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# Liberty and Recognition for Edward Snowden

Worldwide Reading on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Austria** Elfriede Jelinek | Driesch Verlag Drösing | FREIRAD, the free radio in Innsbruck | BUNDESPUNKT and Shakespeare & Company booksellers Vienna **Colombia** Winston Morales Chavarro at Universidad de Cartagena **France** Shakespeare and Company bookshop Paris **Germany** Gemeinschaftsschule am Heimgarten Ahrensburg | internationales literaturfestival berlin | Rockradio – Lifestream of the reading at Berliner Festspiele | Inés Burdow at Rumbalotte Continua Berlin | Nachbarschaftsverein Papageiensiedlung Berlin-Zehlendorf | Daniel Buchholz SPD-Fraktion Berlin | Knut Harnisch at Touch Your Soul Eventcafé Berlin | Anja Reefschläger at the „Haus des Lehrers“ Berlin | Tageszeitung Neues Deutschland, Friedrichshainer Autorenkreis, Lesebühne der Kulturen Berlin (Köpenick) | Staatstheater Braunschweig, Buchhandlung Graff, Stadtbibliothek Braunschweig, Universum Filmtheater and LOT-Theater | Theater Dortmund | Drensteinfurter Kultursommer | Kommunales Kino Esslingen | ATELIER 13 Frankfurt am Main | Gallus Theater Frankfurt am Main | Büchergilde Buchhandlung und Galerie Frankfurt am Main | BVJA, Kölner Autorengruppe FAUST, Journalistenbüro AUSSICHTEN, Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Königsdorf and Königsdorfer Literaturforum | „Kulturraum RONDO“ – art · culture · politics Fürstentfeldbruck | Kunstverein Meerholz, Liceo Poetico de Benidorm, amnesty international Gruppe Gelnhausen | Piratenpartei Halle und Attac Halle | Friedensbewegung Halle | YOP Year of Performance Hamburg | Maker Hub and (p)ostkartell Hamburg | Gerd Büntzly at Bürgerzentrum "Haus unter den Linden" and Autonomes Jugendzentrum Flafla Herford | Theater für Niedersachsen Hildesheim | WDR 5 Kulturmagazin Scala Köln | Demonstrare.de Köln | #StopWatchingUs Köln | Hoensch Literatur Hall Leipzig | Waldhaus 12 e.V. Mönchengladbach | Werkstatt für Gestaltung Kinderhaus Münster | die Grünen/Grüne Jugend Neuss | Hans Otto Theater Potsdam | Literaturhaus Rostock, Faculty of Philosophy of the University Rostock, in cooperation with the subraum Genossenschaft im Peter-Weiss-Haus | Internetradio WARNOW Rostock, in cooperation with the University Rostock | PrismCamp Stuttgart | Angelika Janz/ Frauenkulturgruppe in Torgelow | Stadtbibliothek Wismar | #StopWatchingUs Witten, Attac Witten and Piratenpartei NRW | Maunz Büchercafé Wolfsdorf | Projektgruppe Ernst Toller Wuppertal | Buchladen Neuer Weg Würzburg **Greece** Free Thinking Zone concept bookshop Athens **Iceland** Hallgrímur Helgason and Birgitta Jónsdóttir at Loft Hostel, Reykjavík **Italy** Giovanni Bachelet, Francesca Melandri and Matteo Pascoletti at Piazza del Pantheon Rome **New Zealand** Courtney Sina Meredith at Beatnik Publishing Auckland | National Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies in association with Continuing Education at Otago University Dunedin **Norway** Litteraturhus Lillehammer **Sweden** PEN Sweden and Kulturhuset City Theatre Sergels Torg **Serbia** SKC Literary workshop Kragujevac **Slovenia** Radio Študent, 89,3MHz Ljubljana **South Africa** Alexandra Dodd and Right2Know Cape Town | The South African Centre of PEN International Cape Town **UK** Notional Theatre Cardiff, Wales **USA** MFA Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston | Poets West at Green Lake Branch Seattle Public Library

## A Manifesto for the Truth by Edward Snowden

In a very short time, the world has learned much about unaccountable secret agencies and about sometimes illegal surveillance programs. Sometimes the agencies even deliberately try to hide their surveillance of high officials or the public. While the NSA and GCHQ seem to be the worst offenders – this is what the currently available documents suggest – we must not forget that mass surveillance is a global problem in need of global solutions.

Such programs are not only a threat to privacy, they also threaten freedom of speech and open societies. The existence of spy technology should not determine policy. We have a moral duty to ensure that our laws and values limit monitoring programs and protect human rights.

Society can only understand and control these problems through an open, respectful and informed debate. At first, some governments feeling embarrassed by the revelations of mass surveillance initiated an unprecedented campaign of persecution to suppress this debate. They intimidated journalists and criminalized publishing the truth. At this point, the public was not yet able to evaluate the benefits of the revelations. They relied on their governments to decide correctly. Today we know that this was a mistake and that such action does not serve the public interest. The debate which they wanted to prevent will now take place in countries around the world. And instead of doing harm, the societal benefits of this new public knowledge is now clear, since reforms are now proposed in the form of increased oversight and new legislation.

Citizens have to fight suppression of information on matters of vital public importance. To tell the truth is not a crime.

Information about places and times of the worldwide readings see [www.worldwide-reading.com](http://www.worldwide-reading.com)

14<sup>th</sup> international literature festival  
10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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