



**MUNNY**  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS OF NYBORG

**Forum:** 6th Committee (Legal)

**Issue:** Creating international guidelines for protecting the Right to Privacy in the modern age, with special regard to international multinational corporations.

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## Description of Issue

This research report will be evaluating the Right to Privacy in the modern age, with special regard to international multinational corporations. Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), as well as article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), states “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.” In the digital age, this article is broken as data is used without the knowledge or consent of citizens by governments, international multinational corporations, and international organizations. This can create a human rights issue with regard to discrimination against minorities such as ethnic, religious, or disabled groups. The usage of artificial intelligence (AI), has provoked issues of human rights such as rights to health, social security, an adequate standard of living, work, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement. There is a need for legislative and regulatory frameworks, such as current laws on data protection as well as the need to ban certain AI applications such as facial recognition surveillance through the usage of biometric technology, as they can be used for surveillance, repression, censorship, and online harassment.

## Background Information

It is important for businesses to follow the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNPG) 3 pillars on businesses and human rights. Business enterprises have a responsibility to respect all internationally recognized human rights. This means that they should avoid infringing on the human rights of others and address adverse human rights impacts with which they are involved. Pillar II of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provides an authoritative

blueprint for all enterprises regarding how to meet this responsibility. The responsibility to respect applies throughout an enterprise’s activities and business relationships. There is also a growing concern for the safety of civilians as governments are starting to use more AI technologies, and collect data on their citizens which is what is happening right now in the US and China based on the grounds of fighting terrorism. This data has been used against citizens, and many people have been wrongly accused of crimes they did not commit or getting arrested for participating in fully legal activities such as peaceful protests.

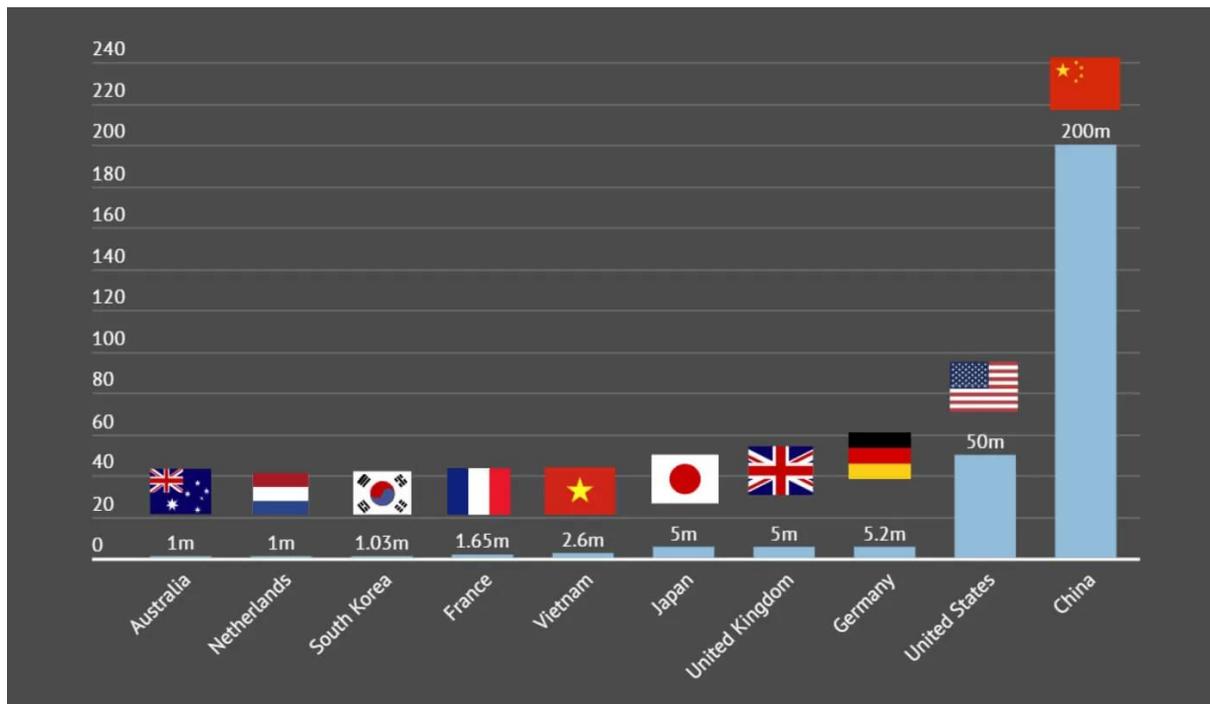


Figure 1. Number of Surveillance Cameras <sup>1</sup>

## Previous attempts to resolve this issue

As technology and the internet are very new issues, many people are still likely not even aware that there is a privacy issue regarding data collection. When it comes to AI surveillance cameras, citizens of different nations worldwide have protested and signed pledges for their governments to stop using this AI technology. Current organizations such as Amnesty International are spreading awareness of this issue. However, until intergovernmental organizations truly get

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.techspot.com/news/83061-report-finds-us-has-largest-number-surveillance-cameras.html>

involved and nations come to agreements that would be legally binding, nothing is going to change.

## Potential solutions

The world is becoming more digital every year, at a growth that has never been seen before, that's why it is crucial to react to these changes and make sure there are preventative measures as fast as these new technologies come out. Nation-states must come together and create a clear set of international guidelines as well as laws, that would stricken the rules against data protection and limit or entirely ban the usage of AI technologies. This issue must also be discussed in the Security Council, as the P5 members all play a very important role in the using and abusing of these technologies, as it should be in all governments best interest to protect their countries information from other countries, however that is impossible if they cannot protect the data of their own countries first.

## Relevant Resolutions and Treaties

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - ◆ Article 12
  
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
  - ◆ Article 17
  
- The right to privacy in the digital age: report (2021)
  - ◆ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/DigitalAge/Pages/cfi-digital-age.aspx>
  
- Human Rights Council Forty-eighth session - The right to privacy in the digital age



- ◆ <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/48/31>

## Key Terms

- ❖ AI - Artificial Intelligence
- ❖ UNPG - United Nations Guiding Principals
- ❖ Biometrics - Biometrics is the measurement and statistical analysis of people's unique physical and behavioural characteristics. The technology is mainly used for identification and access control or for identifying individuals who are under surveillance.

## Major Actors

- ❖ The United States
- ❖ China
- ❖ Germany
- ❖ The United Kingdom
- ❖ Japan

## Useful Sources

- Report of the UN Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation
  - ◆ <https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/DigitalCooperation-report-for%20web.pdf>
  
- OHCHR and privacy in the digital age
  - ◆ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/digitalage/pages/digitalageindex.aspx>
  
- Ban dangerous facial recognition technology that amplifies racist policing
  - ◆ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/01/ban-dangerous-facial-recognition-technology-that-amplifies-racist-policing/>
  
- Facial Recognition Violates Human Rights, Court Rules
  - ◆ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/fernandezelizabeth/2020/08/13/facial-recognition-violates-human-rights-court-rules/?sh=62efde5e5d44>
  
- Why Face Surveillance Must Be Banned | Kade Crockford | TEDxCambridgeSalon
  - ◆ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hg4qH7xK\\_2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hg4qH7xK_2s)

## Delegate Preparation

Delegate should consider the following questions while researching:

- Does your country have/plant to have any national laws regarding data privacy and protection?
- Has there been any cases of falsely accused crimes due to AI?
- Has there been any major incidence in your country regarding data protection and AI?