

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Henry Edward Hardy [REDACTED]  
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### **Supporting Freedom and Opposing Police State Surveillance on July 4, 2026**

In this, the United States' 250th year, we choose freedom.

We oppose a police state.  
We oppose authoritarianism.  
We oppose surveillance.

That is why we oppose police state surveillance, whether in the form of body-worn devices, or other forms of surveillance and identification, indexing, analysis, and control.

By comparison with that existing today, all the tyrannies of the past were half-hearted and inefficient. The ruling groups were always infected to some extent by liberal ideas, and were content to leave loose ends everywhere, to regard only the overt act and to be uninterested in what their subjects were thinking. Even the Catholic Church of the Middle Ages was tolerant by modern standards. Part of the reason for this was that in the past no government had the power to keep its citizens under constant surveillance. The invention of print, however, made it easier to manipulate public opinion, and the film and the radio carried the process further. With the development of television, and the technical advance which made it possible to receive and transmit simultaneously on the same instrument, private life came to an end. Every citizen, or at least every citizen important enough to be worth watching, could be kept for twentyfour hours a day under the eyes of the police and in the sound of official propaganda, with all other channels of communication closed. The possibility of enforcing not only complete obedience to the will of the State, but complete uniformity of opinion on all subjects, now existed for the first time.

George Orwell  
1984

“Dance like nobody’s watching”

That kind of freedom is really only possible if nobody is watching.

The mere possibility of being surveilled is a means of controlling the population, not only their public behavior but their thoughts and emotions.

In his 1791 essay, “Panopticon, or The Inspection House”, Jeremy Bentham proposed a circular prison from the center of which all prisoners could potentially be observed at all times. The mere possibility of being surveilled would, in his estimation, produce compliance among the prisoners.

The extension of universal police state surveillance into the public sphere in essence, renders the public commons into an open-air panopticon prison.

Freedom and police state surveillance are fundamentally incompatible. We choose freedom.

Thank you for your kind attention.

I welcome your response.

--Henry

[REDACTED] Mayor, Somerville City Council, To Whom it May Concern

Henry Edward Hardy

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pronouns: he or they