendland, Freelance, Germany
116. Cay Rademacher, Freelance, Germany
117. Anne-Dorette Ziems, Freelance, Germany
118. Gerald Sinschek, Freelance, Germany
119. Britta Radkowsky, Freelance, Germany
120. Olivia Samnick, Independent, Germany
121. Titus Gast, SWR, Germany
122. Frank Trautvetter, Freelance, Germany
123. Charis Stank, Freelance, Germany
124. Niels Boeing, Freelance, Germany
125. Jenny Witt, Freelance, Germany
126. Corinna Chateaubourg, Independent, Germany
127. Niklas Schomburg, Kieler Nachrichten, Germany
128. Florian von Westerholt, Independent, Germany
129. Ralf Dörwang, Freelance, Germany
130. Christiane Rose, Aufklaren, Germany
131. Herbert Boehm, Freelance, Germany
132. Harald Schumann, Investigate Europe, Tagesspiegel (D), Germany
133. Vas Panagiotopoulos, Freelance, Greece
134. Kostas Vaxevanis, Documento newspaper, Greece
135. Tony Rigopoulos, Documento newspaper, Greece
136. Dániel Szalay, Media1.hu, Hungary
137. Szabolcs Panyi, VSquare.org, Hungary
138. Geoff Hunter, OCCRP, International
139. Lorenzo Frigerio, Fondazione Libera Informazione, Italy
140. Monica Soldano, Freelance, Italy
141. Elisa Pierandrei, Freelance, Italy
142. Roberto Secci, Rainews24, Italy
143. Elisa Marincola di San Floro, Articolo21.org, Italy
144. Francesca De Benedetti, Domani newspaper, Italy
145. Nello Scavo, Avvenire, Italy
146. Antonella Cignarale, Report, Italy
147. Giulia Innocenzi, Rai, Italy
148. Alessia Marzi, Rai, Italy
149. Nicole Corritore, Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa, Italy

150. Arturo Di Corinto, Independent, Italy
151. Barbara Scaramucci, Articolo21.org, Italy
152. Stefano Corradino, Articolo21.org, Italy
153. Vincenzo Vita, Il manifesto, Italy
154. Raffaella Notariale, Rai 3, Italy
155. Antonio Moscatello, askanews, Italy
156. Elisabetta Cosci, Freelance, Italy
157. Alessandro Ferri, Freelance, Italy
158. Anna Maria Caresta, Freelance, Italy
159. Rossana Livolsi, Freelance, Italy
160. Vincenzo Campo, Stampa Romana - FNSI, Italy
161. Rossella Lamina, Freelance, Italy
162. Filippo Barone, Rai, Italy
163. Debora Ergas, Rai, Italy
164. Giulia Sabella, Rai, Italy
165. Evgenia Levin, Bernardinai.lt, Lithuania
166. Anthea Cachia, Content House, Malta
167. Sabrina Zammit, The Malta Independent, Malta
168. Tomasz Milkowski, Przegląd, Poland
169. Marek Kulinski, Freelance, Poland
170. Bernardo Brito e Cunha, Jornal de Sintra, Portugal
171. Isabel Nery, Freelance, Portugal
172. Carlos Pinota, Rádio e Televisão de Portugal – RTP, Portugal
173. António Melo, Freelance, Portugal
174. Paulo Duarte, Freelance, Portugal
175. Margarida Davim, Revista SÁBADO, Portugal
176. Rita Pereira, TSF Radio, Portugal
177. Pedro Miguel Santos, Freelance, Portugal
178. Elsa Andrade, Mais Bancário, Portugal
179. Laura Ramos, Cannareporter.eu, Portugal
180. Sílvia Alves, Rádio e Televisão de Portugal – RTP, Portugal
181. Gonçalo Lobo Pinheiro, Lusa News Agency, Portugal
182. Luis Branco, Rádio e Televisão de Portugal – RTP, Portugal
183. Ana Oliveira, Caras magazine, Portugal
184. Susana Torrão, Freelance, Portugal
185. Szilárd Horváth-Kovács, Freelance, Romania
186. Miroslava Kernová, Omediach.com, Slovakia
187. Gregor Preac, Freelance, Slovenia
188. Matej Simič, The European Correspondent, Slovenia
189. Uros Skerl Kramberger, Dnevnik, Slovenia
190. Simona Fajfar, Delo, Slovenia
191. Nevenka Dobljekar, Freelance, Slovenia
192. Polona Pivec, Freelance, Slovenia
193. Sašo Bizjak, Večer, Slovenia
194. Tanja Lesničar Pučko, Dnevnik, Slovenia
195. Ranka Ivelja, Dnevnik, d.d., Slovenia
196. Tone Stojko, Freelance, Slovenia

197. Gasper Lesnik, Mladina, Slovenia
198. Janja Klasinc, Freelance, Slovenia
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200. Javier Díaz Muriana, Freelance, Spain
201. Paco Martínez, Onda Regional de Murcia, Spain
202. Ana Reviejo Gómez, Onda Regional de Murcia, Spain
203. Stéphane M. Grueso, Freelance, Spain
204. Lucas García Alcalde, Maldita.es, Spain
205. Iñigo Palacio, Freelance, Spain