

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 9, 2021

Gen. Paul M. Nakasone
National Security Agency
Fort George Meade, MD 20755

Dear Gen. Nakasone:

I write to demand that you investigate the National Security Agency's (NSA) alleged spying and unmasking of Tucker Carlson, as well as any leaks of his private emails from the NSA to other reporters.

Mr. Carlson is a journalist, who currently hosts the popular news program *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, and as such he is to be afforded the freedom of the press protections guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. As you are undoubtedly aware, Mr. Carlson recently alleged on his television show that the NSA not only read his private emails relating to his attempt to interview Russian President Vladimir Putin, but also that the NSA unmasked his identity and leaked his private emails, which identified him by name, to others in the press.¹ The NSA publicly denied that Mr. Carlson was an intelligence target in a June 29th tweet.²

I am open-minded enough to believe, if given convincing evidence, that the NSA may be telling the truth, but when a long train of abuses conducted by the NSA evinces a consistent design to evade the law and violate the constitutionally-protected liberties of the people,³ the NSA must do more than tweet a carefully worded denial to be trusted. As the head of the NSA, you can help restore credibility to your agency by being completely honest with the American people and explaining in detail whether the NSA conducted surveillance on Tucker Carlson in his role as a journalist, whether you or

¹ Samuel Chamberlain, *Tucker Carlson Claims He Was 'Unmasked' by NSA for Seeking Putin Interview*, N.Y. POST (July 7, 2021, 10:11 PM), <https://nypost.com/2021/07/07/tucker-carlson-claims-he-was-unmasked-by-nsa-for-seeking-putin-interview/>.

² NSA/CSS (@NSAGov), TWITTER (June 29, 2021, 8:00 PM), <https://twitter.com/NSAGov/status/1410025399032193027>.

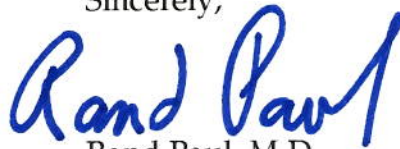
³ See, e.g., Ellen Nakashima, *FBI and NSA Violated Surveillance Law or Privacy Rules, a Federal Judge Found*, WASH. POST (Sept. 4, 2020, 6:45 PM), https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/fbi-and-nsa-violated-surveillance-law-or-privacy-rules-a-federal-judge-found/2020/09/04/b215cf88-ee3-11ea-b4bc-3a2098fc73d4_story.html; Alina Selyukh, *NSA Staff Used Spy Tools on Spouses, Ex-Lovers: Watchdog*, REUTERS (Sept. 27, 2013, 3:34 PM), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-surveillance-watchdog/nsa-staff-used-spy-tools-on-spouses-ex-lovers-watchdog-idUSBRE98Q14G20130927>; Barton Gellman, *NSA Broke Privacy Rules Thousands of Times Per Year, Audit Finds*, WASH. POST (Aug. 15, 2013), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/nsa-broke-privacy-rules-thousands-of-times-per-year-audit-finds/2013/08/15/3310e554-05ca-11e3-a07f-49ddc7417125_story.html; Eric Lichtblau & James Risen, *Officials Say U.S. Wiretaps Exceeded Law*, N.Y. TIMES, (Apr. 15, 2009), https://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/16/us/16nsa.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1&ref=us.

anyone else within the federal government approved his alleged unmasking, and whether Mr. Carlson's private emails were shared with any other reporters or news organizations.

Only an investigation into the alleged surveillance and leak will determine the truth of the matter, and I demand that the NSA conduct such an investigation. To that end, please respond to me with answers to the following questions:

1. Has Tucker Carlson ever been an NSA target or has the NSA incidentally collected his electronic communications relating to his pursuit of interviewing Vladimir Putin? Has the NSA, for any reason and in any manner, obtained Tucker Carlson's electronic communications relating to his attempt to interview Vladimir Putin?
2. Did the NSA comply with federal law requiring the use of minimization procedures when conducting surveillance to protect U.S. persons' identity?
3. If Tucker Carlson was indeed unmasked, what was the lawful justification for his unmasking?
4. Will you investigate whether Mr. Carlson's allegations are true and if there was a leak of Mr. Carlson's emails to other reporters or news organizations? Relatedly, are you committed to bringing the leaker or leakers to justice?

Sincerely,



Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator

CC: Tamara Johnson, Acting IC Inspector General