That iPhone Is Locked For A Reason

“Apple should not be forced to screw their customers – and their good name – to bail out government [missteps],” opines Seton Motley, editor of StopNetRegulation.org. (ID access to suspected terrorist Syed Rizwan Farook’s iPhone was accidentally lost by the San Bernardino Health Department.) Sometimes, the “private sector” does the right thing, altruistically motivated or not.

Since Edward Snowden revealed the scope of the U.S. government’s surveillance of vast populations, the National Security Agency has essentially won, with no serious opposition at any level of government to curb its access to every bit of data it seeks. Most reports show that Apple, and all the other big tech companies, have provided whatever information the government asked for.

So Apple’s sudden refusal, backed up by other companies and privacy organizations, to accede to the government’s demands is unprecedented.

We cannot fail to make the connection between government surveillance of everyone, and its pursuit of illegitimate wars on the world, particularly in the Middle East. The biggest lie of all from the government defending its security apparatus of more than one million people, is that it's done to "keep you safe."

According to the ACLU, the federal court order to break the encryption on its iPhones "conscripts Apple into government service and forces it to design and build what is, in effect, a master key that could be used as a mold to weaken the security of an untold number of iPhones... the resulting order is not only unconstitutional, but risks setting a precedent that would fundamentally undermine the security of all devices, not just the one iPhone being debated in the news."

Apple has until February 26th to challenge the court's order.

Weekly PEACE vigils sponsored by CODEPINK, World Can’t Wait and OccupySF Action Council Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, McKesson (BART) Plaza, Montgomery & Market Streets. Join us.