



@ the Urban Justice Center:
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Organizational Summary:

The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (“S.T.O.P.”) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit advocacy organization hosted by the Urban Justice Center. Launched in 2019, S.T.O.P. litigates and advocates for privacy, working to abolish local governments’ systems of mass surveillance. Our work highlights the discriminatory impact of surveillance on Muslim Americans, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, indigenous peoples, and communities of color, particularly the unique trauma of anti-Black policing.

S.T.O.P. quickly became an internationally recognized force for privacy and civil rights, featured in leading news outlets around the world. We fight surveillance in court, legislate against invasive tools, and work towards a better, more inclusive society. Amid COVID-19’s unprecedented privacy threats, S.T.O.P.’s has taken on even greater importance, highlighting the dangers of unproven contact tracing technologies.

S.T.O.P. will transform New York from one of the worst surveillance states in America into one of the most privacy protective. We organized a coalition of more than 100 civil rights and community-based organizations to enact the Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology (“POST”) Act, the first New York surveillance reform in a generation. Under the POST Act, the NYPD must disclose every spy tool it uses, as well as how information is shared with federal officials. S.T.O.P. helped introduce the first bill in the country to ban police use of “geofence warrants” and commercial geolocation databases, highlighting how these tools could be used to monitor attendance at everything from protests to houses of worship.

S.T.O.P. sued city and state agencies for a range of records, including transit officials’ use of facial recognition and the tools the NYPD uses to break into New Yorker’s cellphones. We won in court, forcing agencies to disclose previously hidden documents. Our class action cases challenge everything from discriminatory police practices to surveillance vendors’ wholesale invasion of New Yorkers’ privacy.

S.T.O.P. has published research papers on topics ranging from warrantless cellphone seizures, to congestion pricing, to the Apple / Google partnership on Bluetooth-based COVID-19 tracking systems. We have authored dozens of whitepapers and research posts and more than 60 op-eds in just the past year and a half. S.T.O.P.’s community training efforts bring us together with grassroots partners to provide targeted trainings, focusing on the unique privacy concerns of the communities they serve.

S.T.O.P. is headed by Albert Fox Cahn, a public interest lawyer, technologist, writer, and interfaith advocate. In addition to his work at S.T.O.P., Mr. Cahn is a fellow at the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy at N.Y.U. School of Law and serves on the New York Immigration Coalition’s Immigrant Leaders Council, the New York Immigrant Freedom Fund’s Advisory Council, and as an editorial board member for the Anthem Ethics of Personal Data Collection

S.T.O.P.’s Technology Director Liz O’Sullivan has spent ten years in tech. She is co-founder and vice president of commercial operations at an AI explainability and bias monitoring startup called Arthur AI.

S.T.O.P. is overseen by a Board of Directors and Community Advisory Board (“CAB”). The CAB includes advocates, activists, attorneys, and technologists from communities historically targeted by surveillance.

Contact: Executive Director Albert Fox Cahn, Esq. info@stopspying.org.

2019 Publications

- [12/20/2019 Medium One Zero - Cybersecurity Workers Need to Learn From Victims](#)
- [12/18/2019 Fast Company - New York City could be the turning point in the fight against surveillance](#)
- [12/16/2019 Gotham Gazette - Surveillance and the City: Sex, Lies, and Wiretaps](#)
- [11/28/2019 The Daily Beast The New 911 System Has Its Own Hidden Dangers](#)
- [11/26/2019 Fast Company - The first effort to regulate AI was a spectacular failure.](#)
- [11/19/2019 The Daily Beast - He's Sorry for Stop-and-Frisk, and Locker-Room Talk. Where's Mike Bloomberg's Apology for Spying on Muslims?](#)
- [11/12/2019 Gotham Gazette - Surveillance and the City: Past Time for the POST Act](#)
- [11/6/2019 NBC Think - Ankle monitors can hold captives in invisible jails of debt, pain and bugged conversations](#)
- [11/6/2019 NY Daily News - Police body cameras vs. the public](#)
- [10/17/2019 The Daily Beast - Facial Recognition Tech Is a Blatant Misuse of Police Bodycams](#)
- [10/10/2019 Gotham Gazette - Surveillance and the City: Facing Up to Facial Recognition](#)
- [10/7/2019 BoingBoing - Identity theft's newest target: your face](#)
- [10/2/2019 Gotham Gazette - Surveillance and the City: IDNYC's Not-So-Smart Future](#)
- [10/1/2019 The Daily Beast - Smart Cities Are Creating a Mass Surveillance Nightmare](#)
- [9/16/2019 The Daily Beast - Phone Tracking Data Is Notoriously Unreliable. So Why Are We Still Using It in Court?](#)
- [9/11/2019 NY Daily News - The irony behind de Blasio's proposed robot tax](#)
- [8/13/2019 The Daily Beast - Manhattan DA Made Google Give Up Information on Everyone in Area as They Hunted for Antifa](#)
- [8/8/2019 NY Times - How Bodycams Distort Real Life](#)
- [8/2/2019 BoingBoing - You have the right to remain encrypted](#)
- [7/26/2019 NY Daily News - Make big tech, and cops, stop tracking us surreptitiously](#)
- [7/22/2019 Medium - Prison Time Is the Answer to Tech's Privacy Crisis](#)
- [7/7/2019 NBC - Surveillance by sanctuary cities is helping ICE track undocumented immigrants.](#)
- [7/2/2019 NBC - The killer robots are coming. Here's our best shot at stopping them.](#)
- [6/18/2019 Gotham Gazette - Smells Like Teen Surveillance](#)
- [4/17/2019 NY Daily News - Face it: Recognition technology isn't close to ready for prime-time](#)
- [4/16/2019 Gotham Gazette - Take Down Cuomo's Creeping Cameras](#)
- [3/21/2019 Gotham Gazette - De Blasio Backs NYPD Harassment of Muslim New Yorkers](#)
- [3/12/2019 BoingBoing: Rise of the Surveillance Scooters?](#)
- [3/4/2019 Kings County Politics: Court Right To Say NYPD Can't Police Its Own Sexual Misconduct](#)
- [2/11/2019 BoingBoing: New York City's new rideshare regs put Big Brother in backseat, give GPS tracking a whole new meaning](#)
- [1/22/2019 Slate: The NYPD's new fleet of drones requires stronger privacy regulations.](#)

2019 Government submissions and sign on letters

- [12/18/2019 Public Testimony of Albert Fox Cahn on passage of the Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology \(POST\) Act](#)
- [12/18/2019 Public Testimony of Liz O'Sullivan on passage of the Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology \(POST\) Act](#)
- [12/10/2019 Sign-On Letter Re Encryption and National Security.](#)
- [11/25/2019 Comment on Proposed COPPA Rule Change.](#)
- [11/19/2019 Coalition Letter to DHS on Social Media Monitoring](#)
- [11/18/2019 Police Body-Worn Cameras](#)

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- [11/12/2019 Next Generation 9-1-1](#)
- [11/6/2019 Civil Rights Concerns Re Law Enforcement Social Media Monitoring](#)
- [10/7/2019 Public Testimony on Regulation of Biometric Surveillance Systems. **Watch The Video.**](#)
- [10/4/2019 Open Letter: Facebook’s End-to-End Encryption Plans.](#)
- [10/2/2019 Public Testimony on Intro 1706 - Prohibiting an IDNYC Payment Chip.](#)
- [10/1/2019 Sign-on letter re Massachusetts Automated Decision Systems Task Force.](#)
- [9/12/2019 Letter to Mayor de Blasio on ID NYC privacy.](#)
- [7/09/2019 Letter supporting *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act of 2019.*](#)
- [6/27/2019 City Council Testimony re NYPD Gang Database and “perp-walks” **Watch The Video.**](#)
- [6/19/2019 Letter Supporting repeal of Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act.](#)
- [6/18/2019 Letter Supporting A 6787/S 5140, banning facial recognition in schools.](#)
- [6/14/2019 Letter In Opposition to Residential Facial Recognition in Atlantic Plaza Towers.](#)
- [6/5/2019 Testimony Submitted to the New York State Senate re the New York Privacy Act.](#)
- [5/30/2018 Testimony Before the NYC Automated Decision Systems Task Force. - **Watch The Video \(beginning 1:47\).**](#)
- [5/8/2019 Coalition Letter to House Committee on Homeland Security re domestic terrorism.](#)
- [5/1/2019 Coalition Letter To Department Of Homeland Security re Surveillance.](#)
 - [Customs and Border Protection Response.](#)
 - [DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Response.](#)
- [4/22/2019 Open Letter Calling on all U.S. Political Parties to Adopt Platforms that Repeal the Muslim Travel Ban, Reverse Historic-Low Cap on Refugees](#)
- [4/4/2019 Testimony before NYC Council Committee on Technology re Oversight of Automated Decision Task Force. - **Watch The Video.**](#)
- [3/11/2019 Sign-on letter to Mayor de Blasio re NYPD religious attire policy.](#)
- [3/3/2019 Submission to 2019 Charter Review Commission re police accountability.](#)
- [3/2/2019 Sign-on letter re NYC Automated Decision Systems Task Force.](#)
- [2/12/2019 Testimony before NYC Council Committee on Technology re police surveillance and the need for transparency / oversight. - **Watch The Video.**](#)

2019 Quotes and Profiles

- [12/28/2019 Gotham Gazette - Predictions! Experts Look Ahead to 2020 in New York Politics](#)
- [12/20/2019 Vox - Schools are using facial recognition to try to stop shootings. Here’s why they should think twice.](#)
- [12/13/2019 CityLab - New York Just Set a ‘Dangerous Precedent’ on Algorithms, Experts Warn](#)
- [12/7/2019 City & State - NYPD official tapped to lead DoITT criticized for surveillance work](#)
- [12/5/2019 Civic Hall - Ring Tones](#)
- [12/5/2019 Vice - ‘FUCK CRIME:’ Inside Ring’s Quest to Become Law Enforcement’s Best Friend](#)
- [12/3/2019 Roll Call - Big Apple debates use of algorithms in policing](#)
- [12/2/2019 Queens Daily Eagle - Council will consider bill that sheds light on facial recognition and police surveillance](#)
- [12/1/2019 Law360 - Why Is My City Monitoring Me?](#)
- [11/26/2019 The Intercept - Amazon’s Ring Planned Neighborhood “Watch Lists” Built on Facial Recognition](#)
- [11/21/2019 FAQNYC - Digital Stop and Frisk](#)
- [11/7/2019 Amsterdam News - Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology \(POST\) Act](#)

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- [11/5/2019 C|Net - CES may be helping Chinese surveillance companies clean up image, experts warn](#)
- [11/1/2019 City & State - Police surveillance technology bill still stalled in Council](#)
- [10/25/2019 C|Net - Smart home tech can help evict renters, surveillance company tells landlords](#)
- [10/23/2019 The Intercept - An American Citizen Was Detained While Trying to Pay a Customs Fee on a Gift for His Daughter](#)
- [10/23/2019 The Register - Inside the 1TB ImageNet data set used to train the world's AI: Nude kids, drunken frat parties, porno stars, and more](#)
- [10/22/2019 Inside Edition - Why We Need to Put a Stop to Killer Robots](#)
- [10/22/2019 AP - Nobel laureate Jody Williams campaigns against killer robots](#)
- [10/22/2019 Roll Call - New York City eyes regulation of facial recognition technology](#)
- [10/17/2019 Univision - ICE in New York has a spy tool to hunt undocumented immigrants via their cell phones](#)
- [10/15/2019 WNYC - More New Yorkers Are Stepping Up To Bail Out Detained Immigrants](#)
- [10/15/2019 El Diario - Fondo ayuda a pagar el alto precio de ser detenido por 'La Migra'](#)
- [10/15/2019 NY Daily News - Freeing more immigrants from ICE detention](#)
- [10/9/2019 Scriberr - New York City Council Aims to Regulate Facial Recognition Tech Amid Tenant Concerns](#)
- [10/8/2019 GovTech - NY City Council Considers New Rules for Facial Recognition](#)
- [10/8/2019 City & State - New York City Council contemplates banning biometric tech](#)
- [10/7/2019 N.Y. Daily News - Bashing Big Brother: NY City Council tries to rein in facial recognition tech](#)
- [10/2/2019 City & State - Privacy group raises OMNY security concerns](#)
- [9/26/2019 C/Net - Amazon's plan for facial recognition laws faces skeptics](#)
- [9/24/2019 Tech News World - Art Project Uncovers Bias in AI Training Models](#)
- [9/21/2019 Buzzfeed - It's Scarily Easy To Track Someone Around A City Via Their Instagram Stories](#)
- [9/21/2019 N.Y. Times - 'Nerd,' 'Nonsmoker,' 'Wrongdoer': How Might A.I. Label You?](#)
- [9/14/2019 Essex News Daily - Community discusses pros and cons of police's MOU with Ring.](#)
- [9/3/2019 The Peter Collins Show - In-Depth Interview: Surveillance Critic Albert Fox Cahn Sounds Alarm on 'Reverse Search Warrants.](#)
- [8/25/2019 AP - US tech industry becomes hotbed for employee activism](#)
- [8/22/2019 WNYC -S.T.O.P. condemns expansion of automated license plate readers.](#)
- [8/13/2019 Reason - If You're Near the Scene of a Crime, Authorities Can Demand That Google Hand Over Your Data](#)
- [8/12/2019 Gothamist - Manhattan DA Got Innocent People's Google Phone Data Through A 'Reverse Location' Search Warrant](#)
- [7/26/2019 In Homeland Security - Faceapp Poses Potential National Security And Privacy Risks, Experts Say](#)
- [7/19/2019 Desert News - In our opinion: Pretending to age your face isn't worth risking personal information](#)
- [7/18/2019 Boston Herald - FaceApp poses potential national security and privacy risks, experts say](#)
- [7/18/2019 NY Daily News - Cops conduct fewer probes involving Muslims and other religious and political groups, says NYPD monitor](#)
- [7/18/2019 Vanity Fair - Red Scare: Democrats Warn FaceApp Could Be a Russian Trojan Horse](#)
- [7/17/2019 NPR - Democrats Issue Warnings Against Viral Russia-Based Face-Morphing App](#)
- [7/17/2019 WNYC - When Tech Companies Empower ICE](#)
- [7/14/2019 Daily Beast - 'Red Flags' as New Documents Point to Blind Spots of NYPD 'Predictive Policing'](#)
- [7/14/2019 NY Times - Facial Recognition Tech Is Growing Stronger, Thanks to Your Face.](#)
- [6/14/2019 Gothamist - The MTA's New OMNY Scanners Have Cameras In Them \(But They're Not Watching You, Yet\).](#)
- [6/4/2019 The Atlantic - Consumer Surveillance Enters Its Bargaining Phase.](#)

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- [5/31/2019 WPIX-11 - Goodbye MetroCard: Tap to pay OMNY system debuts, but not everyone is convinced that its ready.](#)
- [5/30/2019 Gothamist - MTA's New Fare Payment OMNY Launches Friday Amid Questions About Data Security & Durability](#)
- [5/23/2019 City & State - New York's data security challenge.](#)
- [5/22/2019 BBC - The ethics of selling facial recognition technology. Starting at 26:30.](#)
- [5/16/2019 WNYC - San Francisco Banned Facial Recognition. Should New York?](#)
- [5/14/2019 The Atlantic - The AI Supply Chain Runs on Ignorance.](#)
- [5/13/2019 NPR - When Technology Can Be Used To Build Weapons, Some Workers Take A Stand](#)
- [5/1/2019 The Jewish Voice - NYC Board of Elections Posts Voting Rolls on Website; Addresses & Party Affiliation Now Public.](#)
- [4/30/2019 NY Times - After Backlash, Personal Voter Information Is Removed by New York City.](#)
- [4/27/2019 NY Times - Are You a New York City Voter? Your Personal Information Just Became Far More Public](#)
- [4/22/2019 CBS Radio - Group Claims MTA Has Facial Recognition Cameras In Subways.](#)
- [4/22/2019 Patch NYC - Video Screen In Subway Station Not Spying On You, MTA Says](#)
- [4/17/2019 - FAQ NYC - Dirty Data Dystopia](#)
- [4/16/2019 New York City's AI task force stalls](#)
- [4/11/2019 - Recode: New York City wants to make sure the AI and algorithms it uses aren't biased. That's harder than it sounds.](#)
- [3/21/2019 Albert Cahn On STOP Non-Profit & New Zealand Mosque Shooting.](#)
- [2/18/2019 The Japan Times: Re-enactment of Korematsu case that upheld Japanese internment fuels debate on Trump immigration policy](#)
- [2/14/2019 Nichi Bei: Korematsu case re-enactment targets Trump's anti-immigration policy](#)

2019 Research

- [10/23/2019 Searches Without Borders](#)
- [10/22/2019 Overview of the Office of Inspector General New York City Police Department](#)
- [10/15/2019 DNA Dragnets](#)
- [10/8/2019 New York City's Food Cart Surveillance](#)
- [10/1/2019 OMNY Surveillance Oh My Report](#)
- [9/26/2019 Domain Awareness System](#)
- [9/21/2019 Civilian Complaint Review Board](#)
- [7/23/2019 The NYPD's Gang Database: A New Age of Stop and Frisk](#)
- [7/5/2019 NYPD Bias](#)
- [7/5/2019 The Handschu agreement & NYPD Surveillance](#)
- [7/5/2019 Automated License Plate Readers & Law Enforcement](#)

