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Public Relations Department
Corporate Communications Division
Canon
One Canon Park
Melville, NY 11747

Dear Canon,

We, the undersigned documentary filmmakers and photojournalists, are writing to urge your company to build encryption features into your still photo and video camera products. These features, which are currently missing from all commercial cameras on the market, are needed to protect our safety and security, as well as that of our sources and subjects worldwide.

Without encryption capabilities, photographs and footage that we take can be examined and searched by the police, military, and border agents in countries where we operate and travel, and the consequences can be dire.

We work in some of the most dangerous parts of the world, often attempting to uncover wrongdoing in the interests of justice. On countless occasions, filmmakers and photojournalists have seen their footage seized by authoritarian governments or criminals all over the world. Because the contents of their cameras are not and cannot be encrypted, there is no way to protect any of the footage once it has been taken. This puts ourselves, our sources, and our work at risk.

Many technology companies have in recent years embraced encryption technology, often including it in their products and enabling it by default. Indeed, encryption has, in some sectors, become an industry-best practice. Apple's iPhones encrypt all data stored on them by default, as do many phones running Google's Android operating system; text messages and voice calls made with WhatsApp, iMessage, FaceTime, and Signal are all protected using end-to-end encryption technology; and laptops and desktop computers running modern versions of Microsoft Windows and macOS encrypt all data stored by default too.

However, we face a critical gap between the moment we shoot our footage and the first opportunity to get that footage onto more secure devices.

As filmmakers and photojournalists who value our own safety and the safety of our sources and subjects, we would seek out and buy cameras that come with built-in encryption. Adding these data security features to your product line would give your company a significant competitive advantage over other camera manufacturers, none of whom currently offer this feature.

Beyond the commercial motivation for adding encryption features, we know your company has commendably committed to corporate social responsibility. Building encryption into your products is not just about helping the filmmakers and photojournalists who buy them, but about making the world a better place. As filmmakers and photojournalists, we use our lenses to hold powerful people to account — and ultimately to change society for the better. Encryption features will allow us to continue to tell the most important stories, from some of the most dangerous places in the world.

You can help us reach that goal by starting to work towards building encryption into your camera products.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

Over **150** Filmmakers, Photographers, and Media Workers Around the World

Lynsey Addario, Photojournalist, *Freelance*

Avi S. Adelman, Photojournalist/Editor, *TheRightToPhotographInPublic.com*

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Alejandro Álvarez Cadilla, Director/Cinematographer, *Independent*

Anthony Arnove, Producer, *Independent*

Craig Atkinson, Documentary Filmmaker / Director, *Vanish Films*

Barbara Attie, Documentary Filmmaker, *Attie & Goldwater Productions*

Julia Bacha, Creative Director, *Just Vision*

Joslyn Barnes, Filmmaker, *Louverture Films*

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Jessica Chermayeff, Producer/Director, *Independent*

Michael Christopher Brown, Photographer, *Magnum Photos*

Brenda Coughlin, Producer, *Praxis Films*

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Negin Farsad, Filmmaker/Comedian, *Independent*
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