Surveillance of phone traffic

Within the last few years, it has become more common to monitor cellphones in search of terrorists, drug dealers, mafia bosses, etc. That’s a good idea but what happens when governments intelligence agencies start monitoring regular people?

It’s become a fact that the intelligence agencies can monitor yours and my cellphones[[1]](#footnote-2) and the problem is that it’s actually a violation of privacy rights. The article says that the FBI can use your cellphone to monitor everything you say to people, even when it’s powered off. The only solution to solve this problem is to take the battery out of your cellphone[[2]](#footnote-3).

One of the dangers of the surveillance is that it can be interrupted by “crackers” (crackers are the evil edition of hackers), which means it potentially can be used to terror activities. Another danger is the question; who are watching those who arewatching us? We don’t really know what the intelligence agencies are using the mined data for.

In Denmark, we are being monitored as well by the Danish intelligence agency, PET. After the second “terror law” got adopted by the Danish government, PET was now allowed to monitor people via their e-mails, phone calls, text messages, and where they go without a court order[[3]](#footnote-4) but it was only allowed if it could be proofed that it had a connection to terrorism. We aren’t really known for such monitoring in Denmark as they are in Great Britain. In the Great Britain there is one camera for every 14 citizen which is a whole lot more than there is in Denmark.

PET - Danish Security and Intelligence Service

# History

It started back in the 1920's with Copenhagen Explorer Police, which was the first established political department that was the first intelligence department in Denmark. In the first years they operated in Copenhagen only, but after a few years the police chiefs in the country districts got a reporting duty to the department.

In 1939, a new nationwide intelligence service came to life under the chief of the state police. It was called the "Sikkerhedspolitiet" (Security police). The service was taken down during WWII and was reestablished in 1945 under the name "Commissioner of Police's intelligence department".

6 years later, in 1951 happened a general re-organizing in the service which resulted in a change of the name to "Politiets Efterretningstjeneste" (Danish Intelligence Agence - DIA).

Until 1960 the Copenhagen Police, Frederiksberg Police, Southern and Northern Birk Police were excepted from the reporting duty to the Commissioner of Police, but through the years 1960-66 the DIA overtook the intelligence work within those 4 police districts and has since been nationwide.[[4]](#footnote-5)

# Organization

The DIA is a part of the Danish police. Organizational the service represents a department within the State Police (Department G). Due to the intelligence agency's special duties the commissioner of the service reports directly to the Secretary of Justice.

DIA has through time adapted the organization and resources accorded to the actual threat- and communityimage. It's the intention that DIA's structure must support the service's overall strategy about an intensive focus on the operative- and monitoringpurposes, and the service's extern coordinated role.

The personal consists of 700 employees, officers, office personal, lawyers, academics, communication people, interpreters, and technicians. [[5]](#footnote-6)

# Duties today

Their main duties today are counter terrorism, counter extremism, and counter espionage. The intention is to keep our country free from terrorist attacks, but also securing VIP's like politicians, the royal, and other exposed persons like the Muhammed cartoonist Kurt Westergaard. They employ their own bodyguards to protect the VIP's. They monitor both domestic and foreign terror cells like Taliban and al-Qaeda by listening to their phone calls, watching their activities, reading their e-mails, and they work together with both Europol and Interpol in the war against terrorism.

1. <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2006/12/can_you_hear_me/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/nationworld/2003474824_bugs130.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <http://www.dr.dk/P1/Kanten/Udsendelser/2009/03/18091353.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. http://www.pet.dk/Organisation/Historie.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. http://www.pet.dk/Organisation.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-6)