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Phone Hacking Prompts the Calls to Change Laws in the UK and Portugal

Spy Snaps: **More in the News**



Phone Hacking Prompts the Calls to Change Laws in the UK and Portugal

The recent News of the World (NOTW) phone hacking saga has revealed the legal holes in eavesdropping laws and underlined the need for an independent authority in several European countries.

The Attorney General's Office in Portugal stated recently that the phone hacking concerns the country faces are serious and need to be addressed urgently. Attorney General Pinto Monteiro warned the Portuguese politicians that his office did not have the means or the power to control the situation. Therefore, he said, it is necessary to create a law that would give an independent watchdog or an Member of Parliament the legal and technical resources to exercise operational control over phone hacking and detect the criminals.

The concerns came as a result of the cross-border investigation into the NOTW phone hacking scandal. Last month, it was revealed that the Metropolitan Police investigators had been handed a list of 67 names and numbers of potential victims. Amongst others, the list included Kate and Gerry McCann, parents of Madeleine McCann, who disappeared in May 2007 in Algarve, Portugal.

In the UK, a former NOTW journalists' allegation that the tabloid paid police to track mobile phones, has also raised serious questions about the British eavesdropping laws. According to experts, it is possible to 'ping' or determine a handset's location for as little as £300. Although there is no firm evidence to support the accusation, it undermines safeguards within the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

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DID YOU KNOW?

A new £1.49 iPhone App can be used to eavesdrop live police operations.

Source: [Sunday Mercury](#)



Spy Snaps: **More in the News**

Oracle, currently in a major trade secrets row with Hewlett-Packard (HP), is backing a former HP executive claiming he has been falsely accused of stealing trade secrets for Oracle.



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An ex-employee of Akamai Technologies in the US pled guilty to economic espionage, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, for providing trade secrets to an undercover FBI agent posing as an Israeli intelligence official.

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The Bangladesh Government has placed 10 businessmen under surveillance for their alleged involvement in overinflated commodities' prices.

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