

NEW JERSEY – Over 20 years after the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in the wake of 9/11, the has released a new policy brief detailing the disfiguring impact that DHS fusion centers have had on domestic law enforcement.

When President Bush signed the gargantuan Homeland Security Act of 2002 into law on Nov. 25, 2002, he underwrote the largest restructuring of the national security state in American history. Framed as a response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, this piece of legislation combined 22 separate agencies, and spawned an even greater amount of overreach into the daily lives of American citizens.

In 2006, the putatively progressive state of New Jersey began adopting this securitized framework by establishing its own DHS-affiliated fusion center, the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC).

In commemoration of Sunshine Week, the CSRR's policy brief [*Shining A Light On New Jersey's Secret State Intelligence System*](#), surveys the open-source information available about the ROIC. The report reveals that the ROIC has given rise to explicitly racist policing models that have wreaked havoc on the lives of low income residents and people of color in some of New Jersey's most depressed communities. Additionally, *Shining a Light on New Jersey's Secret State Intelligence System* reveals that this securitized overreach offers no palpable contribution to the fight against terrorism.

The report's biggest contribution comes through the results of an ongoing investigation into the ROIC. That investigation results in three major recommendations:

1. The appointment of a Civil Liberties Ombudsman to oversee ROIC operations
2. The passing of state legislation for transparency and accountability in domestic intelligence gathering
3. The conducting of a people's audit of the ROIC

"In these days of rising xenophobia, prejudice, and other pathological manifestations of the wave of illiberal democracy, the work of the Center for Security, Race and Rights could hardly be more timely and urgent. It should inspire similar efforts elsewhere to combat severe threats to decency and human dignity, and to preserve and extend a social order based on mutual respect, solidarity, and commitment to rights and justice."

–Noam Chomsky

The full report can be found online [here](#):