

INFORMATION SECURITY

# PEGASUS

**BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT, TOTAL  
SURVEILLANCE, AND MODERN WARFARE**

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by Daniel Ghodrati





# JAMAL KHASHOGGI



- 1 Saudi-Arabic journalist
- 2 Critic of the Saudi-Arabian state
- 3 Was spied with Pegasus
- 4 Was allegedly murdered in ambassy

# CARMEN ARISTEGUI, MAATI MONJIB



A Mexican journalist

M Moroccan journalist and human rights activist

Both got SMS with links

A Private information were leaked

M Detained by Moroccan forces

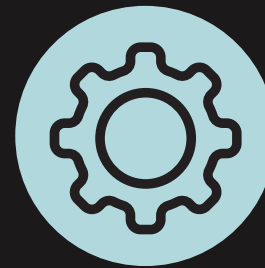


# WHAT IS PEGASUS?



## DEVELOPMENT

by NSO GROUP,  
Herzliya, Israel



## SPYWARE

Intruder can see  
photos, messages,  
calls, location



## BUG

Can turn camera  
and microphone  
secretly on



# INFLUENCE ON THE VICTIMS

Psychoterror  
Physical violence  
Imprisonment  
Total monitoring



# USERS OF PEGASUS

Secret Services  
Criminal Organizations

Over 30 states and orgs are suspected of using  
Pegasus

Finnish diplomats got hacked by Pegasus

victims: journalists, political opponents,  
prosecutors, lawyers, human and environmental  
rights activists





# HOW DOES PEGASUS WORK?

Link in message

Call

Zero-click exploits

Vulnerabilities in software and operating systems

iOS

Vulnerabilities in iMessage, Apple Photos, Apple Music

Data during spying is saved in the folder `"/private/var/db/"`

Suspicious redirects



**IS IT NECESSARY FOR STATES  
TO HAVE SOFTWARE LIKE  
PEGASUS?**



# MY OPINION



- + Criminals have new technologies
- + Protection of the public and vulnerable information



- Abuse
- Privacy
- Human rights
- Threat to democracy



# HOW TO PROTECT FROM PEGASUS?

Update your operating system!  
Update your applications!  
Don't anger states and criminals!



**“You can make  
yourself safer, but  
we will not be safe  
until we change the  
game.”**

Edward Snowden

# RESOURCES



Jamal Khashoggi: <https://www.reporter-ohne-grenzen.de/themen/kampf-gegen-straftlosigkeit/jamal-khashoggi>

Maati Monjib: <https://menarights.org/en/caseprofile/academic-maati-monjib-arbitrarily-detained-december-29-2020>

Carmen Aristegui: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmen\\_Aristegui](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmen_Aristegui)

Pegasus: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegasus\\_\(spyware\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegasus_(spyware))

Martin Sonneborn: Mehr Spaß mit Pegasus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfkGb-UmynQ&list=WL&index=10>

The Guardian: the spyware technology that threatens democracy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7H9uo3j5FQ&list=WL&index=4&t=1s>

Simplicissimus: Die schlimmste Cyberwaffe aller Zeiten: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa8aMuhC104&list=WL&index=10&t=400s>

RealTime Cyber: Pegasus Spyware Explained: Non-Technical: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yl1CBm53fM&list=WL&index=10>

Kaspersky: [https://www.kaspersky.com/about/press-releases/2024\\_kaspersky-reveals-new-method-to-detect-pegasus-spyware](https://www.kaspersky.com/about/press-releases/2024_kaspersky-reveals-new-method-to-detect-pegasus-spyware)

Edward Snowden: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Snowden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Snowden)

The Guardian: Edward Snowden on Pegasus spyware: 'This is an industry that should not exist': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5WjTTi67BE&list=WL&index=13>

Pegasus icon: <https://thenounproject.com/icon/pegasus-1092224/>

RealTime Cyber: Zero Click Exploits Explained: Technical: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRXhZmKQX7Y&list=WL&index=15&t=6s>

Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2021/07/forensic-methodology-report-how-to-catch-nso-groups-pegasus/>

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