



NSA Had Huge Spying Operation Against Brazil

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Brazil's widely-circulated *O Globo* daily revealed on July 7 in a front-page article that the National Security Agency (NSA) has carried out a massive spying operation against Brazil, prying into the phone, internet, fax and other communications of millions of Brazilian citizens, companies and institutions.

Authored by American journalist Glenn Greenwald and Brazilians Roberto Kaz and Jose Casado, the article is based on top secret documents provided by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden, to which *O Globo* had access, detailing the workings of the NSA's Fairview program. It's unclear how many people or companies were spied on, *O Globo* explains, but evidence suggests that the espionage "is constant and on a huge scale."

Under the Fairview program, the NSA partnered with an unnamed U.S. telecommunications company, which in turn partnered with telecoms in Brazil. Once the U.S. company accessed Brazilian telecommunication data, the NSA used Fairview to tap into it. *O Globo* pointedly concludes that what Snowden has revealed, means the "end of the era of privacy, at any time and any place, primarily in countries such as Brazil in which the 'wire tap' came to be a policy of state under the military dictatorship."

The Brazilians are being extremely cautious in their response, due, among other reasons, to the fact that national telecom companies were very likely working with the NSA, just as their European counterparts did. There's even a rumor circulating that Brazil has maintained a data-collection facility in the country alongside the NSA, Britain's *Guardian* reported today.

President Dilma Rousseff called an emergency cabinet meeting on July 7, after which Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota issued a very carefully-worded and tepid statement, expressing "grave concern" over the revelations and asking for "clarification" from the U.S. Communications Minister Paulo Bernardo told *O Globo* he had "no doubt" that the U.S. had spied on Brazil, but was certain this would have no negative impact on bilateral relations.

For its part, the State Department responded by e-mail to a question from BBC Brazil, saying "the U.S. government will respond appropriately to our partners in Brazil through diplomatic and intelligence channels. We will not comment publicly or specify supposed intelligence activities. As a policy, we make clear that the U.S. obtains foreign intelligence of the type collected by all nations."

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