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Don't let drones invade our privacy

By **Rand Paul**, Special to CNN

updated 8:13 AM EDT, Thu June 14, 2012

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U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, fears domestic use of drones would violate our Fourth Amendment rights.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Sen. Rand Paul says surveillance drones in the U.S. could track everyday activity

He says it's a violation of the Constitution to spy with drones without approval by a judge

Rand Paul says police should be able to get approval for limited use of drones

He says legislation is need to reaffirm the rules set out in the Constitution

Editor's note: Rand Paul, a Republican, is a U.S. senator from Kentucky.

(CNN) -- When assuming office, every government official must take an oath to abide by and uphold our Constitution. Since 2010, I have made that my mission in Congress. Unfortunately, the Obama administration is not upholding nor abiding by the Constitution -- in fact, this administration is going to great lengths to continually violate it.

Its most recent transgression involves the use of domestic drones.

These small drones are to be used as a crime fighting tool for law enforcement officials. But is unwarranted and constant surveillance by an aerial eye of Big Government the answer?



Sen. Rand Paul

In a memorandum issued by President Barack Obama's secretary of the Air Force, the stated purpose of these drones is "balancing ... obtaining intelligence information ... and protecting individual rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution."

However, flying over our homes, farms, ranches and businesses and spying on us while we conduct our everyday lives is not an example of protecting our rights. It is an example of violating them.



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Don't let drones invade our privacy

updated 8:13 AM EDT, Thu June 14, 2012



Sen. Rand Paul says it would violate the constitution to use drones for routine surveillance of Americans

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The domestic use of drones to spy on Americans clearly violates the Fourth Amendment and limits our rights to personal privacy. I do not want a drone hovering over my house, taking photos of whether I separate my recyclables from my garbage.

Poll: Don't use drones for speeding tickets



When I have friends over for a barbecue, the government drone is not on the invitation list. I do not want a drone monitoring where I go, what I do and for how long I do whatever it is that I'm doing. I do not want a nanny state watching over my every move.

We should not be treated like criminals or terrorists while we are simply conducting our everyday lives. We should not have our rights infringed upon by unwarranted police-state tactics.

I have introduced legislation into the Senate that restates the Constitution.

This bill protects individual privacy against unwarranted governmental intrusion through the use of these drones. The Preserving Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act of 2012 will protect Americans' personal privacy by forcing the government to honor our Fourth Amendment rights.

I want to make it clear that I am not arguing against the use of technology. But like other tools used to collect information in law enforcement, a warrant needs to be issued to use drones domestically. The police force should have the power to collect intelligence; however, I believe they must go through a judge and request a warrant to do so. The judicial branch must have some authority over drones, as they do with other law enforcement tools.

My bill will restate the Fourth Amendment and protect American's privacy by forcing police officials to obtain a warrant before using domestic drones.

There are some exceptions within this bill, such as the patrol of our national borders, when immediate action is needed to prevent "imminent danger to life," and when we are under a high risk of a terrorist attack. Otherwise, the government must have probable cause that led them to ask for a warrant before the use of drones is permitted.

If the warrant is not obtained, this act would allow any person to sue the government. This act also specifies that no evidence obtained or collected in violation of this act can be admissible as evidence in a criminal, civil or regulatory action.

Allowing domestic drones to act as spies for the government is a complete violation of our basic right to personal privacy.

Unrestricted drone surveillance conjures up images reminiscent of Orwell's "1984" -- a totalitarian police-state. According to the Fourth Amendment, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated."

I am sure our police force had good intentions with their suggested drone policies, but do they understand the consequences? Do they realize that they are allowing the government to act as the eye in the sky?

By infringing upon our rights and watching over our every move, the government is not going to protect us, but they will push us one more step closer to completely losing our Fourth Amendment rights. My bill will protect individual privacy against governmental intrusion by these

In Sandusky trial, a second act for McQueary?

updated 4:21 PM EDT, Thu June 14, 2012



Jon Wertheim says that as details emerge from the Sandusky trial, Mike McQueary cannot simply be cast as a villain

Jeb vs. Grover: Battle for GOP's soul

updated 12:32 PM EDT, Wed June 13, 2012



Jeb Bush is being attacked for being a traitor to the conservative cause, but John Avlon says the former governor is just being rational.

Giving each child the chance to live past 5

updated 8:06 AM EDT, Thu June 14, 2012



Kathy Calvin says millions of kids die each year from mosquito bites, malnutrition, or vaccine-preventable diseases. The world can stop this with the right efforts

Let presidential candidates curse in debates

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Dean Obeidallah says we're hypocritical in holding our politicians to a ridiculously prudish standard.

Why middle class has taken a big hit

updated 11:25 AM EDT, Wed June 13, 2012



Dean Baker says it's no surprise that the average American family lost almost 40% of their net worth. Blame it on Alan Greenspan.

Ban swearing? No way!

updated 8:33 AM EDT, Thu June 14, 2012



John McWhorter says a Massachusetts town's effort to impose a \$20 fine for public swearing is an empty, hopeless move. Not to mention plain backwards.

Solving the mystery of black holes

updated 9:57 AM EDT, Thu June 14, 2012



Meg Urry says the NuSTAR telescope will let scientists finally take the measure of black holes and provide an important new observatory for studying the cosmos.

Talk back to your doctor

updated 10:00 AM EDT, Wed June 13, 2012



Amitai Etzioni: If your doctor orders a test you are unsure about, don't be intimidated; ask questions and don't be afraid to say no or get another opinion.

Do we need a revolution in higher education?

updated 3:44 PM EDT, Wed June 13, 2012



William Bennett says new technological ventures can challenge the model of the traditional four-year residential, physical college.

drones and establish a balance by requiring judicial action and allowing protection in court.

I am confident that my colleagues in the Senate will agree with this bill. Each and every one of us took the same oath to abide by and uphold our Constitution. The Preserving Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act does just that.

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amp77

But the PATRIOT act and wire taps were ok, right? How do people this stupid remember to breathe?

2 hours ago 2 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



claudio22

Rand Paul attempted to filibuster the extension of Obama's beloved Patriot Act last year on the floor of the senate. How do people as stupid as amp77 remember to breathe?

36 minutes ago in reply to amp77

[Like](#)



dakota2000

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Honor480- I remember the patriot act. I also remember by high school history lesson about the posse commitatus act that is supposed to prevent the military from enforcing civil law. But who is buying these drones? My local police station? Right!

The US is being militarized.

And right, I find it hard to distinguish the policies of bush versus obama.

And in two years, when we have weaponized drones, you will be order to stay in doors on voting day for your own protection or be vaporized...

1 hour ago in reply to amp77 1 Like

Like



Honor480

How do stupid people assume that all members of the GOP were in lock step with Bush over awful legislation like the Patriot Act? Rand Paul wasn't a senator when the Patriot Act first came though. His father opposed it and still opposes it. Believe it or not, but some politicians believe in the Constitution and opposed Bush's violations of it as well as Obama's. Shocking since Obama always pays such nice lip service to the Constitution while undercutting it at every turn.

2 hours ago in reply to amp77 1 Like

Like



Citizen9

This is more Rand Paul, GOP paranoid silliness. Police have helicopters, Military has aircraft, all capable of surveillance without using drones. Furthermore, the FAA restricts the airspace that un-manned aircraft may operate, making Pauls bill a non-issue. If Paul is really concerned about surveillance he should attempt to rescind the provisions of the Patriot Act which permit the government to enter homes while resident are away.

2 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



claudio22

Since Rand Paul attempted to filibuster the Patriot Act on the floor of the senate last year, maybe he's on your side there buddy. It's telling that you're only concerned with a tiny piece of Obama's frightening Patriot Act though. Don't worry little man, big brother will watch over you and keep you safe from the scary terrorists.

34 minutes ago in reply to Citizen9

Like



kaPA84

Citizen9...I fly every day. Almost 8 hours a day. I cover many nautical miles and can recite one worthless aviation law after another. With that being said, I want to tell you that you are 10000% incorrect. There are NO FAA restrictions on where these drones can fly. You are actually so incorrect it isn't even funny. The FAA has no jurisdiction over the drones. They fly where they want - when they want. They aren't even required to speak with ATC...period. Before speaking out your butt, get a clear idea on what is really going on in the skies.

The FAA broke down several months ago. On the verge of collapse with no new budget insight. Part of the bargain to be able to continue to act and be a organization....was to have absolutely no say over the drones...which just so happened to come out just a few months later.

Flipping...

[show more](#)

1 hour ago in reply to Citizen9 2 Likes

Like



dakota2000

Hello! the FAA is opening up airspace to drones under order by the obama administration.

Rand Paul, does not strike me as a main line GOPer. He seems to have an independent mind. probably won't get re-elected...

1 hour ago in reply to Citizen9

Like



FreeMind1776

I wonder what your response would be if this was a Bush idea? I get it -- anything is OK if St. Obama does it.

2 hours ago in reply to Citizen9

Like

Leland Polk



All government is immoral and wrong. Every thing that is required to run government is given through graces of force. All things that government does is force. War is murder, tax is theft, and Freedom is yours if you so desire.

3 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Zolteg

How many police couldbe paid for with the price of one drone?
Who actually wants drones in the skies?
Where is the mandate for this gross invasion of privacy?
What will these drones be capable of montoring?

Doesnt anyone think the concept is sinister in the extreme?

3 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



ShovelinSnow

Chinas 737 ripoff wont pass chinas safety inspection, lmao. The wings crack under normal pressures. In before "we will keep copying till we get it right."

3 hours ago in reply to Zolteg

Like



ShovelinSnow

China is jealous of our drone capabilities. You wont be talking us out out of developing them.

3 hours ago in reply to Zolteg

Like



David Crosby

We need to pass legislation legalizing the shooting down of illegal surveillance drones by normal taxpaying citizens...

4 hours ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



FreeMind1776

Be vewy vewy qwiet I am hunting dwones

2 hours ago in reply to David Crosby

Like



ShovelinSnow

Well since you dont pay taxes here it doesnt apply to you.

3 hours ago in reply to David Crosby

Like



Honor480

I'm game. Depending on the drone type since there are multiple kinds it would be very difficult or impossible to shoot down, but I'm all for being allowed to try. If big brother wants to spy, they can spy the bullet.

3 hours ago in reply to David Crosby

Like



pinay53

Just another example of F'n cops trying anyway they can to contribute to the legalized thievery of the citizens. The judicial system is nothing but cops and judges and lawyers getting together to steal from the rest of us.

5 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



ShovelinSnow

You should go live in china, im sure they could find room for you in a black jail.

3 hours ago in reply to pinay53

Like



pagan1gov

Is social security not proof of what the government suppose to do?

5 hours ago

Like Reply

**ShovelinSnow**

English please.

3 hours ago in reply to pagan1gov

Like

**pagan1gov**

Not to bring SS up.

Obviously if they will steal blinds in front of our faces. With drones they will invade human rights slowly like everything else.

I do believe the 3rd world invasion of our country is half way thru its mission.

Thru immigration. Which I have always had the feeling it is TREASON BY our REPS

5 hours ago in reply to pagan1gov

Like

**Freedom Fighter**

what is the point of letting govt plunder your pay check in the name of social security. and transfer that loot to bankers and Waging wars.

5 hours ago in reply to pagan1gov 3 Likes

Like

**dakota2000**

Our privacy is 'invaded' constantly but by forces more nefarious than the government. Corporations know more about us than we know about ourselves. Facebook and gmail are spying machines we happily let into our lives. As are the old school methods like monitoring credit card transactions.

Chinese hackers can monitor your cell phone calls from overseas... think about that the next time you have an intimate conversation with your significant other.

Will Sen Paul also protect us from corporate and foreign invasion of privacy?

5 hours ago 4 Likes

Like Reply

**claudio22**

"Our privacy is 'invaded' constantly but by forces more nefarious than the government."

So you're OK with our deal leader Obama creating an unconstitutional surveillance state that constantly tracks all aspects of its constituents' lives, but you're not OK with people choosing to sign up for Facebook. Nice. #Obama2012

23 minutes ago in reply to dakota2000

Like

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