Negative Case: Justice

The terrorist attack on Paris was devastating. It most definitely captured the attention of the entire world, and our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the victims of such vicious terror. May the terror cells that caused the onslaught of the innocent never again succeed.

The fact is, more often than not, they don’t succeed. When the police successfully thwart terrorists, it hardly gets noticed in the world. In December UK Prime Minister confirmed that a total of seven terrorist plots were foiled *just last year alone.* Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, emphasized:

“What we are doing is everything we possibly can and, of course, it is right to say that although such an event of that particular type may still be unlucky, it would be absolutely wrong and irresponsible to try to rule it out completely. One of the things we're studying from Paris is how to deal with a multiplicity of locations. That's the crucial thing. We need to prepare for an incident where you have five or six separate locations. We're looking at the deployment of armed police, whether we've got enough – we've got about 2,000 with arms training at the moment – and are they deployable fast enough."[[1]](#footnote-2)

It is my hope that the rest of the world follows the UK example and negates the resolution: that *When in conflict, the right to individual privacy OUGHT NOT be more important than national security.*

# Value: Justice

Faustino Ballve wrote:

“The aim of justice is, as the Romans used to say, to give each his due, and in order for each to be given what is his, it is necessary that it already belong to him; to "give", in this sense, means to protect the right of possession.”[[2]](#footnote-3)

This deep definition of justice goes beyond the right to property. It describes the sanctity of every person. You possess more than just your car or your house; you also possess your body, family, and soul. Justice means protecting you and everything you possess.

Justice is the best value for the round for two reasons:[[3]](#footnote-4)

## Reason to Prefer 1: Inherent Good

Justice is a core idea that exists on a high moral level. It transcends governments; it even transcends mortality. To disregard justice is to attack the foundations of the universe.

## Reason to Prefer 2: Describes Conflict

The resolution asks us whether individual privacy should be valued over national security. But it doesn’t give you a way to make that decision. Privacy concerns are all a subset of Justice, so the question you should ask yourself at the end of this round is: “Is individual privacy upheld in a just manner?” Or, “In the context of justice, do we not uphold privacy enough, or do we uphold it too much?”

# Contention: Privacy Restrains Justice

Senior Crown Prosecutor Margaret Cuneen once said: “There is nothing admirable about helping the guilty escape justice.”[[4]](#footnote-5) But that's exactly what privacy does every day. It creates an insulating barrier between police and criminals. Technology that would make law enforcement highly effective at keeping you and your family safe exists right now. Tragically, it is prohibited by privacy laws.

The debate over individual privacy cannot be fully understood until we look at the real-world consequences of bad ideas. That's where my application comes in.

## Application: The UK VS. United States

Prime Minister Cameron is determined to keep the citizens of the UK safe from terrorist attack, and the US should follow suit. In the same article I opened with, we are told of Mr. Cameron plans for valuing national security over privacy:

Mr Cameron, meanwhile, suggested to Radio 4's Today programme that new laws to allow spies in Britain to hack into smartphones and computers could be implemented quicker than the 2017 planned timetable. The investigatory powers bill, which is currently passing through Parliament, would force internet and communications companies to retain customer usage data for up to a year and protect the ability of GCHQ and MI5 to bulk collect data or hack into a suspect's electronic devices.[[5]](#footnote-6)

Unfortunately, America is not following the UK’s lead. We overvalue privacy by heavily restricting the use of wiretaps. Even noted privacy rights groups admit, “relatively few legal wiretaps are authorized in the United States each year.”[[6]](#footnote-7)

The defenders of privacy—like my opponent—love waxing eloquently about the philosophical ramifications of privacy. But they're not willing to face the reality that people die when individual privacy is valued over national security.

Privacy is all good and well right up until people are murdered because the police have no way to stop it. We can't afford to keep living in a dream world while innocents die. I hope you'll agree with me that this resolution is false.

1. Michael Wilkinson. “Revealed: Britain has foiled seven terror attacks in one year.” *The Telegraph, 16 Nov 2015.* [*http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11997853/Revealed-Britain-foils-seven-terror-attacks-in-just-six-months.html*](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11997853/Revealed-Britain-foils-seven-terror-attacks-in-just-six-months.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. From *Wikiquote*: “Justice.” Accessed 12/24/15. <https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Justice> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Note: Run Reasons to Prefer your opponent's value. The following are two generic options. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Cuneen, Margaret. "When the Guilty Walk Free, the Criminal Law Has Failed." *The Australian*. 06 Oct. 2006. <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/when-the-guilty-walk-free-the-criminal-law-has-failed/story-e6frg6z6-1111112317135>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Michael Wilkinson. “Revealed: Britain has foiled seven terror attacks in one year.” *The Telegraph, 16 Nov 2015.* [*http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11997853/Revealed-Britain-foils-seven-terror-attacks-in-just-six-months.html*](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11997853/Revealed-Britain-foils-seven-terror-attacks-in-just-six-months.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. “Fact Sheet 9: Wiretapping and Eavesdropping on Telephone Calls.” *Privacy Rights Clearinghouse*. Web. 21 May 2012. <https://www.privacyrights.org/content/wiretapping-and-eavesdropping-telephone-calls>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)