



Submission No 61

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

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From:

Sent: Friday, 17 August 2012 1:18 PM

To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)

Subject: RE: Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

Dear Mr Secretary,

Any dictator or authoritarian ruler would advise against the proposals you are considering for one very obvious reason: it will popularise the use of tools and technologies that increase the privacy and encryption of communications, making it harder for you to 'watch' your citizens.

Right now, there are many tools that activists in closed societies can utilise to protect their identities and their internet use. Many of these tools are open-source and available to anyone.

We have enough feedback from the public to say that they value their privacy, and while they may not necessarily respond to your parliamentary inquiry, they will respond to tactics that are perceived to take away their privacy.

From a national security perspective, it would be wise to keep the public ignorant of privacy enhancing tools and other encryption and circumvention strategies. Your proposals will have the reverse effect, and will in fact raise awareness of these 'liberation tools'.

Best, Sam.

Sam de Silva