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(U) ODNI Out Front: DNI Responds to Letter from a Private Citizen Regarding the Boston Bombings

May 29, 2013 By [Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

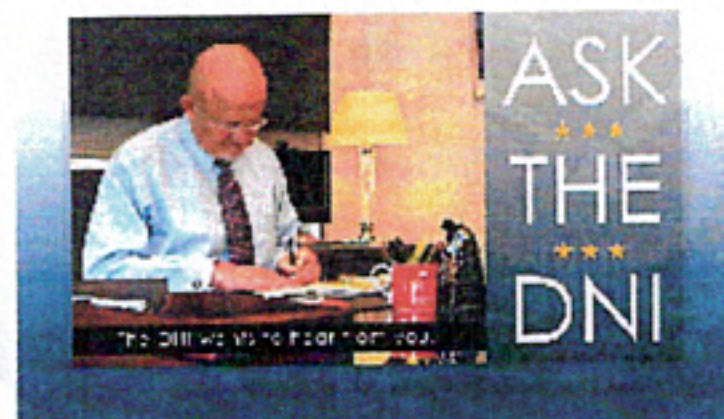
(U) A recent letter from a constituent in Nevada discusses supporting the IC's position on civil liberties. Click on the images below to read the letter and the DNI's response.



Letter from a private citizen



DNI Clapper's response



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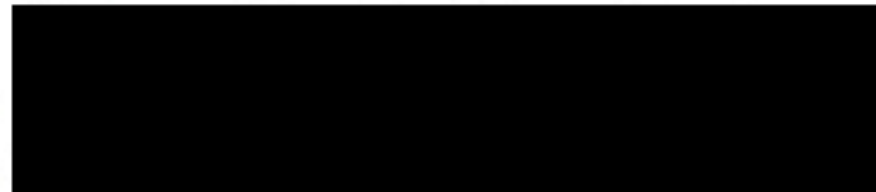
TO: Director J. R. Clapper ^{of 7 May 2013}
Director of National Intelligence
Washington DC 20511

Director Clapper,

While congress is set to try blame their failures on the IC, I feel that it is critical for you to know that the people of the United States are behind you, support the IC, and understand the place they have been placed in. If the american people are not willing to release some freedoms, they cannot blame the IC when they can't stop domestic act so to haviz their hands tied by laws & policy.

The american people (at least some of us) support you, your stance, and understand that you cannot have your cake and eat it too, for lack of a better phrase. If people wish to stop these acts they must be ready to release some "Rights" in the interest of the greater good. The IC has the best protecting methods for protectin PII, so if one has nothing to hide why would a little government watchin for mass protection be such a long question. WE SUPPORT YOU.

Best Wishes





7 May 2013

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Dear [REDACTED] -

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your letter of April 27th - I say this on behalf of all the women and men of the Intelligence Community. In my view you have very accurately described

THE issue that the Boston Bombings represent: Just how small do the American people want the holes in the security fish net to be?

Thanks for taking the time to write such a thoughtful letter.

Sincerely,
J.R. Clapper

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Comments

1. *Wormy* says:

[May 30, 2013 at 12:59 PM](#)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Dear [REDACTED]

Like Director Clapper, I too appreciate that you recognize the fact that it is impossible to defend 100% against these kinds of attacks given the restrictions placed on America's security forces and the freedom and range of targets enjoyed by the attackers. That being said, don't be too quick to release your freedoms and "rights" in the name of security. For two major reasons that I can think of:

First, ridding ourselves of certain rights, such as those outlined by the 4th amendment, will ***absolutely not*** guarantee our security or freedom from attack. Terrorists operate with tremendous lethality in countries where people enjoy no such rights and freedoms. You're not going to get what you pay for.

Second, always be careful about surrendering rights. History shows that governments don't have a great track record of giving them back once they take them. You may think your government is different, but that's just a perception created by the fact that the American people have fought tooth and nail to see that their rights are protected.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights have survived for centuries, defended by courageous men and women both in the armed forces, in various civil rights movements, and just individual citizens standing up for themselves and others. They have made incredible sacrifices and endured tremendous hardships to pass these sacred rights down to you. Do you want to be part of the generation that threw it all out because because a group of Islamic radicals is posing a threat to you that statistically doesn't even come close to the threat posed to you by lightning?

Very Truly Yours,
Wormy

◦ [REDACTED] says:

[May 30, 2013 at 2:09 PM](#)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Well said!

“Well, doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?” He [Ben Franklin] replied,
“A republic if you can keep it.”

I'd kinda like to.

2. [REDACTED] says:

[May 30, 2013 at 2:10 PM](#)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

I think it was inappropriate for DNI Clapper to respond in a way that indicates he agrees with the premise of the writer's letter, namely, that government must expand its domestic “watching” and the people must give up “some ‘rights’ in the interest of the greater good.” The head of the US Intelligence Community—the business of which is foreign intelligence—should not be taking sides on matters of domestic intelligence policy.