



15 September 2020

Freedom of Information Law Request

ATTN: New York Police Department FOIL Office
Via electronic mail and online submission form

Dear Freedom of Information officer:

Following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on 25 May 2020, protests took place in cities throughout the country, including New York City. It was revealed that Mobilewalla tracked more than 8,000 protesters in the City during the days that followed.¹ The New York Police Department (NYPD) also confirmed using Clearview AI facial recognition technology to track down a protest organizer, Derrick Ingram, during a five hour siege of his apartment when dozens of officers, some in riot gear, supported by helicopters and police dogs, attempted to arrest him without a warrant for misdemeanor violations related to protest-related activities.²

Amnesty International USA is submitting a request under N.Y. Pub. Off. Law §87 for the following information and documents regarding the use of surveillance and facial recognition technologies by the New York Police Department (NYPD):

1. All documents pertaining to the NYPD's procurement of facial recognition technology from March 1, 2020 until September 1, 2020. This request includes, but is not limited to contracts with Vigilant Solutions, Cognitec, NEC, Rank One Computing, and Clearview AI;
 - a. All accompanying policy documents, memoranda or guidance on:

¹ <https://nypost.com/2020/06/18/study-shows-few-nyc-george-floyd-protesters-came-from-outside-city/>

² <https://gothamist.com/news/nypd-used-facial-recognition-unit-in-siege-of-black-lives-matter-activists-apartment>

- i. the input data submitted to and/or requested for these facial recognition systems;
 - ii. the source of that data for the facial recognition systems;
 - iii. the outlining rationale for individual searches in facial recognition systems;
 - iv. the categorization and use of data returned by entries into the facial recognition system;
2. All documents pertaining to the NYPD's procurement of surveillance drone technologies from March 1, 2020 until September 1, 2020. This request includes, but is not limited to, contracts with Planck Aerosystems, Impossible Aerospace, Azur Drones, Wingtra, Skyfish, Dedrone, Gryphon Sensors, Cheerson, Workswell, FLIR, Ambarella, Draganfly Innovations, Insitu, Parrot, RMUS, and DJI;
3. All documents pertaining to the NYPD's procurement of gait recognition technologies from March 1, 2020 until September 1, 2020. This request includes, but is not limited to, contracts with Watrix.
 - a. All accompanying policy documents, memoranda or guidance on:
 - i. the input data submitted to and/or requested for these gait recognition systems;
 - ii. the source of that data for the gait recognition systems;
 - iii. the outlining rationale for individual searches in gait recognition systems;
 - iv. the categorization and use of data returned by entries into the gait recognition system;
4. All documents pertaining to the NYPD's procurement of cell-site simulators, ISMI catchers, and "sting-ray" devices from March 1, 2020 until September 1, 2020. This request includes, but is not limited to, contracts with Mobilewalla;
5. All documents pertaining to the NYPD's procurement of ambient sound recording devices from March 1, 2020 until September 1, 2020;
6. All correspondence pertaining to the procurement of electronic surveillance tools. This request includes, but is not limited to, correspondence pertaining

- to facial recognition technologies, surveillance drones, gait recognition technology, cell-site simulators, and ambient sound recording devices;
7. A list of all donated materials, equipment and funds from the New York Police Foundation³ to the NYPD between January 1, 2010 – September 1, 2020. For any donated funds received by the NYPD from the New York Police Foundation, please include a list of items purchased with those funds, specifically anything related to facial recognition or surveillance technologies.

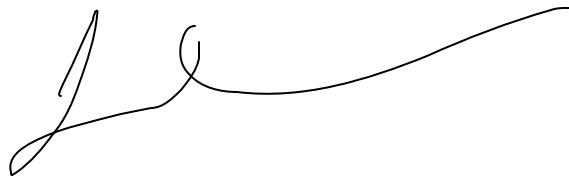
The use of facial recognition and surveillance technology by the NYPD on residents of New York City and individuals protesting against police violence raises serious human rights concerns and may have a chilling effect on people's rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Amnesty International USA seeks a waiver of fees or any associated charges set below the level of duplication costs on the basis that the information sought is for public understanding and not for the commercial use of the organization. Disclosure of this information is in the public interest because providing a copy of the information primarily benefits the general public.

Amnesty International is an international human rights and advocacy organization. Amnesty International USA is one of the many country sections that make up Amnesty International. Amnesty International USA employs professionals including lawyers, researchers and country experts who are among the world's leading experts in their fields. Amnesty International's reports, which are available in print and on our website, are the subject of intensive advocacy and publicity campaigns which utilize Amnesty International USA's extensive membership and contacts in the media. The information disclosed in this Request will be shared with the public appropriately.

Additionally, Amnesty International USA is a non-profit organization, and therefore has no commercial interest.

³ <https://www.nycpolicefoundation.org/>

If you have any questions about handling this request, you may telephone me at (212) 633-4209 or reach via email at jmazzola@aiusa.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Mazzola', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sincerely,

Justin Mazzola
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