

From: Alexander Avakov

To: A Lawyer

February 20, 2021

Dear All,

**I am sending you this letter with a hope to get a lawyer and also for educational purposes — you need to know that a story like mine can happen in America. I have been subjected to surveillance by feds and third parties, but cannot do anything about it. NOBODY SHOULD BE DEPRIVED OF PRIVACY THE WAY I WAS.**

I was born in the U.S.S.R. in 1954 in the family of talented engineers. Since early age I had been intellectually curious and interested in economics and philosophy. I had been studying for five years in the Ural State University in Sverdlovsk (now Ekaterinburg), specializing in mathematical economics. During the final year of university, I distributed pamphlets with a liberally-minded critique of the Soviet system, for which I was arrested: accused of “Anti-Soviet Agitation and Propaganda” (which was a notorious article of the Criminal Code in effect annulling freedom of speech guaranteed by the constitution) and sentenced to 1 and ½ years of hard labor.

My sentence was served in a KGB-run labor camp among other dissidents, including former journalists, historians, military people, and diplomats. After completing the sentence, I was subjected to extrajudicial punishment of “administrative supervision” for the refusal to cooperate with the KGB. During my time in the prison camp and after it, using my chance of socializing with interesting people, I have expanded my education by including semiotics, anthropology, law, sociology, and history.

In 1981, when the country was “cleansed” of subversive elements, I was allowed to emigrate to the U.S. **Even though I was officially welcomed with my family in the United States, I have never been completely trusted by the U.S. authorities.**

In America, in the beginning for a short while I had been watched apparently by the CIA (such surveillance on the U.S. territory was allowed by the Executive Order 12333) and then for a few years by the FBI. I have hard documentary proof about the FBI surveillance in 1982-1988.

Surveillance by the FBI counter-intelligence had been conducted under the pretext (according to the FBI documents received under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Act) that I “had a solid educational background” and “was not Jewish”; I am in fact of Armenian-Russian descent, but the whole idea that if you are not Jewish and have a good education, you should be subjected a “national security investigation” and surveillance by the FBI, is absurd and discriminatory.

Meanwhile, I have had a successful career as a computer programmer and have travelled extensively abroad at an international software company. During my travels, I have had episodic collisions with the CIA and other international intelligence organizations, and have been continuously watched domestically.

It is my belief that, since the 1980s feds have sought in their surveillance assistance of “third parties”. I am little bit uncertain about the exact actors conducting surveillance now (the employer, New Jersey national security agencies or still the FBI itself?). But I can trace what looked like surveillance by non-FBI third parties dating from 1985. I have no doubt I am still subject to persistent surveillance by an unrevealed yet

tremendously sophisticated party: in particular, wiretapping of my phone and home conversations, of conversations during walks and in my car, and wiretapping of my computers.

Basically, there are two theories with regard to who may conduct this surveillance now: a private party (like an employer), or a public, government party (like the federal or New Jersey national security agencies).

- If this surveillance is conducted by a private party, it opens a question of a civil liability. The next question is that of defamation (the penalty for which is difficult for me to estimate).
- If the surveillance is conducted by the federal or New Jersey national security agencies, they probably are doing it according to a warrant, but with flimsy probable cause: in which case they have been misrepresenting the evidence for probable cause before the court, and are guilty of extreme professional malpractice by pushing the continuation of such intrusive surveillance for so many years; and the only reason they continue to do so is because they are unable to admit such an egregious mistake. Additionally, there are reasons to believe they may be engaged in some pretty nasty counterintelligence disruption behavior. All of which needs to stop; and people conducting these actions must be reprimanded and punished.

**The problem is the American judicial system is not designed to handle cases of electronic surveillance and stumbles over the challenge of proving the fact of electronic surveillance in the court of law. (If, nevertheless, you think you can take the role of a human-rights lawyer in my case, you are welcome.)**

Please find more documentation of my allegations, as described in more detail in my book "*Metafolklore*." You can download for free the pdf-files of all the Four Volumes of the Fourth Edition of this book from the website <http://regoss.ru/metafolklore/>. The book documents the facts of intrusion into my private life and describes my search for protection against surveillance and violations of privacy.

Sincerely,

Alexander Avakov