

Debate Arguments

Mass surveillance programs have been set up in the US and several other countries with the intent of preventing crimes, specifically terrorist attacks, and in adding an extra level of security for citizens. This is obviously something that everyone in the US and other countries with these programs because it does affect the security and privacy of them. Therefore the US should not need a warrant to collect and analyze data to keep us safe.

Mass surveillance can and has prevented major crimes and terrorist attacks. According to Gen Keith Alexander, the director of the NSA, "the information gathered from these programs provided the U.S. government with critical leads to help prevent over 50 potential terrorist events in more than 20 countries around the world." Since 9/11 there have been 36 major terrorist attacks in the US. That means if it weren't for the mass surveillance programs we could have had 50 more terrorist attacks all of which could have been of any proportion. That's 50 occurrences that could've been crippling to our society and killed innumerable amounts of people.

Surveillance in the US is not something done for a power play, on the contrary it is about keeping us safe and keeping citizens out of harm's way. These programs were put in place after 9/11 for the purpose of stopping terrorists. They are also proving that it's use is effective. According to Gen Keith Alexander, the director of the NSA, "the information gathered from these programs provided the U.S. government with critical leads to help prevent over 50 potential terrorist events in more than 20 countries around the world." Therefore claiming that mass surveillance is not effective is simply incorrect. Secondly, the cost of sending soldiers or "agents" in to retrieve this information is an unnecessary risk of human life as well as a tremendous economical cost. The New York Times states that "In one investigation, the bureau paid an undercover informant nearly \$5 million in "business expenses" for his help in the case." That was only 1 case for 1 person. Therefore the real waste of money would be to use more field agents.

The fact that the police found evidence on the phone connecting the man to a shooting should only further prove the ability to monitor cell phones and other electronics is doing good. The fact that the police were able to gather the man's cell phone without a warrant took a man involved in a shooting off the streets. If

things were harder for police to get warrants and get things like cell phones they would never be able to get these criminals put away as quickly or as effectively.

Mass surveillance programs prevent future crimes by gaining information about the crime before it happens, increase overall security by aiding in investigations and creating a new road block for terrorists and other criminals. This is important for everyone to take an interest in because it will affect a lot of people's privacy as well as, and more importantly, their safety.