

The Right to Be Forgotten in U.S. - Mass Incarceration and Internet Privacy - A Class Action against Google.
<https://Right2Remove.us>

Press Release
June 6th, 2018
New York City, U.S.

I'm an Internet activist, and I'm reaching out to you as an Internet-privacy-aware person grabbing your attention on a very concrete issue that has been overlooked in America.

There are tens of millions of criminal records exposed on search engines; they are the product of years of mass incarceration in the United States and the indifference of Internet organizations. This is not about your opinion on the so-called Right to Be Forgotten, but it's about a gross human right violation and search engines firms are directly responsible.

[In this recent article in *The Guardian*, I highlight the issue and my take on it:](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jun/12/mugshot-exploitation-websites-arrests-shame)
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To tackle this issue, I created the campaign [Right to Remove](#), which is specifically designed to address the need for a basic Right to Be Forgotten in the United States to remove stigmatizing information about vulnerable people from search engine results.

I hope you can take a moment to consider privacy and free speech in America without a privileged point of view. We are all concerned about the danger of AI, facial recognition, and the NSA. However, please take a break from these scenarios and have a look at what heavily affects millions of people in America today and how regulating search engines can effectively help them.

Search engines have recently tackled hate speech, fake news, revenge porn, and medical records, among other sensitive information. So why wouldn't they address criminal records produced by an unfair and broken criminal justice system?

I'm advocating for the removal of stigmatizing criminal records from search engine results. In order to do so, I propose blacklisting [over 100 mugshot websites](#) on search engines such as Google, Yahoo, and Bing. However, these mugshot sites are constantly multiplying; this is about a major leak of data that needs to be contained.

That is why I want to organize **a class action lawsuit against Google** to help people discriminated, extorted, and harassed because of Google exposing such records. We need academics, organizers, or lawyers involved in Internet privacy for lobbying and legal actions.

[- Please join our call for action through this form](#)

With this project, I witnessed hundreds of stories that I cannot ignore, because they are about the human rights of millions of disenfranchised people. These stories are not only about criminal records; they extend to other types of sensitive information. Over 3,500 people already signed the petition for the Internet privacy policy Right to Remove that improves and adapts the Right to Be Forgotten to the United States.

[- Sign the petition here](#)

To underline the urgency of this project beyond stigmatizing criminal records, I call attention to the online harassment of women and those in the LGBTQ community. Such harassment affects their life opportunities and mental health, as evidenced by the several suicide cases caused by bullying, revenge porn, forms of racism, and hate speech. None of these issues are handled properly by search engine firms and the available legal instruments. For instance, not even information about minors published online is regulated in most of the United States. I've been running this campaign mainly on my own without institutional support; I'd appreciate your help in any form.

[- Please Donate to the Campaign](#)

While working on the *Right to Remove*, I formed a community of affected individuals, lawyers, journalists, and activists who are committed to seeking solutions to this problem. This community is tenacious and spread across the country, and it needs your support.

[- Join the Mailing List of the community](#)

Search engines are private companies motivated by profit. Their free speech argument to oppose this right is deceptive. They manipulate and edit search results based on the interests of the advertisers and shareholders.

[- Read my recent short essay titled "Perception on Systems of Justice over the Internet"](#)

In conclusion, I'll give you a concrete example: If someone writes something anonymously that is meant to harm you, from wherever in the world, you would not be able to remove such malicious information directly affecting your job and family. This is about your personal future too.

Stay tuned [on Twitter for the developments with the *Right to Remove* campaign](#) for improving the Right to Be Forgotten and adapting it in the United States.

Please share this call with relevant professionals involved in Internet privacy.

Thank you.
Paolo Cirio.

Website, tools & campaign:

<https://Right2Remove.US>

Email general inquiries:

Support@Right2Remove.US

Twitter and news:

<https://twitter.com/Right2Remove>

Youtube for the Right to Remove:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLJHWosFmMRqofm03UvU8_0tLKopTXKOra&v=yFQV9H93mJ4

Petition for the Right to Remove:

<https://www.change.org/p/introducing-the-right-to-remove-personal-information-from-search-engines-in-the-us>
