

THE TRANSPARENCY PROJECT

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July 22, 2020

Director, Information Management Division
Office of Director of Nat'l. Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Office of the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6932
Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

FOIA Coordinator
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Room 6150
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attn: FOI/PA Request
Record/Information Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 2242
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 4726
Washington, DC 20530

Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 10, 2020, journalist Sharyl Attkisson filed suit in Maryland alleging that she was illegally surveilled by various government officials, including former U.S. Attorney and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. *See* Plaintiff's Complaint, *Sharyl Attkisson, et al. v. Rod Rosenstein, et al.*, Case No. 1:20-cv-00068-JMC (D.Md.), available at <https://www.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mdd.473998/gov.uscourts.mdd.473998.1.0.pdf>. I write on behalf of the The Transparency Project ("TTP"), a nonprofit corporation headquartered in Texas, to request information about the incidents outlined in that complaint, as well as government surveillance of journalists in general.

As used in this letter, the term "surveillance" should be construed to include wiretaps and hacking into online accounts, computers, and/or any other electronic devices, regardless of whether such surveillance was conducted pursuant to a court order. As permitted by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request the opportunity to view the following:

1. For each instance of surveillance described in Ms. Attkisson's complaint, I wish to view all documents, records, communications, and other tangible evidence (e.g., audio, video, or metadata) identifying or revealing (1) the government contractor(s), employee(s), or representative(s) who authorized, conducted, and/or assisted the surveillance; and (2) the factual and/or legal rationale, if any, for conducting such surveillance. If, for example, the government sent a contractor or employee to Ms. Attkisson's home disguised as a Verizon employee, then documents reflecting that person's identity should be revealed. As used in this letter, "surveillance" includes, but is not limited to, efforts to wiretap or hack into the electronic devices or accounts of the targeted person or persons. This request further includes, but is not limited to, documents, records, or communications identifying (1) the government affiliates, agents, employees or contractors involved in such activities, and (2) the targets of any such activities.
2. For the period from January 20, 2009 until the present, I wish to view all documents, records, communications, and other tangible evidence (e.g., audio, video, or metadata) revealing or describing surveillance of any and all journalists, journalism/media companies, and/or executives at journalism/media companies in the United States by any and all government employees, agents, affiliates, or contractors.¹ For each such instance of surveillance, I wish to view all documents, records, communications, and/or other tangible identifying or revealing (1) the government contractor(s), employee(s), or representative(s) who authorized, conducted, and/or assisted the surveillance; and (2) the factual and/or legal rationale, if any, for conducting the surveillance.
3. If any instances of surveillance described by the foregoing paragraphs were permitted by court order, I request the opportunity to view all such orders as well as any and all applications, affidavits, or motions seeking each respective order.

By addressing this letter to the entities named above, TTP also seeks information from the inspectors general for each respective entity, *i.e.*, the Justice Department, CIA, NSA, and ODNI. By addressing this letter to the Office of the Attorney General, TTP seeks all relevant materials in that office or any other component of the Department of Justice.

TTP intends to use the requested information to educate the public about government misconduct, therefore I request a waiver of any fees. If charges will apply, please let me know the approximate amount of such charges in advance. I can be reached by email at tyclevenger@yahoo.com and I prefer to receive correspondence electronically.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Ty Clevenger
Executive Director

¹ TTP does not seek information about foreign journalists or foreign journalism entities operating in the United States.