



PRESS RELEASE EPIC v. ODNI:

**A Freedom of Information Act Lawsuit to Compel Release
Of the Complete Report of the Intelligence Community
On the Russian Interference with the 2016 Presidential Election**

Thursday, January 26, 2017, 10:00 ET CONTACT:

Marc Rotenberg, EPIC President (@MarcRotenberg, rotenberg@epic.org)

Alan Butler, EPIC Senior Counsel (@AlanInDC, buter@epic.org)

WASHINGTON, DC – Today the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) announced the filing of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Director of National Intelligence, seeking to compel the public release of the report detailing the Russian interference with the 2016 Presidential election. The lawsuit was filed in federal district court in Washington, DC and is captioned EPIC v. ODNI, No. 17-163.

“EPIC has filed this lawsuit because the public has the right to know the full extent of the Russian interference with the 2016 Presidential election,” said Marc Rotenberg, President of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a non-partisan organization established in 1994.

“Two weeks ago, the Director of National Intelligence released to the public a declassified version of a report that likely contains far more information about the scope of Russian activity. The public and the Congress have the right to know the full extent of the attack on the democratic institutions of the United States,” said Mr. Rotenberg.

According to the EPIC complaint: “There is an urgent need to make available to the public the Complete ODNI Assessment to fully assess the Russian interference with the 2016 Presidential election and to prevent future attacks in democratic institutions.”

EPIC Senior Counsel Alan Butler explained the basis of the legal action. “The EPIC lawsuit follows from an expedited Freedom of Information Act request that EPIC filed with the agency after the release of the Complete ODNI Assessment. The ODNI ignored EPIC’s request, in violation of the federal law that protects open government in the United States. EPIC has filed this lawsuit to enforce its rights to obtain access to the information it is seeking.”

“The reason that EPIC filed the lawsuit against the ODNI is that the agency is in possession of the report that EPIC is seeking. Under the federal open records laws, we are entitled to seek records in the possession of federal agencies,” said Mr. Butler.

EPIC recently sued the FBI to obtain to obtain information about the Bureau's response to knowledge of the Russian interference with the 2016 Presidential election. That case is designated, EPIC v. FBI, No. 17-121 (D.D.C. filed Jan. 18, 2017).

EPIC manages one of the most extensive open government litigation programs in the United States. EPIC initiated the FOIA litigation concerning the legal justification for the warrantless wiretapping program. Over the years, EPIC has prevailed in FOIA cases against many federal agencies, including the FBI and ODNI. EPIC also obtained public release of the NSA's domestic cyber security authority following a successful FOIA lawsuit. EPIC v. NSA, 988 F. Supp. 2d 1 (D.D.C. 2013).

About EPIC

EPIC is a non-partisan organization, established in 1994, to focus public attention on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues. The EPIC Advisory Board includes distinguished experts in law, technology, public policy, and cyber security.

Links

Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
epic.org

EPIC FOIA Cases
epic.org/foia/

EPIC v. ODNI, No. 17-162 (D.D.C. filed Jan. 25, 2017) * * *

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