

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2021

General Paul M. Nakasone
Director of the National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6247
Fort George Meade, MD 20755

RE: NSA Surveillance of Mr. Tucker Carlson

Dear Director Nakasone,

The purpose of this letter is to obtain a more satisfactory response from your agency regarding Tucker Carlson's alarming report that the National Security Agency (NSA) is illegally spying on his private texts and emails.¹ Mr. Carlson's report on Monday, June 28th prompted a tweet by the NSA the following day which claimed, "Tucker Carlson has never been an intelligence target of the Agency and the NSA has never had any plans to try to take his program off the air."² This response does not address whether the NSA has ever monitored, surveilled, received or collected data on Mr. Carlson under any pretext, and therefore does not alleviate the concerns of Americans who are by this time familiar with the numerous scandals involving the political targeting of Americans under the auspices of the very government they fund.

Asserting that Tucker Carlson is not and never has been an intelligence target of the Agency does not rule out the possibility of his being surveilled or unmasked for supposed ties to a party under investigation. Indeed, the NSA's tweet offered the disclaimer that, "With limited exceptions (e.g. an emergency), NSA may not target a US citizen without a court order that explicitly authorizes the targeting."³ Presumably, even if Mr. Carlson's communications were being surveilled collaterally, a court order allowing such surveillance would be necessary, unless the situation was deemed to be an emergency or otherwise fell under one of the NSA's other "limited exceptions." However, as we are certain you will understand, the obscurity of the Agency's tweet poses as many questions as it quells. For this reason, we request the Agency provide us with the following information:

- A detailed description of the "limited exceptions" that would permit the NSA to target a U.S. citizen without a court order, as the Agency understands the term as it is used in its own tweet;
- A detailed description of what constitutes an "emergency" that would permit the NSA to target a US citizen without a court order, as the Agency understands the term as used in its own tweet;

¹ Tucker Carlson, "Tucker Carlson Tonight," *Fox News*, Jun. 28, 2021, <https://www.foxnews.com/media/tucker-carlson-nsa-spying-on-show> (accessed Jul. 2, 2021).

² NSA/CSS, *Twitter*, Jun. 29, 2021, 8:00 PM, <https://twitter.com/NSAGov/status/1410025399032193027> (accessed Jul. 2, 2021).

³ *Id.*

- A detailed description of “the foreign activities that could harm the United States”, as the Agency understands the phrase as used in its own tweet;
- A full explanation of when the Agency understands it is lawful to monitor, surveil, collect, unmask, or receive data on a US citizen without a court order explicitly authorizing such targeting, including while conducted in the course of targeting foreign powers;
- A detailed description of how the Agency defines “domestic terrorist” and when its mission could extend to targeting foreign powers who are corresponding with individuals defined as such;
- A detailed description of your understanding of the term “clandestine intelligence activities”; and
- What specific actions have been taken to hold accountable those who unmasked, approved unmasking, or shared information on unmasked U.S. citizens?

It is imperative that any claim of a U.S. government agency illegally spying on a private citizen be taken seriously. Therefore, in addition to your response to these important questions, we are urging you to provide all documents related to your agency involving Tucker Carlson to us. Furthermore, as elected representatives of a great many Americans who are very disturbed to hear this report, we also request a briefing detailing the nature and full extent of any of Tucker Carlson’s electronic communications the Agency has procured and reviewed.

With trust in our institutions at a dismal low, we must be able to provide our constituents with the transparency in governance they are duly owed. Since the implications of this matter are so great for every citizen of this nation, we are requesting a response from you as soon as is possible, but no later than August 1, 2021. We thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this very urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
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Diana Harshbarger
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Bob Good
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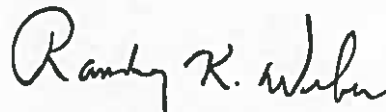
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