In the aftermath of Paris: sacrificing freedom for security online?

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- deadliest in France since WW2
- worldwide outcry
- something needs to be done!
Shortly after the attacks politicians demand

- data retention
- EU PNR
- reconsideration of the general data protection regulation
- backdoors to encryption
and

- blocking open wi-fis and TOR
- more online censorship
- more mass surveillance capacities
- information sharing
What are the arguments?
• we need more data
• we need more capacities
• we need more financial resources
Do the arguments hold up?

- terrorists are mainly homegrown
  - PNR?
- terrorists were known before
  - mass surveillance?
- targeted surveillance can circumvent encryption
  - encryption backdoors?
Do the arguments hold up? (II)

- terrorists are not constricted to legal options
  - banning wi-fi, tor, encryption
- offline radicalisation
  - online censorship?
- too many suspects (10'000 in France)
  - mass surveillance?
- huge increase in budgets in previous years
 Politicians do not understand intelligence agencies' work

• no oversight over intelligence agencies
• politicians have to trust agencies and the security industry
• they - surprise! - say the need more resources
• politicians do not understand the importance of online freedoms
Politicians *do* understand the public's fear

- public wants more security even if it endangers freedom
  - France: 67 - 90%; in Germany 92% want more security and 5% are worried about freedoms
- leaked letter by Valls: EU PNR "would be a strong symbolic gesture"
Conclusion

- measures fight terrorism?
- no, it's a structural problem! but they help prevent attacks?
- no, they don't! but they help make people feel safe?
- no! they increase paranoia and lead to more fear
We are sacrificing online freedoms for a fake sense of security
Questions?