

# STOP



## SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT PROJECT

### Organizational Summary:

The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (“S.T.O.P.”) launched in January 2019 as a novel public interest, advocacy, and legal services organization, addressing state and local officials’ growing use of surveillance technologies. S.T.O.P. is hosted and incubated by the Urban Justice Center’s Social Justice Accelerator.

Anti-surveillance advocacy has largely targeted federal agencies since Edward Snowden’s revelations about U.S. data-collection, frequently ignoring the alarming growth in local and state surveillance. Sadly, while things are bleak at the federal level, they are far worse here in New York State. The NYPD and other police departments purchase the same cutting-edge surveillance tools deployed by the federal government, with a small fraction of the oversight. These systems potentially provide large volumes of information to federal agencies, endangering immigrant New Yorkers, and violating the promise that New York will be a “sanctuary city.”

These tools also harm communities of color, irrespective of immigration status. For years, Muslim New Yorkers have endured unjust and unconstitutional NYPD surveillance. Specifically, the NYPD’s Intelligence Division engaged in extensive warrantless, suspicionless surveillance of Muslim-majority neighborhoods and Muslim families. Similarly, the NYPD’s gang database includes more than 17,000 New Yorkers, overwhelmingly New Yorkers of color, while systematically omitting white supremacist and right-wing nationalist organizations.

S.T.O.P. is headed by Albert Fox Cahn, a public interest lawyer and interfaith advocate most recently of CAIR NY. Mr. Cahn—a graduate of Harvard Law School and former Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP associate—helped to lead CAIR-NY beginning in 2016, at a moment when Muslim New Yorkers faced historic challenges from the Trump administration and surges in hate crimes. Mr. Cahn oversees policy coalitions, develops strategic messaging, has written numerous op-eds, and has appeared in hundreds of interviews with international media outlets.

S.T.O.P.’s Resident Technologist Liz O’Sullivan has spent ten years in tech, most recently as the head of image annotations for the computer vision startup, Clarifai. She oversaw customer delivery, support, sales, and solutions architecture at a variety of firms. Her passion for ethics springs from her Philosophy education at UNC-Chapel Hill.

S.T.O.P. is overseen by a Board of Directors and Community Advisory Board (“CAB”). The CAB includes advocates, activists, attorneys, and technologists from communities historically targeted by warrantless surveillance.

S.T.O.P.’s flagship litigation is a putative federal class action against New York City for forcing Muslim women to remove the hijab. Initial legislative priorities include New York City’s passage of the Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology Act and New York State’s passage of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act.

**Contact:** Executive Director Albert Fox Cahn, Esq. [info@stopspying.org](mailto:info@stopspying.org).

## 2019 Op-Eds and Columns

- [10/10/2019 Gotham Gazette - Surveillance and the City: Facing Up to Facial Recognition](#)
- [10/7/2019 BoingBoing - Identity theft's newest target: your face](#)
- [10/2/2019 Gotham Gazette - Surveillance and the City: IDNYC's Not-So-Smart Future](#)
- [10/1/2019 The Daily Beast - Smart Cities Are Creating a Mass Surveillance Nightmare](#)
- [9/16/2019 The Daily Beast - Phone Tracking Data Is Notoriously Unreliable. So Why Are We Still Using It in Court?](#)
- [9/11/2019 NY Daily News - The irony behind de Blasio's proposed robot tax](#)
- [8/13/2019 The Daily Beast - Manhattan DA Made Google Give Up Information on Everyone in Area as They Hunted for Antifa](#)
- [8/8/2019 NY Times - How Bodycams Distort Real Life](#)
- [8/2/2019 BoingBoing - You have the right to remain encrypted](#)
- [7/26/2019 NY Daily News - Make big tech, and cops, stop tracking us surreptitiously](#)
- [7/22/2019 Medium - Prison Time Is the Answer to Tech's Privacy Crisis](#)
- [7/7/2019 NBC - Surveillance by sanctuary cities is helping ICE track undocumented immigrants.](#)
- [7/2/2019 NBC - The killer robots are coming. Here's our best shot at stopping them.](#)
- [6/18/2019 Gotham Gazette - Smells Like Teen Surveillance](#)
- [4/17/2019 NY Daily News - Face it: Recognition technology isn't close to ready for prime-time](#)
- [4/16/2019 Gotham Gazette - Take Down Cuomo's Creeping Cameras](#)
- [3/21/2019 Gotham Gazette - De Blasio Backs NYPD Harassment of Muslim New Yorkers](#)
- [3/12/2019 BoingBoing: Rise of the Surveillance Scooters?](#)
- [3/4/2019 Kings County Politics: Court Right To Say NYPD Can't Police Its Own Sexual Misconduct](#)
- [2/11/2019 BoingBoing: New York City's new rideshare regs put Big Brother in backseat, give GPS tracking a whole new meaning](#)
- [1/22/2019 Slate: The NYPD's new fleet of drones requires stronger privacy regulations.](#)

## 2019 Research

- [10/8/2019 New York City's Food Cart Surveillance](#)
- [10/1/2019 OMNY Surveillance Oh My Report](#)
- [9/26/2019 Domain Awareness System](#)
- [9/21/2019 Civilian Complaint Review Board](#)
- [7/23/2019 The NYPD's Gang Database: A New Age of Stop and Frisk](#)
- [7/5/2019 NYPD Bias](#)
- [7/5/2019 The Handschu agreement & NYPD Surveillance](#)
- [7/5/2019 Automated License Plate Readers & Law Enforcement](#)

## 2019 Government submissions and sign-on letters

- [10/7/2019 Public Testimony on Regulation of Biometric Surveillance Systems. \*\*Watch The Video.\*\*](#)
- [10/4/2019 Open Letter: Facebook's End-to-End Encryption Plans.](#)
- [10/2/2019 Public Testimony on Intro 1706 - Prohibiting an IDNYC Payment Chip.](#)
- [10/1/2019 Sign-on letter re Massachusetts Automated Decision Systems Task Force.](#)
- [9/12/2019 Letter to Mayor de Blasio on ID NYC privacy.](#)
- [7/09/2019 Letter supporting \*Protecting Sensitive Locations Act of 2019\*.](#)

- [6/27/2019 City Council Testimony re NYPD Gang Database and “perp-walks” \*\*Watch The Video.\*\*](#)
- [6/19/2019 Letter Supporting repeal of Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act.](#)
- [6/18/2019 Letter Supporting A 6787/S 5140, banning facial recognition in schools.](#)
- [6/14/2019 Letter In Opposition to Residential Facial Recognition in Atlantic Plaza Towers.](#)
- [6/5/2019 Testimony Submitted to the New York State Senate re the New York Privacy Act.](#)
- [5/30/2018 Testimony Before the NYC Automated Decision Systems Task Force. - \*\*Watch The Video \(beginning 1:47\).\*\*](#)
- [5/8/2019 Coalition Letter to House Committee on Homeland Security re domestic terrorism.](#)
- [5/1/2019 Coalition Letter To Department Of Homeland Security re Surveillance.](#)
- [Customs and Border Protection Response.](#)
- [DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Response.](#)
- [4/22/2019 Open Letter Calling on all U.S. Political Parties to Adopt Platforms that Repeal the Muslim Travel Ban, Reverse Historic-Low Cap on Refugees](#)
- [4/4/2019 Testimony before NYC Council Committee on Technology re Oversight of Automated Decision Task Force. - \*\*Watch The Video.\*\*](#)
- [3/11/2019 Sign-on letter to Mayor de Blasio re NYPD religious attire policy.](#)
- [3/3/2019 Submission to 2019 Charter Review Commission re police accountability.](#)
- [3/2/2019 Sign-on letter re NYC Automated Decision Systems Task Force.](#)
- [2/12/2019 Testimony before NYC Council Committee on Technology re police surveillance and the need for transparency / oversight. - \*\*Watch The Video.\*\*](#)

## 2019 Quotes and Profiles

- [10/8/2019 GovTech - NY City Council Considers New Rules for Facial Recognition](#)
- [10/8/2019 City & State - New York City Council contemplates banning biometric tech](#)
- [10/7/2019 N.Y. Daily News - Bashing Big Brother: NY City Council tries to rein in facial recognition tech](#)
- [10/6/2019 Law360 - As Biometric Screening Spreads, The Law Isn't Keeping Up](#)
- [10/3/2019 Curbed - A new report outlines privacy risks for the MTA's contactless payment system](#)
- [10/2/2019 City & State - Privacy group raises OMNY security concerns](#)
- [9/26/2019 C/Net - Amazon's plan for facial recognition laws faces skeptics](#)
- [9/24/2019 Tech News World - Art Project Uncovers Bias in AI Training Models](#)
- [9/21/2019 Buzzfeed - It's Scarily Easy To Track Someone Around A City Via Their Instagram Stories](#)
- [9/21/2019 N.Y. Times - 'Nerd,' 'Nonsmoker,' 'Wrongdoer': How Might A.I. Label You?](#)
- [9/14/2019 Essex News Daily - Community discusses pros and cons of police's MOU with Ring.](#)
- [9/3/2019 The Peter Collins Show - In-Depth Interview: Surveillance Critic Albert Fox Cahn Sounds Alarm on 'Reverse Search Warrants.](#)
- [8/25/2019 AP - US tech industry becomes hotbed for employee activism](#)
- [8/22/2019 WNYC -S.T.O.P. condemns expansion of automated license plate readers.](#)
- [8/13/2019 Reason - If You're Near the Scene of a Crime, Authorities Can Demand That Google Hand Over Your Data](#)

- [8/12/2019 Gothamist - Manhattan DA Got Innocent People's Google Phone Data Through A 'Reverse Location' Search Warrant](#)
- [7/26/2019 In Homeland Security - Faceapp Poses Potential National Security And Privacy Risks, Experts Say](#)
- [7/19/2019 Desert News - In our opinion: Pretending to age your face isn't worth risking personal information](#)
- [7/18/2019 Boston Herald - FaceApp poses potential national security and privacy risks, experts say](#)
- [7/18/2019 NY Daily News - Cops conduct fewer probes involving Muslims and other religious and political groups, says NYPD monitor](#)
- [7/18/2019 Vanity Fair - Red Scare: Democrats Warn FaceApp Could Be a Russian Trojan Horse](#)
- [7/17/2019 NPR - Democrats Issue Warnings Against Viral Russia-Based Face-Morphing App](#)
- [7/17/2019 WNYC - When Tech Companies Empower ICE](#)
- [7/14/2019 Daily Beast - 'Red Flags' as New Documents Point to Blind Spots of NYPD 'Predictive Policing'](#)
- [7/14/2019 NY Times - Facial Recognition Tech Is Growing Stronger, Thanks to Your Face.](#)
- [6/14/2019 Gothamist - The MTA's New OMNY Scanners Have Cameras In Them \(But They're Not Watching You, Yet\).](#)
- [6/4/2019 The Atlantic - Consumer Surveillance Enters Its Bargaining Phase.](#)
- [5/31/2019 WPIX-11 - Goodbye MetroCard: Tap to pay OMNY system debuts, but not everyone is convinced that its ready.](#)
- [5/30/2019 Gothamist - MTA's New Fare Payment OMNY Launches Friday Amid Questions About Data Security & Durability](#)
- [5/23/2019 City & State - New York's data security challenge.](#)
- [5/22/2019 BBC - The ethics of selling facial recognition technology. Starting at 26:30.](#)
- [5/16/2019 WNYC - San Francisco Banned Facial Recognition. Should New York?](#)
- [5/14/2019 The Atlantic - The AI Supply Chain Runs on Ignorance.](#)
- [5/13/2019 NPR - When Technology Can Be Used To Build Weapons, Some Workers Take A Stand](#)
- [5/1/2019 The Jewish Voice - NYC Board of Elections Posts Voting Rolls on Website; Addresses & Party Affiliation Now Public.](#)
- [4/30/2019 NY Times - After Backlash, Personal Voter Information Is Removed by New York City.](#)
- [4/27/2019 NY Times - Are You a New York City Voter? Your Personal Information Just Became Far More Public](#)
- [4/22/2019 CBS Radio - Group Claims MTA Has Facial Recognition Cameras In Subways.](#)
- [4/22/2019 Patch NYC - Video Screen In Subway Station Not Spying On You, MTA Says](#)
- [4/17/2019 - FAQ NYC - Dirty Data Dystopia](#)
- [4/16/2019 New York City's AI task force stalls](#)
- [4/11/2019 - Recode: New York City wants to make sure the AI and algorithms it uses aren't biased. That's harder than it sounds.](#)
- [3/21/2019 Albert Cahn On STOP Non-Profit & New Zealand Mosque Shooting.](#)
- [2/18/2019 The Japan Times: Re-enactment of Korematsu case that upheld Japanese internment fuels debate on Trump immigration policy](#)
- [2/14/2019 Nichi Bei: Korematsu case re-enactment targets Trump's anti-immigration policy](#)