

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Dear Readers,

We are proud to present to you the fifth issue of the *Cyberpolitik* Journal. It is a great honor for all of us to continue our journey that we started three years ago without interruption. As the digital world grows every day and every second, new developments and new technologies emerge, we are trying to read and understand this area within our limitations.

This volume deals with a number of topics ranging from cyber conflicts, securitization of cyberspace, cyber warfare, humanitarian law, cyber threats to human rights, music in cyberspace and future industries. There are also rich content in this issue and research that will increase the question marks in our minds. But in this brief discussion, I want to focus on human rights, especially privacy, in cyberspace because of its urgency and importance.

Internet is the most important and most effective tool of the cyber era. It is a simple tool like all other technological developments and products. It is not good or bad in its essence. We get good outcomes if used for good, bad results if used for bad. The Internet is a great blessing for mankind, but at the same time a great threat. There are about 7 billion GB of information flow that enriches human memory every day, and millions of cyber attacks can happen every day again. For this reason, it is an important issue how and why the internet is used?

In terms of human rights, the internet is not necessarily good or absolute bad. There are some of its positive as much as negative impacts in the promotion and protection of human rights. On the one hand, there is the National Security Agency(NSA) that oversights millions of people while on the other side there are people like Edward Snowden who decipher vihese activities that violate rights. While governments and global corporations are conducting a series of activities that violate human rights, Wikileaks, which decrypts, is trying to prevent them.

While some human rights are positively affected by cyber technology, some have faced serious risks. Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, the right to participate in social and democratic life, social, economic and cultural rights are positively



affected. Again, freedom of expression (in terms of internet blocking and electronic surveillance) and privacy right are the most negatively affected rights. The most sensitive and the most risky in this regard is the right to privacy. Since without it, it is difficult for man to protect his true humanity and to preserve his honor.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 12 defines the right to privacy as follows: “ *No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.* “ The elements in these article are personal and family privacy, such as private life, family, home, correspondence, honor, fame and name. They are all under the protection of international law and national legislation. But this right and its elements are unfortunately facing the greatest risks on the internet. Everyone we use computers and smartphones as well as social media platforms, from which we face with a number of threats such as electronic surveillance and cyber intelligence.

The phenomenon known as the Snowden incident and the fact that the NSA took the citizens of the United States as well as the entire world under the electronic surveillance is a very big scandal. It turned out that NSA has followed all the subscriptions of Verizon Telekom company and the main servers of global social media companies like yahoo, google, twitter and facebook (importantly by the consent and permission of these companies). The Snowden documentary shows that a US agent who testified in Germany in this case clearly says that all the intelligence agencies in the world use these programs. In other words, humanity is being watched with local and national eyes beside NSA which is the biggest eye of the world. Besides these, electronic surveillance operated by individual hackers and private companies increase the level of the threats that human rights face.

I want to explain with a simple example how intense people are being watched. In the global cyber surveillance, only about 11% of surveillance is done by companies for advertising. So, you experienced many times that when you talk about something a little later, her ad falls on your phone or computer,. If you search for a hotel or airline tickets or any other product, for a little while then its ads come to your computer or even your mobile phone for days. All this constitutes only 11% of the total electronic surveillance. Intelligence organizations, or state surveillance, are 85%. In other words, this is almost 8 times of the pursuit for advertising purposes. This shows how great threats the human rights and privacy rights are faced with.



Some would argue that if you do not commit a crime, you might not try to avoid it or afraid of surveillance. But, privacy is not for crime, but for the protection of human dignity. There is no continuous crime in the houses, but the curtain is always kept in the house windows, for privacy and human honor.

In short, internet is a useful tool, but there are also serious risks. We can be partly safe as long as we have succeeded in keeping our overseers within the limits of law and human rights, or we will say good-bye to the human rights in the next few years. In this case, the Internet can serve to enslave people in the long run. If there is no consciousness and struggle in this matter, there will be darkness. Keep reading and learning.

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Editor-in-Chief

