

It's My America Too

By Elizabeth Cruz

My Thoughts and Reflections on the Stop Online Piracy Act

Americans, my family, my brothers and sisters, we are on the verge of a catastrophic change for our lives, as we know it.

The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) is aimed at preventing foreign “rogue” websites from effectively stealing and distributing information Americans worked hard to make.

For example, a song that you download off of a torrent for free causes the record companies to lose that revenue.

Seems fair enough doesn't it? What the bill Committee Chairman Lamar Smith fails to address is why this bill is written so vaguely. The way it is drafted now, it does not necessarily specify just foreign rogue sites. The way the bill is drafted now, **it means if you sing a song on youtube that you did not write, if you post a quick clip of your favorite sports team scoring a goal, it can be considered a felony.**

Not only that, but the bill can effectively give the government control over which websites we are allowed to visit and gives them power to shut down any website that contains information that may lead to piracy or contains it. Youtube, Google, Yahoo, Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, 4Chan, Lifehacker, Digg, Ebay and all your favorite places can effectively be silenced or shut down. The government will be granted the power to order their financing and transaction companies to cut their revenue flow.

This is **censorship** or as said by Google, a “ Draconian” attempt to control. This is the destruction of our Internet world, as we know it. If this law passes, we could be seeing Internet regulations like those of China. Not to mention how many Internet websites will never even get started because of this bill.

The idea of the bill to stop foreign rogue websites is one thing, but Internet **ensorship** is another. President Obama has remained relatively silent about this entire issue despite its large interest and attention.

We, the people, need to rise up and remind this government who the 99% of this United States of America are. No amount of lobbying, bribery or thoughtlessness among the members of congress can muffle our freedoms. We are the United States, the government is appointed to keep our land fair, peaceful and prosperous. The lines are starting to blur and a turning point is among us. We are on the threshold of a change of the balance of power the government has over us.

Everyone, and I mean every single man, woman, and child need to join together and remind this government that We, the people, are the United States of America. Not them. Write letters, stories, books, paint pictures, complain, assemble, protest, and boycott, your feelings. Let the government be forced to turn their deaf ears our way and listen to the 99%.

Just as strongly as we love, would fight and care for our families and freedoms, we must rise together and make way for the dawn of change.

Visit www.americancensorship.org and start there. Email your local congressperson and tell them, this is NOT ok. Pass this PDF along to everyone you know and spread the word.