

# Calling on Citizens with Courage

All Americans owe Edward Snowden a debt of gratitude for his courageous action in exposing the current massive NSA spying operations against the citizens of the United States. Knowing that he risked his life by going public with secret documents that prove the ongoing ubiquitous spying, Snowden went ahead, found brave collaborators, and set off a political explosion aimed at provoking his fellow citizens to wake up, and fight for their Constitutional rights before it's too late.

The question is, will enough courageous patriots step forward to join him, in order to bring the U.S. back from the brink of a full-blown dictatorship?

“Those who surrender freedom for security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one,” said Benjamin Franklin. That idea is resonating around the world, as international leaders look with shock at the revelations about a government which secretly collects data on the Internet and phone traffic of its citizens, ranging into the millions of data bits daily, and decides in secret how it will be used. In particular, it was cited by German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger June 11 in an op-ed in *Spiegel* Online, who found the revelations “deeply disconcerting.” Coming from Germany, where recollection of the Stasi surveillance system of control in East Germany is still very alive, this comment is especially significant.

Indeed, the famous leaker of the Pentagon Papers of 1971, which exposed previously hidden involvement of the U.S. military in Vietnam, Daniel Ellsberg, headlined an op-ed in the June 11 London *Guardian*, “Edward Snowden: Saving Us from the United Stasi of America.” “The NSA, FBI and CIA have, with the new digital technology,

surveillance powers over our own citizens that the Stasi—the secret police in the former ‘democratic republic’ of East Germany—could scarcely have dreamed of,” Ellsberg wrote.

As additional revelations appear, this assertion will become even clearer, as Snowden himself has hinted. As a member of the vast apparatus serving the NSA “security” apparatus, Snowden said, he had enormous power. “At my level, I could have wiretapped the President,” he told the *Guardian*’s Glenn Greenwald.

Are there enough patriots in Congress with the courage to draw the consequences of these revelations? To do so, would mean to take some very specific measures to reassert the Constitution of the United States in its most essential features. To wit:

- Articles of impeachment of the President of the United States, Barack Obama, must be immediately filed, adding to his already extensive list of offenses against the Constitution, the wholesale violation of the Fourth Amendment, and the rights of due process guaranteed to all American citizens. You can't reverse such behavior by passing new laws while you have a President in place who has regularly flouted the law.

- Congress must simultaneously assert its Constitutional powers over the economy and finances of the United States, which are currently being subverted and looted by the foreign-run financial powers whom Obama's actions also serve. This begins with the reassertion of the Glass-Steagall principle, which has been presented in H.R. 129 and S. 985 before both Houses of Congress.

The further consolidation of these powers means fascism, and likely thermonuclear war. The courageous war to stop them must go into high gear now.