

Committee: UNHRC

Topic: Rights to Privacy in the Digital Age

Country: Bolivia

## RIGHTS TO PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

### *I. Background*

Technology has only been recently revolutionized, yet it has already grown widely popular in these first years of the 21st century. Think back to the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, when phones ranged from either landline, brick, or flip. Now, after companies like Apple, Samsung, Huawei, and Google took the simple communication device and turned it into a handheld source of all information known to mankind, the phone has been an extremely common tool in daily life. However, not only phones were revolutionized. Computers, TVs, and radios were developed into something that could let your imagination run wild. This reinvented and inspiring piece of technology comes with downsides, however. One main problem is privacy.

Violations of privacy are not new. They've happened for many years. However, ever since users could use their personal devices to share their lives with the world, cases of stolen identity, defamation, stalking, and even internet homicide have run rampant. Rights of privacy are stated under the UNHRC as also applying to technology, private and public. Countries have also followed suit.<sup>2</sup> The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), stated that private information is, "any information that relates to an identified or identifiable living individual (data subject) such as a name, email address, tax ID number, online identifier, etc."<sup>3</sup> Personal data is hard to secure and keep track of, since they're used in day to day activities, such as ordering a product online. Other ways info could get stolen could be scam websites.<sup>1</sup> These website trick you into ordering a suspiciously priced item using your credit card to steal your information. The UNHRC's universal declaration of human rights declares that, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence."<sup>5</sup> With digital privacy being a significant problem, a solution is vital to lessening privacy related issues.

### *II. UN Involvement*

The UNHRC has passed several resolutions about the topic of privacy. In 1948, the UN wrote the Declaration of Human Rights. Two of the articles, 12 and 19, stood out as addressing privacy rights directly. Article 12 states that, "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." Article 19 states that, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."<sup>4</sup> Along with that, the UN passed a resolution in 2014 addressing the topic of digital privacy. A/HRC/DEC/25/117 was passed on April 15th, 2014. Several major operatives included recalling resolutions 68/167 and 20/8, requesting panel discussions, and welcoming the help of the OHCHR.<sup>6</sup>

### *III. Solutions*

To help with digital privacy's expansion, we first need to find a way to implement it in a way that would be cost effective and easy to operate. Because of that, we propose a strategy called the Airborne Internet Service, or AIS for short. The AIS concept is an internet service provider that is localized. The basis for AIS is that instead of a provider sending your information to a satellite, the information is communicated to a machine mounted onto a jet flying between 30000 and 40000 feet. The main test aircraft would be the Boeing 767-300ER. In the AIS program, the Boeing 767-300ER would be gutted and have the transmitting machine placed towards the rear of the plane. In the forward section of the plane would be a team of workers monitoring the data flowing in and out of the plane. As the plane flew patterns around its assigned region, data would be sent to a satellite dish located on the rear of the aircraft, sent through the plane to automatically search for any suspicious websites or misuse of personal information, similar to a plagiarism checker, but searching for suspicious activity rather than stealing work. If any signs of misuse are found, then the plane would send the information to the team of workers that would put a stop to the misuse. Because the data is from a localized area rather than from millions upon millions of users at a time, the plane would be able to monitor data more easily and in turn, catch any suspicious uses of private information and put a stop to that information. This program is cost effective because the AIS machine would be able to be installed on most airliners, ranging from the small Aerospatiale ATR-72-600 to the large Airbus A380-800. Countries that don't have planes ready to serve this purpose could bring a plane out of storage and outfit the machine onto the plane since it doesn't run on any of the plane's systems, and rather a separated radar and information gathering satellite mounted towards the tail.

Our second solution revolves around larger situations, such as scammers and traffickers. Bolivia proposes that an NGO be created to investigate suspicious internet activity, such as that from scammers and traffickers. The NGO would have a service where a person can anonymously report a large operation on the internet that might be causing trouble. When a person reports suspicious activity, the NGO would research and investigate that person/group. If they find that private information is either being leaked or sold, then local authorities would take care of the situation. If they find that the person/group is exploiting or scamming people on the internet, they will work alongside authorities to neutralize the situation as quickly as possible. This group would also help work with identity theft victims. If, for example, a person had their credit ruined due to someone gaining access to their credit card information, the NGO would help the person restore their credit in court settlements. Bolivia believes that this NGO would be able to work on a wide scale operation since branches would only need to consist of about 20-30 people per division, since local authorities would take care of the situation. This plan could be implemented all around the world, since it is relatively versatile and could work as a small company.

## Endnotes

- 1) <https://policyreview.info/articles/news/new-un-resolution-right-privacy-digital-age-crucial-and-timely/436#>
- 2) <https://www.dataguidance.com/notes/bolivia-data-protection-overview>
- 3) <https://www.trade.gov/european-union-data-privacy-and-protection>
- 4) <https://www.article19.org/resources/un-hrc-maintains-consensus-on-internet-resolution/>
- 5) <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- 6) <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/DEC/25/117>
- 7) <https://www.csis.org/programs/strategic-technologies-program/significant-cyber-incidents>