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To the Court,

I am a psychologist, an eclectic psychotherapist and author. I have been influenced by a number of therapists and theorists who adopted a model of psychology informed by the modern and postmodern critiques of Freudianism and biopsychiatry, and by the systemic critique of the linear causal medical model which is based upon the root metaphor of mental illness. For example I trained with family therapists like Dr Salvador Minuchin and Jay Haley. They did not believe that problems of living could be understood outside of the social-familial context, they did not believe that a troubled individual was afflicted by a disease process of which his unhappiness and eccentricities were symptoms. The individual was merely a unit in a larger gestalt, such as a nuclear family. Thomas Szasz and R D Laing both critiqued the traditional treatment of psychosis. Laing for example believed schizophrenics were engaging in an unusual way of communicating. However, contrary to modern psychiatry, Laing showed this anomalous communication was intelligible when viewed within its social context. Psychiatrist Thomas Szasz showed the construct of mental illness was based on a model of human behavior antithetical to our modern liberal Enlightenment respect for individual autonomy and freedom. I was honored that Thomas Szasz wrote the foreword to my first book published in 1993.

One year ago I was contacted by TIs. I was unaware before of the extent of government invasion of our privacy, the abrogation of our privacy, integrity, and freedom by agencies of the government. Foucault described the geometric structure of the Panopticon as a metaphor for pervasive processes of surveillance and domination in modern society.

Today the Panopticon is so developed that the citizen has no barriers against intrusion into his mind, no protection against freedom and rape of the body and brain. The citizen is completely transparent and the elite is completely invisible and determined to remain that way. That gives them the illusion of ultimate control. I say illusion because the ego can never achieve ultimate control. It is the old problematic of the master-slave dialectic, as Hegel described it. The "master" is controlled by the process itself--by the pursuit of an illusion. But nonetheless I believe this situation of pervasive surveillance must be understood by all citizens, the guilty parties must be punished for violating our rights as citizens. This was a point made repeatedly by Thomas Szasz. Otherwise I believe it will continue until the elite had destroyed society.

As a psychologist I feel it would provide very little consolation for me to help clients who are TIs to "cope with" this problem. They are subjected to heightened level of surveillance and covert harassment. It is not only their living space that is invaded for purposes of surveillance. Their brains themselves are invaded and subjected to manipulations. Never before in "democratic" societies has there been this degree of interference with individual autonomy. This kind of Panopticonism is a profound social pathology, an atavistic regression that eats away at all the accomplishments of the Enlightenment. "Coping with" a profound social pathology leaves the fundamental problem untouched. That is not enough.

Thus, although it is not my area of expertise, I support TIs effort to expose the new Panopticon. I am working on this now with Ken Posner. I also support Todd Giffen (www.obamasweapons.com) who has a lawsuit and the work of www.freedomfchs.org.

Sometimes I write letters for clients who are TIs stating they do not have a thought disorder. I do not believe in the medical model but I do have clients who are "schizophrenics"--that is they have the traditional symptoms or behaviors associated with the schizophrenic construct. When I write a letter stating that Todd Giffen does not have a thought disorder my hope is that the recipient will find it more difficult to dismiss Ken's claims which I believe are true. One of my problems with the mental health system is that it pathologies and stigmatizes persons who have beliefs about reality that deviate from the cultural consensus. During the Inquisition dissidents were labeled and persecuted as heretics or witches.

Hemingway's friends all thought he was paranoid because he thought he was being watched and followed. Years later his biographer discovered the FBI was following him and tracking his every movement. It is common for professionals to deem people "paranoid schizophrenics" if they say the CIA is watching them. But the CIA or NSA IS watching all of us. Laing observed that we call someone paranoid when she says someone is out to get her, and they are not. But there is no word to describe her if she thinks people are out to get her and they are. In other words there are certain beliefs mental health professionals proscribe one from thinking. Anyone who thinks someone is out to get them is ipso facto pathological. Laing called therapists "thought-police." In the age of the all-pervasive Panopticon there are only a few therapists who defend the right to think freely, to be liberated from mind-control. The role of the therapist today must be to expose and protest conditions that make the preservation of individuality almost impossible. In these circumstances psychodiagnosis is an overtly political act. Like Laing I call upon therapists to abjure the role of social control agents, of "thought-police."

Considering the revelations of Edward Snowden, and what TIs are saying, mental health professionals have a moral and professional obligation to give up their dogmatism and stop policing thought. Many people are subjected to covert surveillance (all Americans to some degree) and harassment. The model of therapy that requires the therapist to tell people what to think is a modern version of the Inquisition. The patient has a right to her beliefs even if they are wrong, especially if they are wrong. Ultimately we cannot know. Hemingway's friends were certain he was paranoid.. I had a 75 year old client who claimed she was going to give birth to the Messiah. I thought she was wrong. But I saw the protective function these beliefs served. I refused to treat her as paranoid or schizophrenic, even though I believed she was mistaken. I refused to pathologize her merely because her beliefs were mistaken.

When TIs come to me, I usually believe them. Not always. In the best cases I can't be sure--we never can about most claims--but their beliefs are cogent. We must realize the degree to which we ARE being watched. This is a feature of our world today. Furthermore I have now read about MK-ULTRA and previous programs run by the CIA on non-consensual subjects. I used to think that America was controlled by a few corporations, as Noam Chomsky has argued. But I underestimated the power of intelligence agencies and police, which supplement the power of corporations. I now am convinced that the CIA maintains control through intimidation and assassination. They have assassinated everyone from JFK to John Lennon. Yet to make such a statement makes me susceptible to be labeled "paranoid," a "conspiracy theorist."

In my opinion our only hope for recovering the democratic immune system of our society, and defeating the totalitarian system with its invasive modes of control, is through public exposure of covert surveillance. Actually this kind of mind control does not work effectively on TIs. They are tormented but they are resistant to mind control--they are among the most socially critical citizens in America. The CIA can't make them believe totalitarianism is right. They reject the thoughts planted in their brains.

They are an example of robust "mental health." Despite the pain of being tortured they do not succumb to "Big Brother."

The CIA, NSA, etc, work to intimidate and scare the masses and to eliminate charismatic individuals who could act as instruments of change. Max Weber believed the charismatic individual had the power to restore a democratic society. He was right and the CIA knows it. That is why charismatic or heroic individuals are removed, that is why exposure is prevented through persecution of Manning, Snowden, James Risen.

I want to see Robert Duncan, John Hall and others who are experts on this technology meet with defenders of civil liberties, including investigative journalists like Glenn Greenwald, Chris Hedges, Sy Hersh, Amy Goodman, Center for Constitutional Rights, Henry Giroux, and psychologists who refuse to be mind-police.. We must recreate a sane and democratic society in which individual autonomy is restored..

I have already talked to people like Duncan. I have talked to Chris Hedges and a few therapists who oppose the use of therapy as a tool of repression. I want to help bring these disparate groups together in order to make more people aware of the covert invasion of the human brain, non-consensual experiments performed on unknowing subjects, the hallmark of a totalitarian society.

Thank you sincerely,

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