

## Call for Applications

---

# Digital Surveillance Researcher

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) seeks individuals or organizations to provide expert support on the surveillance technology ecosystem. The consultant will provide support to ICNL and its partners based in four countries in Africa and South America to design and conduct research on: (a) online surveillance practices of governments, (b) the role of the private sector in online surveillance, and (c) the risks posed to civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and journalists from online surveillance. The consultancy period is one year, but it may be extended for up to one additional year based on needs and positive performance. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis and the position will be closed when filled, no later than January 31, 2024.

## Scope of Work

Advancements in surveillance technologies over the past decade have rapidly eroded the rights to freedom of expression and privacy, leading to the harassment, arrest, and censorship of journalists, activists, political opposition leaders, and ordinary citizens. Governments and the private sector have taken advantage of the legal vacuum resulting from the unregulated global surveillance industry to deploy sophisticated technologies, such as spyware. The result of secretive and extralegal surveillance is a fearful population that increasingly self-censors, decreasingly expresses dissent and reduces its engagement in civic space and freedoms.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are aware of the threats posed by digital surveillance tools. They have closely followed media reports about emerging threats and are determined to combat them. However, they have not yet comprehensively engaged because the field of digital surveillance and online surveillance policy is technically complex and new for many lawyers and activists. They need technical assistance and strategic support to build their internal capacity, to gather evidence, and to advocate for legal and policy reforms.

The consultant will work closely with ICNL to provide this technical assistance to four civil society organizations. The technical assistance includes, but is not limited to, workshops about the surveillance ecosystem and research methods, 1:1 discussions with each partner about their research plans and implementation, answering

questions as they arise through secure email and messaging platforms, reviewing research plans and research products, and supporting the partners to develop workshop curriculum for local training initiatives.

The consultant should have extensive experience researching digital surveillance tools and the digital surveillance ecosystem and should have demonstrated knowledge of the impact of digital surveillance on human rights. The consultant should also have a background publishing or contributing to written reports, policy briefs, or blog posts on privacy or other digital rights topics. The consultant can include information or activities related to digital security skills building as part of the proposal, but the applicant's previous work as a digital security trainer will not supersede the required background in surveillance research. The consultancy does not require in-person travel to the countries where the partners are located; work will be done virtually.

## Content of the Proposal

Interested applicants should submit a proposal of no more than 3 pages, addressing the following topics:

- Applicant's experience and knowledge of online surveillance methods, including hacking and spyware, that contravene international human rights law; the sale, trade, and procurement of rights-violating technologies; and the practices of law enforcement officials that exceed surveillance authorities under the law. If applicant has previously provided technical assistance or capacity building support to civil society organizations, advocates, or journalists, please describe the scope of the support, the impact of the support, and contact information for two to three references;
- Description of the type of support that the consultant will provide to partners to effectively address the scope of work above, including any limitations or concerns that the applicant foresees preventing implementation of the activities.
- If more than one person will be involved in this project, describe who will undertake different aspects of the project. ICNL reserves the right to approve or reject the use of any personnel.
- The cost proposal for this consultancy, not exceeding a total of \$28,000. The pricing for the cost proposal must be in USD. Please list each person to be involved in this project, the proposed day rate(s) and number of days. All other costs, if any, should be listed and explained (the costs should not include travel to meet in-person with project partners). The proposed price should be inclusive of all taxes. ICNL expects to issue one Firm Fixed Price contract.

## Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the surveillance technology ecosystem and experience conducting related quantitative and qualitative research;
- Quality of proposal;
- Proposed costs and value for money

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until January 31, 2024. To apply for this consultancy, applicants must submit the following items:

- Proposal of not more than three pages;
- Resume or curriculum vitae (cv);
- Background information about the applicant organization if relevant (e.g., website links, informational materials, and/or writing sample).

Applications should be sent to [digital@icnl.org](mailto:digital@icnl.org), with reference made to “**Surveillance Consultancy Application**” in the subject line. Application materials should be submitted in English. Questions related to this consultancy can be emailed to [digital@icnl.org](mailto:digital@icnl.org).