

Statewatch: Campaign against Transnational Security Networks Needed



News

Thomas Wahl

On 27 November 2025, Statewatch [published the outcome](#) of a research project that has examined how global counter-terrorism and security networks threaten civic space and human rights. Entitled "Networks of (in)security", the project provides an evidence base showing how these security norms are implemented and identifying opportunities for change. The project's ultimate goal is to stimulate discussion and campaigns that advocate for increased democratic and public scrutiny and oversight of transnational security institutions. In the long term, an organised response should halt "the development of an unaccountable, invasive and harmful global security architecture."

The project outputs feature an [overview of the research](#) and analyses on thematic issues, including:

- [Travel surveillance](#);
- [Watchlists and watchlisting](#);
- [Accountability and redress](#).

These are supplemented by country profiles.

According to Statewatch, increasing pre-emptive, automated and algorithmic forms of surveillance and profiling reinforce racism and discrimination, inhibit free movement, and give authoritarian states new tools of control. Several effects of the deployment of transnational security tools have been identified, including:

- The experimental nature of technologies and techniques, involving rules-based screening and network analysis tools, designed to assess the "risk" posed by individuals and to map their social connections;
- The "transnational security project" is essentially characterised by the reconfiguration and reinforcement of state borders;
- International organisations and powerful states are spreading technologies and techniques of repression;
- Meaningful accountability and redress are substantially lacking.

The report concludes with a series of questions rather than recommendations. Statewatch encourages stakeholders and civil society to take these question in order to scrutinise the global security alliance.

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Preprint eucriM 2025, Vol. 20(4)

ISSN: 1862-6947

<https://eucriM.eu>



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The project is co-financed by the [Union Anti-Fraud Programme \(UAFP\)](#), managed by the [European Anti-Fraud Office \(OLAF\)](#).



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