

[News](#) [Sport](#) [Comment](#) [Culture](#) [Business](#) [Money](#) [Life & style](#) [Travel](#) [Environment](#) [Tech](#) [TV](#) [Video](#) [Dating](#) [Offers](#) [Jobs](#)[News](#) [World news](#) [Edward Snowden](#)

Edward Snowden's letter to the president of Ecuador – full text

The NSA whistleblower, who is currently in Moscow, has written to Rafael Correa regarding his request for political asylum

[Share](#)[Tweet this](#)[Pin it](#)[Email](#)[Article history](#)

Press Association

theguardian.com, Monday 1 July 2013 23.17 BST



Edward Snowden. Photograph: The Guardian/Reuters

Text of a letter by [Edward Snowden](#) to the President of [Ecuador](#), [Rafael Correa](#). Written in Spanish; obtained and translated by the Press Association, London

There are few world leaders who would risk standing for the human rights of an individual against the most powerful government on earth, and the bravery of Ecuador and its people is an example to the world.

I must express my deep respect for your principles and sincere thanks for your government's action in considering my request for political asylum.

The government of the [United States](#) of America has built the world's largest system of [surveillance](#). This global system affects every human life touched by technology; recording, analysing, and passing secret judgment over each member of the international public.

It is a grave violation of our universal human rights when a political system perpetuates automatic, pervasive and unwarranted spying against innocent people.

In accordance with this belief, I revealed this programme to my country and the world. While the public has cried out support of my shining a light on this secret system of injustice, the government of the United States of America responded with an extrajudicial man-hunt costing me my family, my freedom to travel and my right to live peacefully without

The NSA Files: Decoded



What the surveillance revelations mean for you

World news

[Edward Snowden](#) · [Ecuador](#) · [Rafael Correa](#) · [The NSA files](#) · [NSA](#) · [Privacy](#) · [Surveillance](#) · [Espionage](#) · [Prism](#) · [United States](#) · [US national security](#) · [US domestic policy](#) · [US foreign policy](#) · [Obama administration](#) · [US politics](#)

Technology

[Internet](#)

More news

More on this story



[Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia offer asylum to Edward Snowden](#)

President Maduro offers to protect NSA whistleblower 'from persecution by the empire' and rejects US extradition request

Today's best video



European football papers review

James Richardson brings you all the continental reaction to the European Champions League last 16 draw



Inside the mind of Lee Rigby's killer

Forensic psychiatrists and Michael Adebolajo's brother discuss what might

have motivated him to kill soldier Lee Rigby



Seattle gunman wrestled to ground by bus passengers

CCTV footage of the moment a gun-wielding man is disarmed by passengers on a bus in Seattle



The Guardian Film Show

The team discuss American Hustle, All is Lost, The Secret Life of Walter Mitty and

Anchorman 2 in our 100th episode

fear of illegal aggression.

As I face this persecution, there has been silence from governments afraid of the United States government and their threats. Ecuador however, rose to stand and defend the human right to seek asylum.

The decisive action of your consul in London, Fidel Narvaez, guaranteed my rights would be protected upon departing Hong Kong – I could never have risked travel without that. Now, as a result, and through the continued support of your government, I remain free and able to publish information that serves the public interest.

No matter how many more days my life contains, I remain dedicated to the fight for justice in this unequal world. If any of those days ahead realise a contribution to the common good, the world will have the principles of Ecuador to thank.

Please accept my gratitude on behalf of your government and the people of the Republic of Ecuador, as well as my great personal admiration of your commitment to doing what is right rather than what is rewarding.

Edward Joseph Snowden.

[US request for extradition of Snowden - full text](#)

[Oliver Stone defends Snowden over NSA revelations](#)

[European states were told Snowden was on Morales plane, says Spain](#)

[Edward Snowden's leaks cause editorial split at the Washington Post](#)

[Morales threatens to close Bolivia's US embassy as leaders lend support](#)

Analysis



[Where can Snowden go?](#)

Even if another state grants Snowden asylum and issues him with a letter of passage, Russia would have to agree to accept it

[A Guardian guide to extradition](#)

[Countries approached for asylum and their responses](#)

NSA



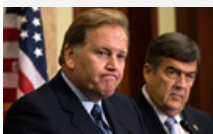
[France 'runs vast electronic spying operation using NSA-style methods'](#)
Intelligence agency has spied on French public's phone calls, emails and internet activity, says Le Monde newspaper

[European firms 'could quit US internet providers over NSA scandal'](#)

[NSA officials 'not always accurate' in public statements over surveillance](#)

[EU demands clarification over US spying claims](#)

Comment & analysis



GuardianWitness Awards 2014

Upload your contributions to GuardianWitness before 20th January to be entered into our reader awards



Extreme weather in the UK

The latest storms have brought power cuts, transport problems and flood warnings across

parts of the UK, share your videos and images and help shape our coverage



Recipe swap: smoothies and juices

Share your recipes for a delicious vitamin boost after the over-indulgences of the

Christmas and New Year holiday

Send us your assignment ideas

Do you have an idea for an assignment you think should run on GuardianWitness? [Let us know](#).

THE NSA FILES



Live: Follow NSA-related developments as controversy over leaks continues to make headlines

On World news

Most viewed

Latest

Last 24 hours



1. Mikhail Khodorkovsky freed after pardon from Vladimir Putin

2. Robin Thicke named sexist of the year

3. New York City puts e-cigarettes under smoking ban

4. Bubonic plague outbreak kills 32 in Madagascar

5. Uganda passes draconian anti-gay law

[More most viewed](#)

Last 24 hours



1. China investigates deputy minister

Edward Snowden is a whistleblower, not a spy – but do our leaders care?

Legislators and journalists alike have been cavalier in their condemnations of the man responsible for the NSA leaks

John Pilger: Forcing down Evo Morales's plane was an act of air piracy

Christophe Deloire and Julian Assange: America's whistleblower persecution sullies the US constitution

Jürgen Trittin: Snowden deserves shelter in Germany



[Tweet this](#)



2. Libyan told he cannot pursue rendition claim in case it harms UK interests
3. Spanish police raid ruling party HQ in corruption inquiry
4. Robespierre was 'riddled with maladies' at time of his execution
5. Germans fall out of love with Lebkuchen

[All today's stories](#)

guardianbookshop

This week's bestsellers



1. Stoner
by John L. Williams
£7.19

2. Stephen Ward Was Innocent, OK
by Geoffrey Robertson £9.74

3. Guardian Quick Crosswords 5 & 6
£8.00

4. Tales from the Secret Footballer
£7.99

5. Ammonites and Leaping Fish
by Penelope Lively £10.99

Search the Guardian bookshop

Search

guardianjobs

Find the latest jobs in your sector:

[Arts & heritage](#)

[Health](#)

[Charities](#)

[Marketing & PR](#)

[Education](#)

[Media](#)

[Environment](#)

[Sales](#)

[Government](#)

[Senior executive](#)

[Graduate](#)

[Social care](#)

[Browse all jobs](#)

Search



[Tweet this](#)

