Examples of found surveillance devices

This list is edited by the autonomous group « Ears and Eyes » in order to gather informations about surveillance devices placed by cops to surveil individuals and spaces. For more informations on the project, you can visit our website at earsandeyes.noblogs.org or send us an email at desoreillesetdesyeux@riseup.net.

This list was last updated in october 2019. Updated versions of the list will be published on the « Ears and Eyes » website.

The archive that comes with this document contains a file called « sources.txt » which lists available public sources of informations on each example of found surveillance devices. These sources are usually websites.

In addition, for some of the examples, the archive contains pictures of the surveillance devices that were found, or other documents related to the example.

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In buildings

Pictures related to the examples listed below can be found in the « buildings » folder of the archive that comes with this document.

Bologna (Italy) – july 2007 (2 pictures in the archive)

Two microphone receiver cases are found in the entry corridor of the building that hosts the Fuori Luogo space. Both devices are hidden above a fake ceiling in the entry corridor. They are directly connected to the phone line with telephone wires. They consist in a main body, with a connector with external remote control, a digital receiver showing the strength of the received signal, and antennas. The presence of these two receivers probably means there are two emitting microphones in the space.

Viterbo (Italy) – march 2008 (1 picture in the archive)

A microphone is found in the home of a comrade of L’urto de Viterbo circle. The device is hidden inside an air inlet (ventilation system) of the house. It consists in 12 cylindrical batteries and a microphone.

Genova / Genoa (Italy) – october 2009 (1 picture in the archive)
A microphone is found in the Doppiofondo documentation center inside an electrical outlet.

Lecco (Italy) – october 2010 (4 pictures in the archive)

A microphone is found in an anarchist documentation center inside an electrical outlet. It is a transmitter-receiver.

Milano / Milan (Italy) – november 2010 (1 picture in the archive)

A microphone is found in the Panetteria Occupata inside a closed and sealed electricity meter. It is a microphone with a 300 Mhz shortwave transmitter.

Milano / Milan (Italy) – november 2010 (3 pictures in the archive)

Microphones and a micro-camera are found in multiple homes. The devices are found in an amplifier, in the kitchen hood and in a cathode-ray television. The devices have microphones and 300 Mhz transmitters with 200-300 meters range. In one case, the device can be activated by remote control (at a distance of hundreds of meters) and in another case it comes with a micro-camera linked to a UHF band transmitter of the same range.

Firenze / Florence (Italy) – january 2011 (2 pictures in the archive)

Microphones and cameras are found in the 400colpi space. A first device is placed in an electrical case, strangely too hot. It consists, along with a microphone, of a surveillance micro-camera. A second device is placed in an industrial outlet.

Brussels (Belgium) – may 2011 (3 pictures in the archive)

A camera is found at two anarchists’ houses. The device is placed in the kitchen, behind a small air vent. It consists in a camera, linked to a rather large battery made of 3 tubes of 4 batteries of 14.4 volts. The battery is behind the sink. Between the battery and the rest of the device is what seems to be a switch, that can be manipulated remotely. The camera is connected to a small black box that serves as an encoder. This encoder, type « Micro View Lock » (Ovations Systems), was in turn connected to what may be an antenna to transmit images on 1.4 Ghz. There is no SIM card. The camera is pointed towards the kitchen table. We don’t know if it also contains a microphone. The camera is secured with magnetic elements. On almost all elements « CS » stickers are affixed. « CS » indeed matches the code store Logistics Department of the Federal Police.

Bordighera (Italy) – may 2012 (3 pictures in the archive)

Four microphones and a camera are found in a house. A microphone is placed behind the fridge, another in the bedroom, another in a beam next to the ceiling light, another in the house entry. A graceful little camera films the entry stairs. All are connected through a transformer to the house electrical network.

Napoli / Naples (Italy) – october 2012 (5 pictures in the archive)
Two microphones are found in the anarchist space 76/A. The devices are placed in the air vents of the two rooms where gigs and initiatives are held. It consists in three 9-volt batteries set up in parallel and stuck to a transmitter microphone with tape.

Napoli / Naples (Italy) – February 2013 (3 pictures in the archive)

Four microphones of the GSM type are found in two homes. In the first home, a microphone is placed next to the office where there is a computer (for some time, the loudspeakers connected to this computer were disrupted by an interference similar to the interference of a phone receiving a call), another in the outlet next to the kitchen table, the last one in the bedroom, in the outlet closest to the bed (the outlet cover had been pierced to direct the microphone towards the headboard). In the second home, a microphone is placed in the bedroom, in the outlet closest to the door, which gives onto the kitchen, so that it covers several places. The microphones of the first home are Vodafone mobile phones, with a transformer and antennas with a printed circuit board. The microphone of the second home is an older model, with two transformers and an antenna with a screw.

Palermo (Italy) – June 2013 (4 pictures in the archive)

Microphones are found in comrades’ house.

Barcelona (Spain) – October 2013

A police surveillance camera is found in a hospital, pointed towards the Kasa de la Muntanya squat.

Torino / Turin (Italy) – February 2014 (6 pictures in the archive)

Two cameras are found in front of the Asilo Occupato. The devices are concealed in a fake Enel (Italian electricity supplier) electric box attached on the first floor of a building.

Torino / Turin (Italy) – May 2014 (1 picture in the archive)

Two microphones and portable scanners watching the Asilo Occupato are found. The microphones are inside the Asilo Occupato, connected to the electrical installation. The portable scanners are in a telecoms booth very close to the squat.

Genova / Genoa (Italy) – June 2014 (3 pictures in the archive)

Three microphones coming with cameras are found in the alleys around a squat. The devices are pointing on the different entries of the house.

Pescara (Italy) – April 2015 (2 pictures in the archive)

Two microphones are found at a comrades’ home. The devices are inside two outlets. Each device consists in a microphone linked to a transformer and a thingy containing a micro-SIM card.
Paris (France) – september 2015 (5 pictures in the archive)

A surveillance device is found in the « Plaisir d’enfance » Montessori school just in front of the anarchist library La Discordia, in a storage room on the first floor overlooking a window in front of the library. The device takes the form of a « cardboard folder ». The device is in a rectangular casing about 40x25x25 cm in hard plastic, loud (because of fans), and plugged into the power supply (without batteries). The casing has a hole of about 4 cm in diameter for the camera, with three cables coming out at the end, two of which are tipped antennae (probably sound sensors) and a third a small square sensor.

Inside the box we find advanced technological equipment:

- A wireless router with two SIM cards (Bouygues), GPS, three cell inputs, one stereo input.
- A processor.
- A telephone device with an Orange SIM card (which means that the data was not stored but transmitted live).
- A camera with two zoom levels, remote controlled.
- And other types of materials that we are not able to identify.

The device was in place at least since the second week of july 2015.

Modena (Italy) – december 2015 (4 pictures in the archive)

A microphone is found at the Laboratorio Libertario Ligéra. The device is located inside a neon light attached to the ceiling. It consists in three 9-volts batteries, joined together with insulating tape, with a microphone and antenna at each end.

Lecce (Italy) – september 2017 (2 pictures in the archive)

A bug is found in an anarchist place inside an electric plug not connected to any network. Its precise functioning isn’t clear: either it contains a SIM card through which some busybody can get connected to hear someone’s discussions, or a power supply battery. On one of the edges can be read the acronym ABG.

Trento (Italy) – end of 2017 (6 pictures in the archive)

A micro-camera is found inside a house. The device is placed in the kitchen/dining room, inside a wall, covered up by mortar, revealing only the hold for the camera’s lens.

Bologna (Italy) – january 2018 (4 pictures in the archive)

Two microphones are found in the documentation space Il Tribolo. They are hidden inside a power outlet and in the junction box next to it.

Genova / Genoa (Italy) – june 2018

Two microphones are found at a comrades’ house.

Grenoble (France) – august 2018 (5 pictures in the archive)
A microphone is found in the squat Awhanee. It is located in a multi-socket adaptor. The device contains a printed circuit board and a battery. It seems that the device was installed during a house search by cops earlier in the month.

Trento (Italy) – march 2019 (13 pictures in the archive)

Six microphones and a camera are found in a house. The microphones are located in power outlets and switch cases, one above the intercom in the corridor, two other in the living-room, and the three last ones in private bedrooms. The camera is located inside the intercom in the corridor and connected to the microphone above it. Each microphone is equipped with a battery, and, except for the one in the corridor, with a SIM card and a memory card. The camera lens could observe through a small hole already present in the intercom structure and slightly worked on to fit the device.

Torino / Turin (Italy) – march 2019 (1 pictures in the archive)

Microphones are found in a squatted house. They are located in the kitchen. Investigation files show that the audio they recorded was used to prove that the defendants knew each other, often talked together, were preoccupied by the creation by the italian State of a DNA database and the impossibility to refuse giving a DNA sample, that they discussed a text to publish or chatted about stuff.

In vehicles

Images related to the examples listed below can be found in the «vehicles» folder of the archive that comes with this document.

Torino / Turin (Italy) – june 2007 (6 pictures in the archive)

Microphones are found in a car. The device is placed in the car ceiling. It is connected to the car interior light power supply. It consists in a modified mobile phone, an antenna and two microphones.

Bologna (Italy) – june 2009 (4 pictures in the archive)

A GPS tracker and microphones are found in a car. The device is placed in a plastic container (badly) stucked under the roof. It contains two boxes: both contain a «base» mobile phone with a SIM card. From there wires go out, passing by a hole up to under the back seats. Here are two microphones passing by the seat belt canal: the first at the driver’s height, the second at the height of the levers used to adjust the seat, next to the back seats. The antenna is behind the back seat. Finally, still coming from these two boxes, is a wire that goes through the car doors to reach the car fuse box.

Lecco (Italy) – april 2010 (3 pictures in the archive)

A GPS tracker and a microphone are found in a car. The device is placed between the car body and the interior coating, and attached with two magnets. It is connected to the power supply by the car interior light wires. It consists in a modified mobile phone, an antenna, a GPS and a microphone.
Italy – May 2010 (1 picture in the archive)

A GPS tracker is found under the truck of a member of the Nunatak magazine (Italian magazine about mountains stories, cultures and struggles). The device is attached with a magnet under the back of the vehicle. It consists in Vodafone SIM cards connected to 4 «torch» batteries in a series.

France – March 2011

A geolocation device is found in the car of members of a support committee to the defendants in the Tarnac affair (in trial for the sabotage of a high-speed train catenary which took place in 2008). The device is placed behind the car battery ventilation grids. It consists in a small black case of 9 by 5 centimeters, connected with wires to the car electrical system. Inside, two printed circuit boards including a passive antenna, a geolocation device branded Navman and an Orange SIM card to transmit the data.

Milan / Milan – September 2012

Technical specifications of the device found in this example can be found in the archive that comes with this document, in the folder «vehicles/Milan – September 2012».

A listening and geolocation device is found on a scooter. The different device components are located in the spare wheel bracket, next to the tank and behind the horn grid. The device is based on a device sold by Telit (an Italian supplier of wireless technologies). The device model is Telit GM862-GPS. It is capable of listening with a microphone, geolocating with a GPS antenna, and transmitting collected informations on the telephone network with a GSM antenna.

The device is placed in the spot where the tank is along with a transformer and an accumulator. Both antennas (GPS and GSM) are connected to the device and end up in the spare wheel bracket. The microphone, also connected to the device, ends up behind the horn grid. Wires connect the device to the scooter starting system. All these components are stuck to the scooter frame by strong magnets secured by tape.

This scooter model doesn’t have a battery (it dates back to the 1980s) and its engine generates alternating current, hence the presence of a transformer and an accumulator to guarantee the good functioning of this equipment even when the scooter is not going.

Naples (Italy) – February 2013 (2 pictures in the archive)

Two GSM-type microphones with GPS tracker are found in a car. The devices are placed inside the car ceiling, that hosts the small interior light. It consists in Vodafone mobile phones, with a transformer and antennas with a printed circuit board. Microphones are pointed towards the front seats.

Valencia (Spain) – March 2015 (7 pictures in the archive)

A geolocation device is found on the car of an attendee to the Circumvention Tech Festival, a festival against Internet surveillance and censorship. The device is magnetically mounted inside of the left wheel well of the car. It consists in a battery, a GPS antenna, a GSM antenna and a Movistar SIM card. The various components are wrapped in black tape and magnetically mounted to the car mudguard and frame. Several clues leads to believe that the device may have been placed by cops from the «Cuerpo Nacional de Policía» (Spain national civilian police force).
Cagliari (Italy) – november 2017

**Microphones and GPS trackers** are found in a car. The microphones are placed **under the upholstery of the car roof, where the windscreens and the sunshields are** (so take a look there, you can’t feel them from outside, so you have to slip your hand between the roof and the cardboard to which the upholstery is attached). In one case the power cables reached beneath the wheel, in the other they were attached to the car lights.

Lecce (Italy) – december 2017 *(1 picture in the archive)*

**Microphones and a GPS tracker** are found in a car. The device is placed **in the fuse box**. The car had electrical problems (the battery had discharged twice in a month, sign of an abnormal electricity consumption).

Trento (Italy) – end of 2017 *(3 pictures in the archive)*

**Microphones and GPS trackers** are found in two cars.

Cremona (Italy) – january 2018 *(6 pictures in the archive)*

A **GPS tracker** is found in a car. The device is placed **in the rear bumper, stuck to the car body with magnets**. It consists in removable batteries and a Vodafone SIM card.

Bologna (Italy) – january 2018 *(9 pictures in the archive)*

**Two microphones and a GPS tracker** are found in a car. There is also a device equipped with an antenna, a SIM card from the TIM provider and a 16 Go memory card. The power cable is **connected to the fuse box** and to other wires located **under the dashboard**. Both microphones are located **under the upholstery of the car roof** and the wires arrive to the power supply **through the car door**. The magnetized GPS and the cards thingy with the antenna are hidden **behind the speedometer**. From what we could check, everything has been placed in the car more than a year ago and the microphones were recording even when the car engine was turned off, in a radius of several meters.

Roma / Rome (Italy) – april 2018

**Two microphones, a GPS tracker** and a transmitter are found in a car. Everything is **positioned on the car body with magnets over the driver’s door** and linked to an electric cable carrying power to one of the lights inside the car. There is also an additional battery. The microphones are **stuck with gum over the driver’s and passenger’s head seats**. The power cable, battery, microphones and GPS are all linked to the transmitter. There is a TIM SIM card inside the transmitter.

Cagliari (Italy) – september 2018

**Two microphones and a GPS tracker** are found inside a car. The microphones are placed **inside the upholstery of the car roof**, just above the driver’s head. The GPS tracker, as usual, is **stuck to the car body with a magnet**. The bugs are connected to the car power supply at the level of the pedals, just below the lever that opens the front trunk.
Cagliari (Italy) – october 2018

Two microphones and a GPS tracker are found in the car of one of the persons under investigation for the 15 september repressive operation (see the sources). Microphones are located above the driver's head, next to the junction of the car roof upholstery and the windscreen. The GPS tracker is located in the fuse box. Everything is powered by a connection to the headlights cable (headlights that were Dysfunctionning).

Cremona (Italy) – february 2019 (5 pictures in the archive)

A microphone is found in a car. It is located in the upholstery of the vehicle roof. The device wires are hidden in the isolation case. The device is connected to the car electrical system, so that the bug turned on when the car started. It is connected to a Vodafone SIM card protected by a PIN code.

Italy – august 2019 (7 pictures in the archive)

A microphone and two GPS trackers are found in a vehicle. One of the trackers is attached with a magnet to the rear bumper, on the right side. The other one, along with the microphone, is placed in the air vents which are between the windscreen flap and the windscreen. The first tracker is equipped with an accumulator made of five 3.6V lithium batteries connected in a series, and a SIM card from Omnitel (former name of Vodafone Italia, an italian operator). The other tracker is equipped with a SIM card from Movistar (Spanish operator). Although the use of an Omnitel card (operator which doesn’t exist anymore) and a Spanish card is weird, it seems these trackers were assembled by the same people and probably installed these past months.

Other

Other Pictures related to the examples listed below can be found in the « other » folder of the archive that comes with this document.

Sarthe (France) – septembre 2018

Technical specifications of the devices found in this example can be found in the archive that comes with this document, in the folder « other/Sarthe - september 2018 ».

Three outdoor surveillance cameras are found outside, at an event organized in support of a struggle against a project of nuclear waste burrying center. The cameras are all located along a 250m pathway leading to the event place. Two cameras of model BOLYGUARD MG983G are found laying in the grass and in a bush, 80cm above ground and are covered by a kind of camouflage hairnet. The third camera, of model RECONYX HYPERFIRE SM750, is found on a tree trunk, 1m20 above ground and has a khaki color.

The contents of the SD memory cards reveal several things:

• The devices were placed on the same day very early in the morning (between 3h30 and 4h).
• The three devices are capable of night vision, two of them were configured to take pictures and one to record video and sound.
• Their placements allowed them to take pictures of the front and back license plates of cars driving on the pathway, and also of people following the pathway by foot.

• One of the cameras was useless because of leaves in its field of vision.

Cuneo (Italy) – June 2019 (5 pictures in the archive)

A surveillance device capable of recording images and sound is found during a gathering in front of a jail. The device is located **behind a few stones, in a wall along a path**, wrapped up in a black garbage bag, next to the place where this kind of gatherings usually happen. It contains a battery, a SD card, a microphone, and a camera hidden behind a rock where a hole had been made. It seems that the device couldn’t send the data, which was stored on the SD card. An analysis of the content of the SD card shows that the device was activated the 3rd of June and installed on the afternoon of the 7th, the day before the gathering.