

Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

Government Access to Cell Phone Data: Paper Outline

**I. Introduction**

**Topic sentence then:**

- A. Information has emerged concerning illegal access of private cell phone data by the government
- B. Concerns raised by citizens regarding breach of their privacy and online safety conflicting with government's security surveillance justifications
- C. While it is vital for the government to secure the country and the citizens from malicious cyber-attacks and abuse of cell phone networks, the Fourth amendment rights remain paramount for every citizen in America.

**II. Body**

- A. Reasonable threats to security do exist in the cell phone network and online based platforms which to some extent requires close but regulated government surveillance
  - 1. Cell phones have been used in planning and executing criminal activities
  - 2. Mexican drug cartels have established strong private cell phone satellites to enable clandestine drug operations in Mexico and America

3. 2008 Mumbai Terror attacks were planned and executed using sophisticated mobile phone data mapping and digital operation centers rivaling those of authorities
  4. Several other domestic criminal and terror attacks in both online and offline spheres have led to deaths, property losses and psychological abuses which justify need for government to have access to mobile phone data of suspected criminals/terrorists.
- B. Government should have regulated access to mobile phone data of suspected criminals and terrorists to prevent manageable catastrophes and protect its citizens.
1. Criminals and terrorist are increasingly using sophisticated infrastructure in their criminal activities which requires the government to stay one step ahead
  2. Crime has evolved and gradually moved to online based hacking and infiltrations attacks which requires 24/7 government presence in online and mobile data surveillance.
  3. Crime prevention through intelligence awareness has proven to be important than prosecution of criminals in the fight against terrorism or mass criminal operations.
  4. Some crimes such as private and online sharing of illegal files for example child pornography requires direct access of authorities for arrests to be made.
- C. The Fourth Amendment and all other legal acts protecting the freedom for privacy and freedom from harassment are paramount.

1. Citizens need to feel safe, secure, and have their dignity without living in fear of intrusion into their private messages, calls and data in their cell phones.
2. If not regulated and controlled, there might be abuse of the mandate and malicious access, exposure, and usage of people's cell phone data would be rampant.
3. Other means should be exhausted first before surveillance of private data is an option.
4. A collaborative inclusion of citizens, private sector, human rights groups and other relevant stakeholders should be used to ensure fair and safe policies and laws regarding surveillance of cell phone data are used.

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **Topic sentence then:**

- A. Discussion and need for closer government surveillance over digital networks is apparent in the evolving crime sphere
- B. The rights of the people should not be breached in a bid to stop crime
- C. Sustainable solutions drawn from the public should be applied under legal restrictions.