

Civil liberties groups press Trump administration on NSA call record collection

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Two-dozen civil liberties organizations are urging U.S. officials to disclose more details on the more than 500 million call records collected on Americans by the National Security Agency (NSA) last year.

The organizations, which include the American Civil Liberties Union and digital rights group Access Now, say that the information is crucial to determining whether the government is overstepping its authority.

The [letters](#), sent Thursday to the Office of Director of National Intelligence and to the House Judiciary Committee, come following the publication of a transparency report that [revealed](#) the spy agency collected 534 million call detail records in 2017, a substantial increase over the previous year.

These records are obtained from U.S. telecommunications providers and include the number and time and duration of phone contacts, not the content of the calls themselves.

The civil liberties groups are particularly interested in the number of so-called “unique identifiers,” or unique accounts, devices, or individuals, swept up in the NSA’s call detail record program.