

## Always Watching

The world is colorless. Everyone is terrified. Art classes no longer bring joy to the would have been budding artists. The STEM clubs have been divided into two groups: those who are willing to hand over their research and inventions for a shot at glory, and those who refuse, for fear that it will either be used in the wrong way, or will brand them a terrorist. Hardly anyone speaks their mind these days. Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and Twitter have become ghost towns. No one is brave enough to say the truth, their thoughts, or express themselves. They could if they wanted to, but someone is watching. The government is always watching. If they're not careful, anyone could be deemed a threat, an enemy of the country, and find themselves in places they never dreamed existed.

Cultures have been lying low. With governments watching their every move, people are afraid and mistrust runs rampant. France, after years of having its privacy intact, is struggling to cope with the new breach of their own self-security. Every country is watching their borders, not wanting to be caught harboring a terrorist, especially third-worlds, who most definitely do not want the first-world countries breathing down their necks.

As for the youth of the nations, they will grow up fearing the once sought after thing: their freedom of expression. They will never get to understand how good it feels to tell someone what has been burdening them. They will never know music, theatre, books, or art that show the important stuff, that have a deeper meaning they can relate to. They will never know how it is to say and do whatever they want, without the government taking it all in for their own personal records. At least, they will know to hold their tongues and watch what they say, if only to keep themselves, and their families and friends, safe.

The day that the government monitors what its citizens do, say, or feel, is the day that the already fracturing stability of the world, shatters. It will be the day that privacy is molested and stripped of its rights to protect the citizens that have come to rely so heavily on it. It will be the day where no one is safe.