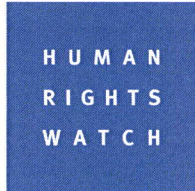


14 FEB 2014

Recipients: HR Committee  
.....  
.....  
.....



**Human Rights Watch and the Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Supplemental Submission to the Human Rights Committee  
During its Consideration of the  
Fourth Periodic Report of the United States**

February 14, 2014

**Introduction**

Human Rights Watch and the Electronic Frontier Foundation submit this addendum in advance of the Human Rights Committee’s (“the Committee”) upcoming review of the United States. This statement supplements Human Rights Watch’s December 2012 submission in light of new information on the scope of the US’s electronic surveillance and intelligence gathering practices.<sup>1</sup>

Documents released by former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden have revealed several programs that may be potentially interfering with the privacy of millions of individuals worldwide:

- The bulk phone metadata program (Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act) – The NSA collects telephone records from a significant portion of US telecom companies about all phone calls to, from, and within the US carried by that carrier.<sup>2</sup> Section 215 may also be used for other bulk collection programs.
- Procedures used to conduct general “programmatic” surveillance under Section 702 of amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) – Under Section 702, the US is authorized to collect and analyze communications, including content, of non-US persons reasonably believed to be outside the US when those communications are available within the

<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Submission to the Human Rights Committee During its Consideration of the Fourth Periodic Report of the United States,” December 2012, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/01/04/us-human-rights-watch-submission-un-human-rights-committee>.

<sup>2</sup> Glenn Greenwald, “NSA collecting phone records of millions of Verizon customers daily,” *The Guardian*, June 5, 2013, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/06/nsa-phone-records-verizon-court-order>.