



THIRTEENTH SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

***IS STATE SURVEILLANCE
A LEGITIMATE DEFENCE OF OUR FREEDOM?***

***— Michael Hayden, Glenn Greenwald, Alan Dershowitz, and Alexis Ohanian
convene in Toronto, Canada, to debate the surveillance state—***

March 3, 2014 – Toronto, Canada

The Munk Debates announced today that Alan Dershowitz and Alexis Ohanian will join Michael Hayden and Glenn Greenwald for the thirteenth semiannual event, to be held in Toronto on Friday, May 2, 2014. To encourage public discussion of the debate of the moment, the spring 2014 Munk Debate will move the motion: ***Be it resolved state surveillance is a legitimate defence of our freedoms...***

In a risk-filled world, are democracies justified in turning to large-scale state surveillance, at home and abroad, to fight complex and unconventional threats? For some the answer is obvious: the threats more than justify the current surveillance system, and the laws and institutions of democracies are more than capable of balancing the needs of individual privacy with collective security. For others, we are in peril of sacrificing to a vast and unaccountable state surveillance apparatus the civil liberties that guarantee citizens' basic freedoms and our democratic way of life.

Arguing **for the resolution** will be **General (ret.) Michael Hayden**, the former head of the NSA and the CIA, and one of the world's top experts on cyber espionage. He will be joined by celebrated civil liberties lawyer, professor and proponent of the "preventive state," **Alan Dershowitz**.

Speaking **against the resolution** will be journalist and privacy advocate at the heart of the Edward Snowden leaks, **Glenn Greenwald**. He will be joined by **Alexis Ohanian**, co-founder of social news website reddit and a vocal proponent for an open Internet.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, comments: "Given the caliber of our participants this debate has the potential to have a global impact on how the broader public interprets the threats and opportunities of state surveillance. I fully expect this contest to be one of the hardest fought in the history of the Munk Debates."

The Munk Debates offer a lively and substantive forum for leading thinkers to discuss the pressing issues of our time. Two debates are held each year in Toronto, one in the spring and one in the fall. Previous Munk Debate participants include former British prime minister Tony Blair, Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens, Paul Krugman, Lawrence Summers, Dambisa Moyo, Fareed Zakaria, UN Special Envoy for HIV AIDS Stephen Lewis, Mia Farrow and Maureen Dowd.

The Munk Debates is a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.

“Our philanthropy is aimed primarily at improving the quality and vitality of public debate in Canada,” said **Peter Munk**, speaking about the rationale for the Munk Debates. “Whether it is the support we provide to the Munk School at the University of Toronto or the creation of the Munk Debates through our Aurea Foundation, Melanie and I are committed to broadening public knowledge, education, and informed discourse.”

The Munk Debates are open to the public. The Debate on State Surveillance will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, May 2**, at 7:00 pm EST. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 4. Remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 12:00 NOON on Thursday, March 6.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit www.munkdebates.com. Seating is limited.

The debate will also be broadcast live over the Internet for Munk Debate basic and premium members. For more information on the livestream of the Munk Debate on State Surveillance visit www.munkdebates.com

Media inquiries should be directed to:

Sherry Naylor

sherry@munkdebates.com

(416) 368-8253