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STOP SPYING ON US

• Congress has chance to end secret surveillance on citizens

By the AFP Staff

With new pending legislation set to renew a secret federal court that authorizes warrantless surveillance, Congress has the opportunity to stop the Deep State from spying on Americans without their knowledge.

The relevant portion is the controversial section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) which allows government officials to spy on foreigners located overseas.

The measure is set to expire April 19, and Congress has been scrambling to quietly renew it.

According to multiple reports, the problem with section 702 is that an untold number of Americans—some say it's in the hundreds of thousands—have been caught up in U.S intelligence gathering, mostly through telephone calls and Internet communications that law enforcement and intelligence organizations vacuum up in huge quantities with no concern over Americans' constitutional right to privacy.

Not even presidential candidates are immune from the sheer volume of communications U.S. officials collect in violation of the Constitution's 4th Amendment prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures.



REP. THOMAS MASSIE
Warrantless spying is illegal.

In 2016, when former President Donald Trump was campaigning for president, his communications were targeted in intelligence gathering efforts. It's taken years, but we now know that, at the time, the FBI lied to the secret FISA court to obtain authorization to snoop on his phone calls, claiming there was evidence that Trump campaign staff had been talking to Russian government officials—a lie that was exposed when U.S. officials finally issued their infamous Mueller Russiagate report in April 2019.

Earlier this month, Trump took to his social media company "Truth Social" to demand that Congress "kill FISA."

He added, "[Warrantless surveillance] was illegally used against me and many others. They spied on my campaign."

If a Republican presidential candidate isn't safe from Deep State spying, is anyone?

Technology magazine *Wired* reported at length on Congress's proposed "reforms" to FISA that have been included in a new bill making the rounds in intelligence hearings.

Among other things, the reforms purportedly limit the number of FBI agents who can go before the FISA court to request authorization for warrantless surveillance. In addition, the FBI will have to report directly to Congress if there happens to be a particularly controversial subject caught up in an intelligence gathering operation such as a congressman or other high-ranking U.S. government official.

Apparently, those cutouts don't include the rest of us Americans.

While Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), the chair of the House Intelligence Committee, supports the proposed reforms, he did raise objections about government abuse.

"We are here, because the intelligence community failed us," Turner recently testified. "The FBI failed us. The intelligence community failed to properly police themselves, and they abused the tools that we gave them under FISA."

Despite his tough talk, Turner still supports renewing section 702.

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), a stalwart supporter of Americans' rights, is not buying it.

"The U.S. government uses the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to spy on Americans without a warrant," said Massie recently in congressional testimony. "The Constitution is clear: get a warrant." ★

THE INSIDE SCOOP



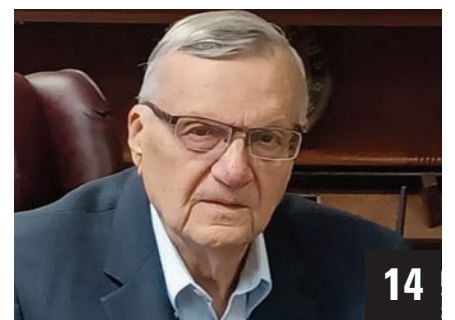
FBI considers those who criticize Israel to be domestic terrorists.

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What does the rising price of gold signal for the U.S. economy?

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Former Arizona sheriff tells AFP what he'd do to stop border blitz.

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Even Ukraine-born U.S. legislator says we must audit aid package.

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