

Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto

President of the United Mexican States

The public health professionals, scientists and organizations who subscribe this letter are outraged by the news (The New York Times and The CitizenLab, 11 February 2017) that well-known public health figures of Mexico who advocate for public policies and higher taxes on sugary drinks, as recommended by the World Health Organization to control the obesity epidemic, have received repeated electronic messages of harassment and intimidation with links to malicious spyware.

The victims of the hacking, Dr. Simón Barquera (National Institute of Public Health), Mr. Luis M Encarnación (ContraPESO) and Mr. Alejandro Calvillo (El Poder del Consumidor), as it turned out, had the same spyware in their cell phones, which is produced by the NSO Group, an Israeli company who claims to exclusively sell their products to governments with the sole aim of combating organized crime and preventing terrorist acts. The situation is grave and raises questions that must promptly be dispelled.

In a country with some of the world's highest overweight, obesity and diabetes rates, these men should be lauded for their efforts in defense of public health, not surveilled or threatened.

Mr. President, the international public health community urges you to stand for the values of freedom of speech, human rights and public health by investigating this situation thoroughly and bringing the responsible parties to justice.

### **Academics**

Australia: Mike Daube AO, Curtin University; Stephen Simpson, Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney; Anna Peeters, Centre For Population Health Research–Deakin University; Rob Moodie, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne. Brazil: Carlos A. Monteiro, Centre for Epidemiological Studies in Health and Nutrition, University of Sao Paulo; Daniela Canella, Rio de Janeiro State University; Inês Rugani Ribeiro de Castro, Institute of Nutrition–State University of Rio de Janeiro; Paula Martins, Departamento de Ciencias de Movimento Humano, Instituto de Saúde e Sociedade, Universidades Federal de Sao Paulo. Chile: Ricardo Uauy, Instituto de Nutrición, Universidad de Chile; Cristóbal Cuadrado, Escuela de Salud Pública, Universidad de Chile. New Zealand: Stefanie Vandevijvere, The University of Auckland. Panama: Reina Roa, Salud Pública. Peru: Enrique Jacoby, Ex-Asesor Regional en Nutrición OPS. United Kingdom: Corinna Hawkes, Centre for Food Policy School of Arts and Social Sciences. U.S.A.: Alicia Fernandez, University of California at San Francisco; Barry M. Popkin, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina; Dean Schillinger, University of California at San Francisco; Frank Chaloupka, Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago; Harold Alderman, International Food Policy Research Institute; Jennifer Harris, University of Connecticut; Kelly Brownell, Dean of the Sanford School of Public Health, Duke University; Laura A. Schmidt, Community Engagement and Health Policy Program, Clinical and Translational Science Institute; Manuel Peña, Ex-Representante OPS; Marion Nestle, Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health, New York University; Mary Story, Professor of Global

Health and Community and Family Medicine, Duke University; Shiriki Kumanyika, Professor Emerita of Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania; Raj Patel, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs The University of Texas at Austin; Walter Willett, Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, Harvard Chan School of Public Health; William H. Dietz, Milken Institute School of Public Health. Uruguay: Eduardo Bianco, Centro de Investigación para la Epidemia de Tabaquismo

## **Organizations**

Argentina: Agustina Mozzoni, Fundación para Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS); Ana Tambussi, Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón; Juan M Carballo, Fundación para Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS); Marta Santore, Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón. Australia: Jane Martin, Obesity Policy Coalition. Bolivia: Karina Garrón, Fundación InterAmericana. Brazil: Ana Paula Brotoletto, Instituto Brasileiro do Defesa do Consumidor IDEC; Elisabetta Recine, The Observatory of Food and Nutrition Security Policies, University of Brasilia; Paula Johns, ACT+ Brasil; FEMAMA, Porto Alegre; Victor Matsudo, Center of Studies from the Physical Fitness Research Laboratory—São Caetano do Sul. Canada: Bill Jeffery, Center for Health Science and Law (CHSL); Elisabeth Sterken, International Baby Food Action Network. Chile: Sebastián Peña, Frente por un Chile Saludable; Sofía Bustos, Fundación Actuemos; Sonia Covarrubias, Fundación Educación Popular en Salud; Alianza para el Control de ECNT; Lucía Sepúlveda, Red Acción Plaguicida y Alternativas; Ciudad de Ho Chi Minh Claudio Schuftan, Movimiento por la Salud de los Pueblos. Colombia: Carolina Piñeros Ospina, RedPapaz; César Rodríguez Garavito, Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad; Esperanza Cerón, Educar Consumidores; Juan Carlos Morales, Foodfirst Internaional Action Network (FIAN); Fundación Colombiana de Obesidad (Funcobes); Mesa por las ENT. Cuba: Alberto Morales Salinas, Cardiocentro “E Che Guevara”. Ecuador: Hugo Noboa Cruz, Plataforma por la Salud y Vida; Wilma Freire, Universidad San Francisco; Instituto de Investigaciones en Salud y Nutrición (ISYN). Mexico: Ana Larrañaga, ContraPESO; Erick Antonio Ochoa, Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón; Juan Núñez Guadarrama, Coalición México Salud-Hable; Julieta Ponce Sánchez, Centro de Orientación Alimentaria; Lorena Vazquez Ordaz, The Hunger Project México; Lulú V. Barrera, Luchadoras; Pete Noll, Puente a la Salud Comunitaria; Rafael Shuchleib, Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón; Rebeca Monroy Torres, Observatorio Universitario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional del estado de Guanajuto A.C. (OUSANEG); Rosario Cobo, Instituto Maya A.C; Teresa Fernández, Prevención de Enfermedades Crónicas perspectiva y accion comunitaria, Tlalpan, Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón; Alianza por la Salud Alimentaria; FIAN México. New Zealand: Gareth Morgan, The Morgan Foundation. Peru: Carlos Farías, Alianza ENT; Crisólogo Cáceres, Asociación Peruana de Consumidores y Usuarios (ASPEC). Switzerland: Katie Dain, NCD Alliance; Camille Selleger, Geneva Infant Feeding Association (IBFAN-GIFA). United Kingdom: Kate Allen, World Cancer Research Fund International; World Public Health Nutrition Association. U.S.A.: Andrew Rosenberg, Union of Concerned Scientists; Beatriz M Champagne, Inter-American Heart Foundation; Harold Goldstein, Public Health Advocates; Jim Krieger, Healthy Food America; Jordan Jarvis, Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network

(YPCDN); José Luis Castro, Vital Strategies; Larry Cohen, Prevention Institute; Lynn Silver, Public Health Institute; Matthew L. Myers, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; Michael F. Jacobson, Center for Science in the Public Interest; Ricardo J. Salvador, Union of Concerned Scientists; India Amit Srivastava, India Resource Center. Uruguay: Eduardo Bianco, Centro de Investigación para la Epidemia de Tabaquismo; María Rosa Curuchet, Asociación Uruguaya de Nutricionistas (AUDYN); Instituto Nacional de Cáncer. Venezuela: Humano Derecho. Regional Latin American organizations: Eduardo Cazap, Sociedad Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Oncología Médica (SLACOM); Deborah Chen, InterAmerican Heart Foundation Caribbean; Trevor Hassell, Healthy Caribbean Coalition; Consumers International Latinoamérica. Global organizations: Laura Michéle, FIAN International; Stefano Prato, Society for International Development.

### **Human rights, digital rights and right to information organizations rejected the governmental espionage to health advocates in Mexico**

On February 14, 2017, Mexican and international human rights, digital rights and right to information organizations published a letter denouncing the espionage against health advocates in Mexico with “the use of highly-intrusive governmental programs highly intrusive... against academicians and civil society organizations”.

The organizations who subscribed the letter demanded cessation of the “harassment and surveillance” and called for “a thorough, serious and impartial investigation to identify and punish those responsible of illegal surveillance in Mexico”.

To date, these calls for an investigation have not received a response from the Mexican government.

#### Signatories:

Access Now; Asociación Nacional de la Prensa de Bolivia (ANP); Asociación para el Progreso de las Comunicaciones (APC); Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC); Association of Caribbean Media Workers: ARTICLE 19; Australian Privacy Foundation; Bestbits; Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social AC (Cencos); Centro de Estudios Constitucionales y en Derechos Humanos de Rosario; Centro Horizontal; Centro de Reportes Informativos Sobre Guatemala (CERIGUA); Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CMPDH); Contingente MX, DATA; Datos Protegidos, Derechos Digitales; Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF); Enjambre Digital; Espacio Público, Venezuela; Fundación Karisma; Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP); Fundamedios, Ecuador; Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación; Hiperderecho, Peru; Intercambio Internacional por la Libertad de Expresión (IFEX-ALC); Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir (ILSB); Instituto de Prensa y Libertad de Expresión (IPLEX); Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS); Katarzyna Szymielewicz: Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH); Panoptykon Foundation; Patient Privacy Rights; Privacy International; Public Knowledge; Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales (R3D); Renata Aquino Ribeiro; Researcher E.I. Collective; Reporteros Sin Fronteras; SocialTIC; SonTusDatos Artículo 12, A.C.;

Sursiendo, Comunicación y Cultura Digital (Chiapas, MX); TEDIC, Paraguay; Tierra Común:  
Usuarios Digitales, Ecuador; Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA).