



Terry Xu <terry@theonlinecitizen.com>

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## Inquiry Regarding Surveillance of Opposition Members' Communications

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Terry Xu <terry@theonlinecitizen.com>

Tue, Dec 3, 2024 at 10:40 AM

To: k\_shanmugam@mha.gov.sg

Cc: laura\_tan@mha.gov.sg, zhuo\_huimin@mha.gov.sg

Dear Minister K Shanmugam,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing as Terry Xu, Chief Editor of *The Online Citizen*, to seek clarification on concerns regarding the potential surveillance of opposition members in Singapore.

Recent events have raised questions about whether members of opposition parties have been subjected to any form of surveillance, including the monitoring of their phone communications, tracking of their locations, or access to private messages.

During the trial involving Workers' Party (WP) chief Pritam Singh, following former WP Member of Parliament (MP) Raeesah Khan's 2021 admission of having lied in Parliament about accompanying a rape victim to a police station, concerns about surveillance were publicly aired.

Former WP cadre member Yudhishtira Nathan testified about the deletion of messages from a group chat on 4 October 2021, citing concerns that "some external force or party would be able to read these messages if, for example, Raeesah Khan's phone had been hacked."

Nathan also testified to an atmosphere of fear within the WP during this period. Phones were reportedly switched off and stored outside meeting rooms due to concerns about potential surveillance. Additionally, he noted that phones had to be kept outside the office when members met with the disciplinary panel.

Given the above, I would like to seek clarification on the following:

1. Are there, or have there ever been, any government programmes or practices to monitor, track, or surveil the phones or communications of opposition members or political parties?
2. Have there been any specific instances where members of opposition parties, including the Workers' Party, have been subjected to such surveillance?
3. Does the Singapore Government or any of its agencies make use of surveillance software such as Pegasus, FinSpy, or other similar tools capable of intercepting communications, tracking locations, or accessing private data?
4. Have any surveillance-related contracts been outsourced to third-party organisations or private entities, either within or outside Singapore, with the aim of monitoring individuals or groups, including opposition members?
5. What safeguards are in place to ensure that opposition members and their communications are not surveilled without explicit judicial or legal authorisation?

As Minister of Home Affairs and Law, your response is critical to addressing these concerns and assuring the public that governance practices in Singapore adhere to the principles of democracy, transparency, and fairness.

I hope to receive a comprehensive response to these questions, as they touch upon significant public interest issues and the integrity of democratic processes in Singapore.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,  
Terry Xu  
Chief Editor  
*The Online Citizen*