November 17, 2021

As human rights groups, artists, and music fans, we are calling on Red Rocks Amphitheater, AXS, and AEG Worldwide to immediately cancel all contracts with Amazon for the invasive Amazon One palm scanning technology, and ban all biometric surveillance at events and venues once and for all.

For many of us, concerts and live events are some of the most memorable and enjoyable experiences of our lives. The spread of biometric surveillance tools like palm scans and facial recognition now threatens to destroy that, transforming these spaces into hotspots for ICE raids, false arrests, police harassment, and stolen identities.

In 2019, over 40 of the largest US music festivals, including Burning Man, Coachella, South by Southwest and Lollapalooza, responded to activists’ demands to reject invasive facial recognition technology at their festivals.

Introducing palm scanning devices is a slap in the face to fans and artists that have fought so hard to promote safety for everyone at live events. It’s simply a matter of time before we hear of cases of palm scans misidentifying people in the ways that facial recognition has – often with violent and life altering consequences – but most concerning of all is the fact that this new technology will make the data of thousands of people vulnerable to ongoing government tracking and abuse AND malicious hackers.

AEG is one of the many companies that has taken a strong stand against the use of facial recognition at its festivals. Red Rocks, AXS and AEG must now go one step further and refuse palm scanning devices and all other forms of invasive biometric surveillance. The marginal-at-best convenience of scanning a hand instead of a ticket is no excuse for implementing technology that will exacerbate violent systems and cause harm. Our privacy, safety and lives are at stake.

Signed,

Independent Clauses Music Blog
Get Better Records
Rainbow Nation Brussels
Presente.org
Secure Justice
Jewish Voice for Peace
Roots Action
PDX Privacy
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Kairos
STOP
Colorado Jobs with Justice
NorCal Resist
Ethical Bucket List
Popular Resistance
Jobs with Justice
The Tor Project
OpenMedia
American Friends Service Committee
Ranking Digital Rights
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
Access Now
Consumer Federation of America
Athena Coalition
MediaJustice
Just Futures Law
MPower Change
Demand Progress Education Fund
United We Dream Network
18 Million Rising
Defending Rights & Dissent