

## **Sinovatio response to Human Rights Watch report on telecom and internet surveillance in Ethiopia**

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Sinovatio to respond to the following items:*

- "They Know Everything We Do" : Telecom and Internet Surveillance in Ethiopia", Human Rights Watch, 25 March 2014  
[http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ethiopia0314\\_ForUpload\\_0.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ethiopia0314_ForUpload_0.pdf)

*Sinovatio sent the following response to the Resource Centre:*

[Unofficial translation of text from original Chinese provided by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre – some wordings of the questions quoted in Sinovatio's response are different from the ones on page 124-126 of the original report by Human Rights Watch]

15 Apr, 2014

1. What policies and procedures does Sinovatio have in place to prevent human rights abuses associated with use of its equipments in Ethiopia?

Answer:

1. The prerequisite for sales of Sinovatio products to foreign countries is the country's relevant legislations or regulations on lawful interception.
2. Sinovatio's products are in line with established international standards, such as ETSI in Europe, FXX CALEEA standard in the Americas.
3. Based on the two prerequisites above, we think that our products and operations do not cause any human rights abuses.

2. Has Sinovatio ever signed any human rights protection contracts and projects in Ethiopia?

Answer: No.

3. The Ethiopian government has confirmed the use of deep packet inspection (DPI), has Sinovatio been investigated by the Ethiopian government? If the product was provided by Sinovatio, what policies or procedures does Sinovatio have in place to protect human rights?

Answer:

Not provided by our company, and [we were] not investigated.

4. Has the Ethiopian government or Ethio Telecom/Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation (ETC) ever contracted with Sinovatio to provide lawful intercept, DPI, or other network filtering capabilities? If so, please describe.

Answer: No.

5. Has the Ethiopian government, Ethio Telecom/ETC, or other information network security agencies contracted with Sinovatio to purchase ZXMT lawful intercept solution?

Answer: Our company does not have such product, [they] did not purchase from our company.

6. ZTE's ZSmart resource management system has been used by the Ethiopian government, and [Human Rights Watch] requested Sinovatio to provide information related to Zsmart.

Answer: Our company does not have such product, [we] do not know.

7. Has Sinovatio ever provided lawful intercept equipments, DPI, or other network filtering/management equipment or software to the Ethiopian government or Ethio Telecom/ETC? If so, please describe the scope of services provided.

Answer: No.

8. Has Sinovatio ever provided consultation services to the Ethiopian National Intelligence and Security Services, Information Network Security Agency, federal or regional police, or Ethiopian Defense Forces?

Answer: No.

9. What major assets does Sinovatio need to report to China's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC)? How often has Sinovatio reported to SASAC? Has Sinovatio ever been sanctioned by SASAC? If so, please describe.

Answer: Our company provides financial statements to our controlling shareholder monthly (the controlling shareholder is a state-owned company of SASAC Holdings), and the controlling shareholder directly reports to SASAC. Our company has not been sanctioned by SASAC.