

Date: 11-10-2024.

## Government Surveillance - Good or Bad?

## Outline:

## 1- Introduction

- Hook

- General Statement

- Thesis Statement

## 2-i Breach of the right of freedom of speech

ii Security Concern - Hackers attacking the national firewall.

iii Public distrust

iv Economic Loss

v Taints national image of a country on world forum.

## 3 Conclusion.

The human urge to dominate others is an innate characteristic, as old as the ~~human~~ mankind's history. Narratives have always been built and destroyed by various forms of media. <sup>During</sup> In the time of British colonialism, for instance, there was a strict check on the print media. This was done to spot and eliminate <sup>mental</sup> ~~any~~ seeds of resistance which could later on harvest as another round of 'mutiny' <sup>the way</sup> British historian prefer to commemorate it. In the early 90's, the sources of information for people were generally television, stereo radios, and newspapers. A country could be on war with another country and the people would be deaf to it. There was lack of awareness and the way One can say that there was lack of awareness among the masses but there was also control on spread of misinformation. The sudden surge of

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advancement in technology opened a plethora of challenges for the governments. While it aided internet provided access to it's users to the entire world - ability to communicate with people in other half of the globe, access to educational resources, access to innovations in medical field, ability to virtually sightsee beautiful landscapes in the world. It <sup>also</sup> brought ~~the~~ made it convenient for third-parties to spread misinformation, ~~fueling~~ <sup>fueling</sup> propaganda, and blow on the resultant public's fury. Modern problems require modern solutions. Government surveillance ~~to~~ keep is not a viable option for <sup>various</sup> ~~reasons~~ reasons including breach of human right to freedom of speech, security concerns of hackers attacking national firewall gaining access to private data of an entire nation, public distrust, burdening of the existing weak internet infrastructure will result in economic loss for digital entrepreneurs and influencers, and taints the national image of a country on world forum.

According to the human rights charter by the united nations, an individual has the right to freedom of speech. Freedom of speech ~~is~~ <sup>and</sup> means that an individual is entitled to expressing their thoughts and views according to their interpretation of a situation: social and political. Freedom of speech allows thoughts and ideas to flourish, <sup>creating</sup> ~~which~~ an environment that is continuously evolving and adopting to new global trends without compromising an individual's authenticity. Pakistan has seen a surge in polio cases this year due to failure <sup>of timely</sup> ~~to~~ administration of polio vaccines. There have been attacks on government-employed female health workers. <sup>One</sup> ~~the~~ reason for this failure is ~~that~~ <sup>by ban of masjid</sup> the propaganda around the vaccine's being un-islamic and a plot by foreign forces aimed at undermining Islam. One way to handle this is by imposing bans on masjid banis, forbidding them <sup>from</sup> ~~to~~ expressing their views. <sup>and see</sup> ~~Another~~ ping tabs on them to

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ensure compliance. Another way could be <sup>to</sup> hold public debates between the Qaaris and medical doctors to separate the facts ~~xx~~ from myths providing a sense of relief in public and misinformation, enforcing mutual trust between public and government. The former option simply reeks of authoritarian rule, void of empathy for the people.

In this modern age of internet, digital sovereignty of nations is always at risk. There is always a ~~risk~~ <sup>threat</sup> of digital theft, by ~~a~~ hackers, of personal information including bank account details, personal photos, medical records among many things on an individual level. But, these hackers attack government portals as well, gaining access to sensitive matters of national integrity and foreign policy. The recent leak of Israel's plan to attack Iran was an extremely sensitive document that required <sup>not</sup> top security. This ~~good~~ document was in possession of United States of America, ~~world~~ the ~~only~~ strongest country in the world. This shows that on digital grounds, even the world's strongest country needs to strengthen its digital boundaries against attacks from hackers. There has also been an increase in the extortion of money from people by voice phishing, corrupted <sup>links</sup> ~~links~~ e-links providing access to bank details of individuals. NASA's database was hacked by a hacker this year who had hacked the system only for fun. The hacker wrote a detailed analysis of the security system of NASA's database, highlighting the 'holes' in the security wall. Third-world countries such as Pakistan have a long way to go. The deployment of firewall on the internet services of the country could potentially result in <sup>digital</sup> attacks from hostile neighbouring countries such as India, <sup>and hackers across the globe</sup> putting the information of <sup>\*</sup> individuals at ~~risk~~ as well as national intelligence at risk.

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Public opinions cannot be controlled by <sup>imposing surveillance</sup> restrictions neither can the spread of misinformation, <sup>by controlled surveillance</sup> rather restrictions fuel more public distrust and resentment. To think that government surveillance can be covered by <sup>the</sup> soft cloth of 'containing spread of misinformation' is like living in a fool's paradise. The difference between the early 1990s <sup>Back in the day, a</sup> and today's era is the awareness of the common man. A laborer used to go to work, earn a below minimum <sup>daily</sup> wage and go back home at the end of the day. The only resource of information was the 8:00 PM news bulletin from Radio Pakistan channel. The ~~scope~~ information was limited and scope of interpretation of information was also limited. People were living in a dormant state. ~~Today,~~ Over-time with access to internet and various sources of ~~legit~~ verified and self-proclaimed 'verified' information has awakened a sense of liberalism in people who cease listening to various sources of information. In such a situation, it would ~~fuel~~ Government surveillance would be seen as an attempt to stifle public opinion and control the <sup>general</sup> "narrative". Instead, open debates Every citizen of a state is entitled to respect, dignity and protection of life, dignity and economic resources. Growth and innovation ~~don't~~ don't go hand in hand with being under constant watch. Surveillance rather chokes the 'ideas of growth'.