

Subject: Citizens not Criminals
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From the

8 February 1950 until 3rd October 1990 (end of GDR)

The Stasi operated in East Berlin It has been described as one of the most effective and repressive intelligence and secret police agencies to ever have existed.

One of its main tasks was spying on the population, mainly through a vast network (today we have the internet) of citizens turned informants, and fighting any opposition by overt and covert measures including hidden psychological destruction of dissidents (*Zersetzung*, literally meaning decomposition)

Full-time officers were posted to all major industrial plants (the extensiveness of any surveillance largely depended on how valuable a product was to the economy)^[13] and one tenant in every apartment building was designated as a watchdog reporting to an area representative of the Volkspolizei (Vopo).^[17] Spies reported every relative or friend who stayed the night at another's apartment.^[17] Tiny holes were drilled in apartment and hotel room walls through which Stasi agents filmed citizens with special video cameras.^[17] Schools, universities, and hospitals were extensively infiltrated.^[17] The Stasi had formal categorizations of each type of informant, and had official guidelines on how to extract information from, and control, those who they came into contact with.

Information was frequently used to divide or discredit members.^[20] Informants were made to feel important given material or social incentives (motivated by big business political funds???).. A significant proportion of those informing were members of the SED; to employ some form of blackmail, however, was not uncommon.^[19]

It was realised that psychological harassment was far less likely to be recognised for what it was, so its victims, and their supporters, were less likely to be provoked into active resistance, given that they would often not be aware of the source of their problems, or even its exact nature.

Zersetzung was designed to side-track and "switch off" perceived enemies so that they would lose the will to continue any "inappropriate" activities.

Tactics employed under *Zersetzung* generally involved the disruption of the victim's private or family life.

Other practices included property damage, sabotage of cars, purposely incorrect medical treatment, smear campaigns including sending falsified compromising photos or documents to the victim's family, denunciation, provocation, psychological warfare, psychological subversion, wiretapping, bugging, mysterious phone calls or unnecessary deliveries.

But why did the Stasi collect all this information in its archives? The main purpose was to control the society. In nearly every speech, the Stasi minister gave the order to find out who is who,

which meant who thinks what. He didn't want to wait until somebody tried to act against the regime. He wanted to know in advance what people were thinking and planning. The East Germans knew, of course, that they were surrounded by informers, in a totalitarian regime that created mistrust and a state of widespread fear, the most important tools to oppress people in any dictatorship.

—Hubertus Knabe, German historian ^[28]

Erich Fritz Emil Mielke

The Stasi under Mielke has been called the "most pervasive [police state](#) apparatus ever to exist on German soil.

Stasi under Mielke, "was much, much worse than the [Gestapo](#)."^[3]
Do you see yourself in this man above?

Continuing on this road of justifying 'metadata collection', means that you are looking at a picture, **of yourself**.

If you do not know who this man is then it shows you have no idea about the impact and damage caused

by [spying on a population](#)

'**Elected**' politicians of Australia. The Australian population '**trusts**' you with the '[job](#)' **not** [privilege](#) to Govern our country.

Recent PR fear campaigns are leading Australia in the **wrong direction**. Australia is not a country that operates on fear.

A Politicians **job** is to run the country **efficiently** but most of all **peacefully**.

Wouldn't a society led by **intelligent, logical, calm leaders**, be a **preferred society** in which to live?

Why don't you step forward and give the **population some perspective?**

Put history into context.

We are living in a relatively **peaceful period** when you **look back** at the **violent history of the world**.

It is **the media** that makes us believe it is **more 'dangerous'** than **need be**.

Responsible leadership means responding to the circus and fear mongering caused by the media?....

Unless of cause, you stand behind it, support it????

What tomorrow do you want for your children?

Peace or Fear

Civilians not Criminals I vote against METADATA COLLECTION, as Tom Clancy said;

'The control of information is something the elite always does, particularly in a despotic form of government.

Information, knowledge, is power.

If you can control information, you can control people.'

[Tom Clancy](#)

Yours sincerely

Dimity O'Dea

Peaceful member of the Australian Population.