

SURVEILLANCE STATES



GOVERNMENT SPYING, CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE 'SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP'

The UK and the USA have adopted mass surveillance in response to the threat of terrorism. Both governments have asserted sweeping powers to collect and analyse telephone calls and e-mails, web browsing records, financial records, travel records, credit reports and even library records, and both are establishing a new generation of 'e-borders' and biometric ID systems.

While many of these new surveillance programmes have been adopted in the name of countering terrorism, they are by no means limited to suspected terrorists. The peaceful political and religious activities of residents in both countries are now subject to intense surveillance and police interference, which have fundamental implications for the freedoms and democracy that they claim to protect.

The American Civil Liberties Union, PEN American Center and Statewatch invite you to join experts from the US and UK at Garden Court Chambers for a discussion of mass surveillance, its implications, and challenges to government policy and practice.

SUNDAY 31 MAY 2009, 5:00-6:30 P.M. (reception to follow)

GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS, 57- 60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LS



The panel will be moderated by **CARLA FERSTMAN**, director of REDRESS, a human rights organisation that helps torture survivors obtain justice and reparation. She was previously a criminal defence lawyer in Canada, and has worked in a variety of countries and international law contexts, for the United Nations, judicial institutions and civil society organisations and in academia, and has written and lectured extensively on international criminal law and human rights.

Panel participants include:



BEN HAYES is an associate director of Statewatch and a consultant for various European human rights and social justice organisations. He has worked extensively on civil liberties issues, security and counter-terrorism policies and is the author of numerous publications on surveillance, including *Arming Big Brother* (Transnational Institute, 2006) and *NeoConOpticon: the EU Security-Industrial Complex* (forthcoming June 2009). He has a PhD from

the University of Ulster, awarded in 2008, and his thesis on civil liberties and democracy in the European Union will be published as a book in 2010. He is currently working for Statewatch in London and as an advisor to the counter-terrorism and human rights programme of the newly-established European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights in Berlin.



JAMEEL JAFFER directs the American Civil Liberties Union's national security project. In that capacity, he has litigated constitutional challenges to the USA Patriot Act, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and the National Security Agency's warrantless wiretapping program. He is also counsel to the plaintiffs in *ACLU v. Department of Defense*, a lawsuit that has forced the release of more than 100,000 pages of government documents concern-

ing the abuse of prisoners, including the four Bush administration torture memos that were released last month. His book, *Administration of Torture* (co-authored with Amrit Singh), was published by Columbia University Press last year.



PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE is a fellow at the Century Foundation, a progressive policy think tank, and a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Slate*, and other publications on issues of national security, civil liberties, human rights, and the rule of law. He is the author of *Chatter: Uncovering the Echelon Surveillance Network and the Secret World of Global Eavesdropping* (Random House, 2005) and *The Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld and the American Dream* (Doubleday, 2009). Patrick holds degrees from Columbia, Cambridge, the London School of Economics, and Yale Law School, and lives with his wife in Washington, DC.



LARRY SIEMS directs PEN American Center's Freedom to Write program, which defends writers facing persecution around the world, and PEN's Campaign for Core Freedoms, a major initiative to turn back new threats to freedom of expression in the United States; he also co-directs the Campaign for Reader Privacy, a joint project of writers, librarians, book-sellers and publishers that targets Patriot Act provisions that threaten the confidentiality of library and bookstore records. A poet and a nonfiction writer who has written extensively about immigration and cross-cultural issues, his publications include the collection *Between the Lines: Letters between Undocumented Mexicans and Central Americans and their Families and Friends*.

