CRITICAL.....21 WARINGS.....ON HOLD.....05:12.....12 OBJECTS......1 CRITICA

PERSONS:1......WARNINGS SENT:4......ON HOLD......CONNECTED....SUBMITTED:4.

STOP
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT PROJECT

Media Toolkit

About S.T.O.P

Mission: The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (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.

Vision: **S.T.O.P. fights to ensure that technological advancements don't come at the expense of age-old rights.** We hope to transform New York City and State into models for the rest of the United States of how to harness novel technologies without adversely impacting marginalized communities. S.T.O.P. also believes that **directly-impacted communities are best equipped to lead this fight**, and that their voices should be at the forefront for this and any movement. We believe in pushing for radical changes where possible and incremental gains where necessary. We support interim measures, including increased government transparency and accountability, when pursued with the aim of abolishing systems of mass surveillance.

About: S.T.O.P. is a 501(C)(3), non-profit advocacy organization and legal services provider. S.T.O.P. is hosted by the Urban Justice Center.

Our Team

Albert Fox Cahn is S.T.O.P.'s founder and executive director, a fellow at the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy at N.Y.U. School of Law, and a columnist for Gotham Gazette. As a lawyer, technologist, writer, and interfaith activist, Mr. Cahn began S.T.O.P. in the belief that emerging surveillance technologies pose an unprecedented threat to civil rights and the promise of a free society.

Liz O'Sullivan is S.T.O.P.'s technology director. She's also co-founder and vice president of commercial operations at an AI explainability and bias monitoring startup called Arthur AI. She has spent 10 years in tech, mainly in the AI space, and has been featured in articles on ethical AI in the NY Times, The Intercept, and The Register.

Samantha Van Doran is S.T.O.P.'s Development Director. Sam is highly skilled in rapid response campaigns, individual engagement and foundation relations. She previously served as both the Development Manager and Development & Communications Senior Associate at the New York Immigration Coalition.

Fabian Rogers is S.T.O.P.'s Advocacy Associate. Fabian is also a community advocate from Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn. He has been on the front lines with his neighbors successfully resisting the use of facial recognition technology in their apartment complexes.

Our Work

S.T.O.P. fights to end discriminatory surveillance. Our team challenges both individual misconduct and broader systemic failures. We craft policies that balance new technologies and age-old rights. And we educate impacted communities on how they can protect their rights.

STOP
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

We wish to protect every New Yorker from predatory surveillance technology and ensure their civil liberty through legislation, litigation, advocacy, and education.

Legislation:

S.T.O.P. fights for laws that that promote privacy, equity, and oversight

Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) Act

Status: Passed (6/18/2020), Signed (7/7/2020)

S.T.O.P.'s flagship bill is the POST Act. For years, the NYPD has built-up an arsenal of cutting-edge, military-grade spy tools without any public notice, debate, or oversight. The POST Act brings much-needed civilian review to NYPD policies, letting elected lawmakers know the types of surveillance conducted on New Yorkers and how that information is kept safe from federal agencies, including ICE.

Geolocation Tracking Ban

Status: Introduced, referred to committee

S.T.O.P. is a lead advocate for the enactment of a geolocation surveillance ban, which would prevent large-scale location tracking, with or without a warrant. As electronic location tracking has been attempted as a method of controlling the COVID-19 outbreak around the world, the ability of governments—with the help of technology companies—to track their citizens' every move has been on full display. But the current crisis must not be used as cover to allow law enforcement agencies to access New Yorkers' deeply personal location data without evidence that they have committed a crime.

Litigation

S.T.O.P. pairs our staff with New York's largest law firms to take on both impact litigation and direct legal services cases, all at no cost to the client. Our 2019 litigtion includes:
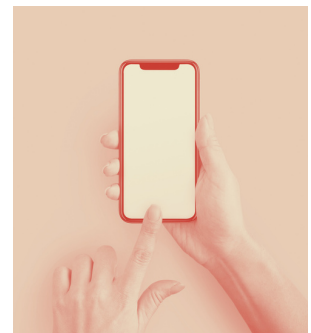
NYPD "Hijab Ban"

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel are pursuing a federal civil rights lawsuit to end the NYPD policy of forcing arrestees to remove religious head coverings, including turbans, wigs, hats, and the hijab. In March, we joined our local and national partners to call on Mayor Bill de Blasio to end this unlawful practice and instruct the NYPD to implement a religious head covering policy that allows arrestees to retain their head coverings and purge photos taken of arrestees whose head coverings were removed against their will.

NYPD Cell Phone Searches

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel are pursuing litigation under New York's Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") to compel the NYPD to produce documents requested by our client: Upturn, Inc. Upturn originally requested the records as part of a nationwide evaluation of how police departments use and misuse mobile device forensic tools (MDFTs). S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel filed our petition in New York State Supreme Court on December 23rd, 2019.

MTA Facial Recognition

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel are pursuing litigation under New York's Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") to compel MTA, New York City Transit ("MTA, NYCT") to produce documents requested about the apparent installation of facial recognition surveillance in the Times Square/Port Authority Subway Station. S.T.O.P. originally requested the documents on April 19th, 2019, following a tweet from *New York Times* employee Alice Fung, revealing a Wisenet brand display. The MTA publicly denied that the Wisenet brand monitors had facial recognition capability, but they then denied S.T.O.P.'s FOIL request, stating that MTA, NYCT would have responsive records.

Advocacy

Our team has conducted extensive research supporting our litigation efforts on behalf of New Yorkers and their rights to privacy, covering new surveillance technologies, policies, and practices in New York City and State

BEWARE: BLUETOOTH AHEAD

The Civil Rights & Privacy Dangers of Deploying Bluetooth to Track COVID-19 Exposure

ALBERT FOX CAHN, ESQ. & JOHN YANY VEISZLEMLEIN

MAY 7, 2020

We look at how Bluetooth technology has been deployed as a technological alternative to manual contact tracing; here, we point out how this tech will ultimately pose an existential threat to public privacy and is unlikely to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

COMBATING COVID ON CAMPUS

Contact Tracing & Higher Education

ALBERT FOX CAHN, ESQ., MELISSA GIDDINGS, & CAROLINE MAGEE

JULY 8, 2020

We explore the pitfalls of technology-assisted contact tracing methods. We highlight this tech's failure to safeguard users' privacy and the ultimate inability for this tech to truthfully and equitably track the COVID-19 epidemic.

Congestion Privacy looks at how the 2019 MTA Reform and Traffic Mobility Act will metastasize tolls within the city into a perpetual log of every car, driver, and passenger in the city, raising concerns around the safeguarding of privacy for New Yorkers.

CONGESTION PRIVACY

The Surprising Privacy Toll of New York City's Proposed Congestion Pricing System

JANUARY 15, 2020

We analyze the New York State Department of Correction and Community Supervision's contract with Securus Technologies, LLC, to deploy AI to monitor inmates' phone calls. We show that this AI may automate racial profiling and other forms of bias.

LISTENING BEYOND THE BARS

New York's Artificial Intelligence Surveillance of Prisoners and their Loved Ones.

ALBERT FOX CAHN, ESQ.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

OMNY SURVEILLANCE OH MY

New York City's Expanding Transit Surveillance Apparatus

OCTOBER 1, 2019

OMNY Surveillance Oh My breaks down the functionality and looks at the dangers in implementing the new pilot project introduced by the MTA titled "One Metro New York " (OMNY), which incorporates large data collecting and location tracking technologies through a new electronic payment system.

SCHOOLYARD SURVEILLANCE

The Rise of K-12 Contact Tracing Technologies

ALBERT FOX CAHN, ESQ. & AMANDA KADISH

AUGUST 2020

Schoolyard Surveillance looks at the ways in which technology-dependant COVID-19 contact tracing poses risks for students' privacy and sense of safety, especially for students of color.

Searches Without Borders analyzes the U.S. Customs and Border Protection 's warrantless searches of American citizens on U.S. soil, including the warrantless searching of cell phones and the broader constitutional ramifications of the search policy.

SEARCHES WITHOUT BORDERS

CBP's Warrantless Searches of American Citizens on U.S. Soil

OCTOBER 23, 2019

We detail the ongoing legal effort to promote a civilian's right to record officers. In addition to detailing existing statutory and constitutional protections, we highlight new safeguards that New York and other states can implement to protect bystanders who exercise their right to record.

TURNING THE CAMERA AROUND

The Public's Right to Record in Public

MAY 13, 2020

Surveillance and the City

In mid 2020, we created a weekly podcast to shed light on the realities of state surveillance in New York City, a collaboration between S.T.O.P. and the Engleberg Center at NYU.
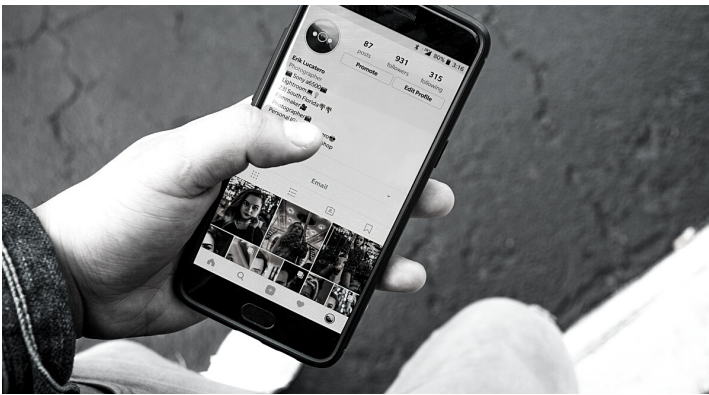
We cover breaking news and include deep dives into tech policy, discussing topics from facial recognition to drones, to emotion detection software.

Public Education:

S.T.O.P held dozens of know your right campaigns, panel discussions, and other education events. We've built national coalitions to change the public discourse on the most pressing privacy issues in the country. We also launched our S.T.O.P. x RadTech speaker series, a monthly tech-in event on technology, social justice, and community.

Past Trainings

Protest Surveillance

We provide tips on how protesters can protect their privacy during mass demonstrations.

Digital Self Defense

Understand what data is collected about you; how to clean up social media search sites; how to improve web browser privacy and cellphone device privacy; how to prevent data leakage. Learn about passwords and account security, doxing, and privacy tools.

Press Highlights

WIRED

9/4/20 Wired - Creepy 'Geofence' Finds Anyone Who Went Near a Crime Scene

The Boston Globe

4/17/2020 The Boston Globe - Tracking coronavirus with smartphones isn't just a tech problem

The New York Times

8/8/2019 New York Times - How Bodycams Distort Real Life

NBC

3/19/2020 NBC - COVID-19 tracking data and surveillance risks are more dangerous than their rewards

The New York Times

6/18/20 New York Times - Council Forces N.Y.P.D. to Disclose Use of Drones and Other Spy Tech

The Washington Post

6/12/20 Washington Post - Black Lives Matter could change facial recognition forever — if Big Tech doesn't stand in the way

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

3/28/2020 Wall Street Journal - Coronavirus Rule Breakers Draw Public Ire Online

Vox

1/8/20 Vox - AI poses risk, but the White House says regulators shouldn't "needlessly hamper" innovation

In just a matter of **months**, S.T.O.P. went from a **single staff member** working out of his apartment to **a globally recognized leader** in the campaign to promote privacy and equity in technology.
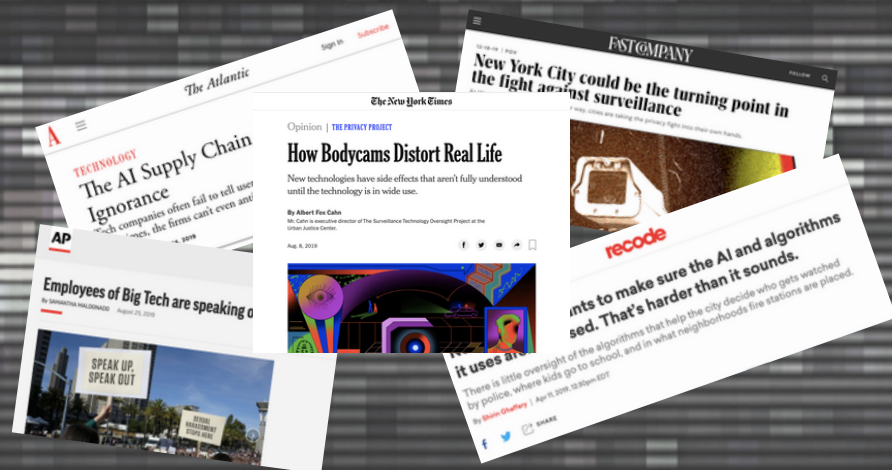
S.T.O.P. now boasts nearly **100** staff, interns, technical volunteers, and pro bono attorneys actively working on dozens of projects.

In our first year, team S.T.O.P. held **dozens** of know your rights trainings, panel discussions, and other educational events, reaching more than **1,400 participants**!

We had more than **100 groups** come together to advocate for the **POST Act,** the **first meaningful victory for communities over the NYPD in a generation**.

S.T.O.P. augments our impact with **hundreds of thousands of dollars in donated services each year**, including pro bono legal support from many of New York's largest law firms. This helps us ensure that every dollar donated to our work is multiplied several times over.

Our op-eds and research are consistently published and quoted in **major news outlets**, from the New York Times to Last Week Tonight to the Washington Post.

Community Advisory Board

Our work would be impossible without the guidance of our Community Advisory Board.

Ángel Diaz, ESQ - Counsel to the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice

Chris Gilliard - Writer, professor, and speaker

Cynthia Conti-Cook, ESQ. - Staff attorney at the New York City's Legal Aid Society

Danielle Blunt - Founding member of Hacking//Hustling

Derek Perkinson - NYC Field Director at the National Action Network

Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez - Social Forensic Science Counsel at Brooklyn Defender Services

Prof. Jasmine McNealy - Assistant Professor in the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications

Jerome Greco, ESQ. - Public Defender in the Digital Forensics Unit of New York City's Legal Aid Society

Kai Lin Zhang - Co-founder of Red Canary Song and Executive Director of the NY State Assembly Asian Pacific American Task Force

Kujegi Camara - Muslim Community Network's Community Education & Interfaith Program Coordinator

Murad Awawdeh - New York Immigration Coalition's Vice President of Advocacy at the New York Immigration Coalition

Mutale Nkonde - Founder/Executive Director of AI For the People

Myaisha Hayes - National Organizer on Criminal Justice & Technology at MediaJustice

Saye Joseph - Policy and Advocacy Manager at Black Youth Project (BYP) 100

Rama Issa-Ibrahim - Deputy Public Advocate for Justice, Health Equity & Safety for Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams

Reem Ramadan - Lead Organizer at the Arab American Association of New York

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SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT PROJECT

View recent press releases and sign up for our media list: **https://www.stopspying.org/media-contact.**

Join our weekly newsletter: **https://www.stopspying.org/subscribe.**

Contact for inquiries: **Media@stopspying.org**

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