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WKYC-TV

CLEVELAND -- Some activist groups critical of the war in Iraq have been spied on by the U.S. government.

That's what NBC News uncovered in an investigation last month.

Now we're learning two of those groups are from our area. Spies were watching when The American Friends Service Committee met last March in Akron to protest the war.

They were also watching in November of 2004, when the northeast Ohio anti-war coalition met in Cleveland.

"We were photographed and monitored and showed up on Department of Defense database," said Greg Coleridge of The American Friends Service Committee "This is chilling, intimidating and outrageous. This should be totally unnecessary in a democratic society."

The department of justice has defended the monitoring.

The ACLU, along with the protest groups, is now asking for complete lists of all events, where government officials were watching.

They expect a reply by next week.

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