



President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

Dear President Obama

When Edward Snowden shared US intelligence documents with journalists in 2013, he did so because he believed that the government and citizens of his country – and the world – needed to confront the truth. That truth was the existence of a global mass surveillance system deployed by governments to spy on our personal communications, including private emails, phone locations, web histories and more.

In choosing to share this information, Edward Snowden prompted a global debate, that spurred legislative reform and helped to protect our privacy. For the first time in nearly 40 years, the USA passed laws to restrict government surveillance. Globally, technology companies including Apple and WhatsApp, are now doing more to protect our personal information.

None of this would have happened without Edward Snowden. Former US Attorney General Eric Holder admitted that Snowden “performed a public service”. Even you, Mr. President, have said that this debate about surveillance “will make us stronger”. And yet, Edward Snowden still faces decades in prison under laws that equate whistleblowing in the public interest with selling secrets to enemies of the USA.

I am confident that history will remember Edward Snowden for the reforms he helped bring about. But there is no need to wait for history’s judgement.

President Obama, I call on you to pardon Edward Snowden, a whistleblower who acted solely in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,