

NSA Records Every Mobile Phone Call in the Bahamas



Washington, May 30 (RHC)-- The U.S. National Security Agency is listening and recording almost every cellphone call in the Bahamas, an archipelago located in the Atlantic Ocean, leaked documents show.

According to the classified documents provided by NSA surveillance whistleblower, Edward Snowden, the spy agency "is secretly intercepting, recording, and archiving [for one month] the audio of virtually every cellphone conversation on the island nation of the Bahamas," according to the Intercept.

The NSA is implementing the surveillance program, code-named SOMALGET, without the approval of the government of the Bahamas, the documents say. SOMALGET, a sophisticated tool that allows the NSA to store the actual content of every telecommunication in an entire country, is part of a broader NSA program called MYSTIC, which is reportedly being used to monitor the telecommunications of the Bahamas and several other countries.

The revelation of such a controversial program has raised concerns about the nature and extent of U.S. surveillance abroad. The U.S. State Department said in a report last year, "The Bahamas is a stable democracy that shares democratic principles, personal freedoms, and rule of law with the United States." The report further stated: "There is little to no threat facing Americans from domestic (Bahamian) terrorism, war, or civil unrest."

The NSA has been collecting and storing phone records of both Americans and foreign citizens, something the public would not have known if Snowden had not exposed the spying programs in June last year. The documents revealed by Snowden also showed that the agency has been spying on some of the European countries' leaders, including German chancellor Angela Merkel.

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