

# It looks like Obama did spy on Trump, just as he apparently did to me

By Sharyl Attkisson, opinion contributor — 09/20/17 08:30 AM EDT

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Many in the media are diving deeply into minutiae in order to discredit any notion that President Trump might have been onto something in March when he fired off a series of tweets claiming President Obama had “tapped” “wires” in Trump Tower just before the election.

According to media reports this week, the FBI did indeed “wiretap” the former head of Trump’s campaign, Paul Manafort, both before and after Trump was elected. If Trump officials — or Trump himself — communicated with Manafort during the wiretaps, they would have been recorded, too.

But we’re missing the bigger story.

## ADVERTISEMENT

If these reports are accurate, it means U.S. intelligence agencies secretly surveilled at least a half dozen Trump associates. And those are just the ones we know about.

Besides Manafort, the officials include former Trump advisers Carter Page and Michael Flynn. Last week, we discovered multiple Trump “transition officials” were “incidentally” captured during government surveillance of a foreign official. We know this because former Obama adviser Susan Rice reportedly [admitted](#) “unmasking,” or asking to know the identities of, the officials. Spying on U.S. citizens is considered so sensitive, their names are supposed to be hidden or “masked,” even inside the government, to protect their privacy.

In May, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates [acknowledged](#) they, too, reviewed communications of political figures, secretly collected under President Obama.

Trump: I was "wire tapped"

CNN: Haha. That idiot [@realDonaldTrump](#) thinks he was wiretapped.

..Six months later..

CNN: Trump was wiretapped

— Julian Assange (@JulianAssange) [September 19, 2017](#)

## Weaponization of intel agencies?

Nobody wants our intel agencies to be used like the Stasi in East Germany; the secret police spying on its own citizens for political purposes. The prospect of our own NSA, CIA and FBI becoming politically weaponized has been shrouded by untruths, accusations and justifications.

You'll recall DNI Clapper falsely assured Congress in 2013 that the NSA was not collecting "any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans."

Intel agencies secretly [monitored](#) conversations of members of Congress while the Obama administration negotiated the Iran nuclear deal.

In 2014, the CIA got caught spying on Senate Intelligence Committee staffers, though CIA Director John Brennan had explicitly denied that.

There were also wiretaps on then-Congressman [Dennis Kucinich](#) (D-Ohio) in 2011 under Obama. The same happened under President George W. Bush to former Congresswoman [Jane Harman](#) (D-Calif.).

Journalists have been targeted, too. This internal [email](#), exposed by WikiLeaks, should give everyone chills. It did me.

Dated Sept. 21, 2010, the "global intelligence" firm Stratfor wrote:

*[John] Brennan [then an Obama Homeland Security adviser] is behind the witch hunts of investigative journalists learning information from inside the beltway sources.*

*Note -- There is specific tasker from the WH to go after anyone printing materials negative to the Obama agenda (oh my.) Even the FBI is shocked. The Wonder Boys must be in meltdown mode...*

The government subsequently got caught monitoring journalists at Fox News, The Associated Press, and, as I allege in a federal lawsuit, my computers while I worked as an investigative correspondent at CBS News. On Aug. 7, 2013, CBS News publicly [announced](#):

*... correspondent Sharyl Attkisson's computer was hacked by 'an unauthorized, external, unknown party on multiple occasions,' confirming Attkisson's previous revelation of the hacking.*

Then, as now, instead of getting the bigger story, some in the news media and quasi-news media published false and misleading narratives pushed by government interests. They implied the computer intrusions were the stuff of vivid imagination, conveniently dismissed forensic evidence from three independent examinations that they didn't review. All seemed happy enough to let news of the government's alleged unlawful behavior fade away, rather than get to the [bottom](#) of it.

I have spent more than two years litigating against the Department of Justice for the computer intrusions. Forensics have revealed dates, times and methods of some of the illegal activities. The software used was proprietary to a federal intel agency. The intruders deployed a keystroke monitoring

program, accessed the CBS News corporate computer system, listened in on my conversations by activating the computer's microphone and used Skype to exfiltrate files.

We survived the government's latest attempt to dismiss my lawsuit. There's another hearing Friday. To date, the Trump Department of Justice — like the Obama Department of Justice — is fighting me in [court](#) and working to keep hidden the identities of those who accessed a government internet protocol address found in my computers.

Evidence continues to build. I recently filed new information unearthed through forensic exams. As one expert told the court, it was “not a mistake; it is not a random event; and it is not technically possible for these IP addresses to simply appear on her computer systems without activity by someone using them as part of the cyber-attack.”

Life comes at you fast. [pic.twitter.com/Js5iKqpy27](https://pic.twitter.com/Js5iKqpy27)

— Ian Miles Cheong (@stillgray) [September 19, 2017](#)

## Patterns

It's difficult not to see patterns in the government's behavior, unless you're wearing blinders.

- The intelligence community secretly [expanded](#) its authority in 2011 so it can monitor innocent U.S. citizens like you and me for doing nothing more than mentioning a target's name a single time.
- In January 2016, a top secret inspector general report found the NSA violated the very laws designed to prevent abuse.
- In 2016, Obama officials searched through intelligence on U.S. citizens a record [30,000 times](#), up from 9,500 in 2013.
- Two weeks before the election, at a secret hearing before the FISA court overseeing government surveillance, NSA officials confessed they'd violated privacy safeguards “with much greater frequency” than they'd admitted. The judge accused them of “institutional lack of candor” and said, “this is a very serious Fourth Amendment issue.”

Officials involved in the surveillance and unmasking of U.S. citizens have said their actions were legal and not politically motivated. And there are certainly legitimate areas of inquiry to be made by law enforcement and intelligence agencies. But look at the patterns. It seems that government monitoring of journalists, members of Congress and political enemies — under multiple administrations — has become more common than anyone would have imagined two decades ago. So has the unmasking of sensitive and highly protected names by political officials.

Those deflecting with minutiae are missing the point. To me, they sound like the ones who aren't thinking.

Sharyl Attkisson (@SharylAttkisson) is an Emmy-award winning investigative journalist, author of The New York Times bestsellers “The Smear” and “Stonewalled,” and host of Sinclair’s Sunday TV program “[Full Measure](#).”

Tags [Sharyl Attkisson](#) , [Trump Tower wiretapping allegations](#) , [Paul Manafort](#) , [James Clapper](#) , [Central Intelligence Agency](#) , [National Security Agency](#) , [United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court](#) , [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) , [John Brennan](#) ,

"It looks like Obama did spy on Trump, just as he apparently did to me" - Investigative Journalist Sharyl Attkisson who also was targeted by Obama Police State | [The Hill](#)([thehill.com](#))

Submitted ago by [LionElTrump](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [harry\\_nash](#) 8 points (+8|-0) ago

Sharyl Attkisson is one of the last *real* journalists. Throughout her career, she has never sacrificed her honesty and integrity for the sake of ratings. It's unfortunate that she would be a target of such a nefarious intrusion.

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[\[+\]](#) [JohnCStevenson](#) -10 points ago (show)

[\[-\]](#) [derram](#) 6 points (+6|-0) ago

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'If Trump officials - or Trump himself - communicated with Manafort during the wiretaps, they would have been recorded, too. '

'If these reports are accurate, it means U.S. intelligence agencies secretly surveilled at least a half dozen Trump associates. '

'And there are certainly legitimate areas of inquiry to be made by law enforcement and intelligence agencies. '

'So has the unmasking of sensitive and highly protected names by political officials. '

'Last week, we discovered multiple Trump "transition officials" were "incidentally" captured during government surveillance of a foreign official. '

[This has been an automated message.PNG](#)

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[–] [thescribeofthecreed0](#) 4 points (+4|-0) ago

It's long past time to shut down the FBI. The FBI is the most abusive criminals in the world, Obama involved or not. And they are criminals.

- [Permalink](#)

[–] [LionElTrump](#) [S] 0 points (+0|-0) ago

[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/betrayal-whitey-bulger-and-the-fbi-agent-who-fought-to-bring-him-down\\_jon-land\\_robert-fitzpatrick/392908#isbn=0765335506](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/betrayal-whitey-bulger-and-the-fbi-agent-who-fought-to-bring-him-down_jon-land_robert-fitzpatrick/392908#isbn=0765335506)

I always had a great image of the FBI growing up thanks to their shows then I read that book. Now all of this from this election

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[–] [thescribeofthecreed0](#) 1 points (+1|-0) ago (edited ago)

It's just worse than any one thought possible. They've turned in to some thing like the mob. They act like thugish mobsters now. They lived long enough to quite literally become they're own villian. Two-Face was right. You either die a hero, or live long enough to become the villian. They need to take a look in the mirror.

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[–] [knightwarrior41](#) 1 points (+1|-0) ago

i dont get why trump is still pro surveillance after this

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[–] [LionElTrump](#) [S] 0 points (+0|-0) ago

It's about protecting citizens. People like Antifa and others still use electricity to send messages over wires. The worst nightmare scenario occurred as warned from Orwell to [LOpht Congressional Testimony](#). Centralization allowed for things like the 7th floor shadow group to exist. The worlds way of life depends internet of things and the tools disrupt and spy were unleashed to the world and were created right here in the USA using our tax dollars. The first terrorist attack or falseflag that can take many American lives will be blamed for not funding these agencies. It's pretty gross problem and the need to weed out those abusing Constitutional rights as sworn to do must be removed forcibly at the very least.

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[–] [james780](#) 1 points (+1|-0) ago (edited ago)

this site has not worked for me for a good while

This site cannot be loaded due to a certificate error: <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/351495-it-looks-like-obama-did-spy-on-trump-just-as-he-did-to-me?amp> net::ERR\_CERT\_COMMON\_NAME\_INVALID

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edit ok it seems that the "?amp" at the end of the link messes it up when its removed it works

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[–] [Obama\\_BinLadin](#) 1 points (+1|-0) ago

Of course he did! He's a complete liar.

- Permalink

[–] [Reverse-Flash](#) 1 points (+1|-0) ago

..and nothing changes.

- Permalink

[–] [thescribeofthecreed0](#) 0 points (+0|-0) ago

I'm in the middle of a bad thunder storm right now. Real bad. Probably about to be in the news tomorrow. I'm scared. Really scared.

- Permalink

[–] [thescribeofthecreed0](#) 0 points (+0|-0) ago

I meant the FBI was taking advantage of people with autism BTW. Not the shit posters or trolls taking advantage of autistic people. Sorry 'bout that.

- Permalink

[–] [thescribeofthecreed0](#) 0 points (+0|-0) ago

Yeah Obama was running a police state and surveillance state you ain't a kidding. Nothing like sicking the FBI on innocent internet shit posters and trolls and taking advantage of autistic nerds and using the FBI to abuse people posting in forums, social media, and comment sections and busting anyone for any speech. That's what the FBI does anymore is bust people for communist whiny SJW's who read some thing on the internet and had a psychotic breakdown. What a disgrace the FBI has become.

- Permalink

[–] [another\\_dot](#) 0 points (+0|-0) ago

Trump has to be wondering..how could so many lying piles of steaming crap get elected by the American people..?

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[–] [the\\_magic\\_man](#) -2 points (+2|-4) ago

He didn't wiretap Trump. He wiretapped Manafort

- Permalink

[–] [Reverse-Flash](#) 3 points (+3|-0) ago

Aren't they also allowed to also tap anyone who calls the tapped person or whom the tapped person has called?

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- Parent

[–] [the\\_magic\\_man](#) 1 points (+2|-1) ago

Yeah. But it doesn't change the fact that trump wasn't tapped, Manafort was. Obama even warned trump about hiring him, but trump being the idiot that he is, hired him. Same with Flynn

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[2 Replies](#)

[–] [LionElTrump](#) [S] 3 points (+3|-0) ago

Easier to convince the FISA court of that than the political candidate. Manafort was the campaign manager so people like Flynn and others would be dragged in. That's where the rest of the crew unmasked and disseminated to their propaganda outlets.

CNN reported Manafort's home was raided months after we first heard about it. Manafort's spokesman released a statement yesterday calling for the FBI to [release all intercepts for the public to see.JPG](#)

<https://twitter.com/maxkutner/status/910254403063549952>

[https://www.yahoo.com/news/paul-manafort-responds-wiretap-report-221449907.html?.tsrc=jtc\\_news\\_index](https://www.yahoo.com/news/paul-manafort-responds-wiretap-report-221449907.html?.tsrc=jtc_news_index)

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[–] [tendiesonfloor](#) 2 points (+2|-0) ago

What a naive faggot.

- Permalink

- Parent

[–] [XSS1337](#) 2 points (+2|-0) ago

Yes, and if I tap your mother.... will I not know where you are spending the holidays ? VS. tapping you which would be suspect / illegal....

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