Summer 2019 U.S. Immigration Alert!

A Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network
Summer 2019 Issue, Volume 67
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Trump's Wall and Immigrant Detention = Racist White and Corporate Cash Cows$$

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4/18: Who profits from Trump's wall? (AFSC In-depth Report)

Declaring a state of national emergency this February, the Trump administration has secured the budget for further militarizing the U.S.-Mexico border. Last month, we saw hundreds of companies at the Border Security Expo in San Antonio, TX compete to offer more military-grade surveillance and data systems to the Department of Homeland Security. Using larger and larger shared databases, the insatiable hunger for the surveillance and monitoring of immigrant communities now covers hundreds of millions of individuals inside and outside the U.S.

The border wall is already here. Since the 1990s, walls, fences, and other physical barriers have been constructed along hundreds of miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. They are complemented by natural barriers, such as rivers and mountains, and fortified by ever-increasing surveillance technologies, including drones, towers, balloons, and underground sensors. With the inflow of so much data, now government agencies are seeking artificial intelligence solutions to eliminate the more expensive, slow, and potentially intractable human element.

The criminalization of immigrants and the militarization of the border benefit some of the largest companies in the world. Any meaningful public debate about these issues needs to expose these stakeholders, which have become de-facto policymakers. Our new research maps the Borders industries, including companies involved in border construction and maintenance, border surveillanceand monitoring, and the surveillance and monitoring of immigrant communities inside the U.S.

Borders
Borders between the global north and south are fortified and militarized to secure the movement of wealth and goods while limiting the movement of poor immigrants and refugees. These borders can correspond to national borders, and they can also divide areas according to ethnic, racial, or religious lines. At times, these borders cut through ancestral lands, nature reserves, take over resources, isolate and strangle occupied peoples. The fortification of these borders is never ending, using ever-growing physical barriers, armed presence, and technological surveillance and monitoring. The border industry has been similarly growing, with the advent of private policing and the development of virtual border, surveillance and monitoring technologies.

This section focuses on the main companies involved in the militarization of borders and the policing of immigration, and it is organized in four parts with the following sub-sections.

Militarization of the US-Mexico Border:
1. Border Construction and Maintenance
2. Border Monitoring and Surveillance

Incarceration and Detention Facilities:
1. Facility Management
2. Youth and Family Detention
3. Private Prison Financing
4. Facility Surveillance and Security
5. Prison Labor

Immigrant Monitoring and Surveillance:
1. High-Tech Surveillance of Immigrants
2. E-carceration
3. Bail Bonds (pending)

Border Walls Worldwide - with the first example being the Wall and Checkpoints in Palestine
Each section includes a summary of the main trends and identify the companies involved, with profiles of the main publicly traded companies among them.

We hope that this information will serve responsible investors and other stakeholders in asking these companies to step away from such business activities. We hope it will help activists build leverage and sustain public campaigns to hold these companies accountable. Among the companies listed here, we recommend these for divestment.

Bezeq The Israeli Telecommunication Corp Ltd
Boeing Co
Caterpillar Inc
Cemex SAB de CV
CoreCivic Inc
DXC Technology Co
Elbit Systems Ltd
Ferrovial SA
G4S PLC
General Dynamics Corp
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co
Lockheed Martin Corp
Magal Security Systems Ltd
Motorola Solutions Inc
Northrop Grumman Corp
Raytheon Co
Serco Group PLC
Shikun & Binui Ltd
Sodexo
The GEO Group Inc

Incarceration and detention facilities
- Facility Management
- Youth and Family Detention
- Private Prison Financing
- Facility Surveillance and Security
- Prison Labor
- 3M Co
- Bank of America Corporation
- BNP Paribas
- CoreCivic Inc
- Ferrovial SA
- G4S PLC
- JPMorgan Chase & Co
- Mitie Group PLC
- Serco Group PLC
- Sodexo
- SunTrust Banks Inc
- The GEO Group Inc
- US Bancorp
- Wells Fargo & Co

Militarization of the US-Mexico Border
- Border Construction and Maintenance
- Border Surveillance and Monitoring
- Accenture PLC
- Boeing Co
- Elbit Systems Ltd
- FLIR Systems Inc
- G4S PLC
- Granite Construction Inc
- Griffon Corp
- Harris Corp
- KBR Inc
- L3 Technologies Inc
- Leidos Holdings Inc
- Lockheed Martin Corp
- Northrop Grumman Corp
- OSI Systems Inc
- Raytheon Co
- Smiths Group PLC
- Sterling Construction Co Inc
- Tetra Tech Inc
- Unisys Corp

Immigrant Monitoring and Surveillance
High-Tech Surveillance of Immigrants
- Accenture PLC
- Amazon.com Inc
- Gemalto
- General Dynamics Corp
- L3 Technologies Inc
- NEC Corp
- Northrop Grumman Corp
- The GEO Group Inc
- Thomson Reuters Corp
- Unisys Corp

Border Walls Worldwide
Wall and Checkpoints in Palestine
- Afcon Holdings Ltd
- Ashtrom Group Ltd
- Bezeq The Israeli Telecommunication Corp Ltd
- C Mer Industries Ltd
- Caterpillar Inc
- Cemex SAB de CV
- CNH Industrial NV
- Doosan Corp
- DXC Technology Co
- Elbit Systems Ltd
- FLIR Systems Inc
- Ford Motor Co
- General Motors Co
- Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co
- International Business Machines Corp
- L3 Technologies Inc
- Magal Security Systems Ltd
- Manitou BF SA
- Motorola Solutions Inc
- Orad Ltd
- OSI Systems Inc
- Shikun & Binui Ltd
- Terex Corp
- Y.H.Dimri Building & Development Ltd

Border Construction and Maintenance
This section focuses on the main companies involved in the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border through the construction and maintenance of barriers, fences, checkpoints, and walls.

The U.S.-Mexico border extends 1,954 miles, running along the southern borders of California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas. Physical barriers are constructed along 653 miles of this border, separated into several sections due to natural barriers such as rivers and mountains. About 300 miles of this barrier is a vehicle fence, a low barrier designed to stop only vehicles and not pedestrians. Along 42 miles, near four urban areas, there is a secondary barrier alongside the primary pedestrian barrier, further removed from the legal border, allowing for more fortifications and for surveillance and patrols between the two fences. In some parts, a tertiary fence has been constructed as well.

These different border barriers have been built over several decades, with the first patch in San Diego, built in 1962. However, over 90 percent of the existing barrier was built since 2006. We will refer to them here as “walls,” “fences,” or “barriers” interchangeably. Full maps and detailed statistics can be found in KPBS and inewsource’s 2017 America’s Wall project.

According to surveys conducted by the University of California San Diego’s Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, the main drivers behind border crossings are incentives to pursue better jobs, reunite with relatives, or escape hunger or violence. Fear of encountering a formidable wall or a Border Patrol agent is low on migrants’ lists of deterrents. In recent years, there have been historically low levels of unauthorized immigration from Mexico, due to the country’s improving wages and declining birth rate, as well as the 2007-2009 U.S. economic recession.

The construction of walls on the U.S.-Mexico border has spiked just after the estimated numbers of unauthorized crossings went down. The last few years show a record low of attempted crossings. At the same time, the people trying to cross are pushed to cross in more dangerous areas, further east and further away from urban areas, into the desert and the Rio Grande Valley. This results in more deaths from exposure to extreme temperatures in areas on both sides of the border, where people cannot call for rescue, with some of those lost never accounted for.

Construction along the border requires a bypass of environmental and cultural protection laws, as it disrupts the ecosystem and animal migration routes, endangering animals and plant life, and divides the lands of indigenous people.

The border has become a site of extreme violence and militarization, as migrants are tracked and apprehended by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the primary federal agency responsible for securing the border. Reports include sexual and physical assaults of migrants, denying their basic rights to medical care and water, and a long history of separating families, peaking with the 2018 Trump administration zero tolerance policies.The main companies involved in this sector are:

- Granite Construction, of Watsonville, CA (NYSE: GVA)
- Sterling Construction, Inc., of Houston, TX (NASDAQ: STRL)
- ELTA North America, a subsidiary of IAI Israel Aerospace Industries of Ben Gurion Airport, Israel (state owned)
- Barnard Construction, of Bozeman, MT (private)
- Caddell Construction, of Montgomery, AL (private)
- Fisher Industries, of Tempe, AZ (private)
- KWR Construction, of Sierra Vista, AZ (private)
- SWF Contractors, of Omaha, NE (private)
- W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company, of Philadelphia, PA (private)
- SLSCO Ltd. of Galveston, Texas

Phases in the Construction of the Border Wall
The bulk of the barrier along the border was built since 2007, following the Secure Fence Act of 2006. The act mandated the construction of the existing 700-mile border fence, with about 300 miles of it a low vehicle barrier, including lighting, observation towers, and checkpoints. With a cost of over $4 billion, the design and construction were supervised by Michael Baker International, a privately-owned company. Several companies were contracted to build parts of the wall, including Tetra Tech and Granite Construction. Tetra Tech built the border fence near El Paso, Texas and Santa Teresa, New Mexico for approximately $30 million. Granite Construction had several contracts to build the border fence around Yuma, Arizona, Imperial, California, El Paso, Texas, and other locations, totaling approximately $247 million.

The 2017 Proposed Border Wall (The “Trump Wall”)
In January 2017, President Trump signed an executive order to build a contiguous wall along the entire length of the U.S.-Mexico border, provide additional resources to Border Patrol agents, drastically increase detention along and beyond the border, expand the use of expedited removal to the entire nation while limiting the use of discretion in deciding whom to deport, and authorize more state and local officials to enforce federal immigration laws.

Estimate costs of this proposed wall have ranged from $15 billion to $40 billion. In September 2017, six companies chosen for the final stage of the vetting process constructed eight prototypes in San Diego, California. In December-January 2018, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) conducted extensive testing of the prototypes. In July 2018, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a report exposing extensive construction challenges with the prototypes.

The six companies contracted to design and build prototypes were Caddell Construction, ELTA North America, Fisher Industries, KWR Construction, Texas Sterling Construction, and W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company.

Texas Sterling Construction, a subsidiary of Sterling Construction, is the only publicly-traded company awarded a prototype. According to a report released by a collection of advocacy groups, including Partnership for Working Families and the Center for Popular Democracy, Sterling's stocks rose by 65 percent after the announcement was made that they were awarded a prototype contract.

Two of these companies have experience in the construction of prisons and detention centers:
• W.G. Yates & Sons Construction, a privately-owned company, has built a 380-bed patrol station in Eagle Pass, Texas, county jails in Bandera County and Lubbock County, a juvenile detention center in Jackson, Mississippi, a 356-bed detention center in Cameron County, and a 1,500-bed federal prison in Aliceville, Alabama.

• Caddell Construction, a privately-owned company, has previously built the Jackson County Adult Detention Center and Escambia County Correctional Facility.
ELTA North America is a subsidiary of IAI Israel Aerospace Industries, one of Israel's largest weapon manufacturers, owned by the Israeli government. The company produces a myriad of weapon systems, including robotic warfare systems, armed aerial and land drones for border control, surveillance and cyber warfare equipment.

Maintaining the Border Fence
The border barriers require almost constant maintenance and repair. In 2017, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GOA) reported almost 10,000 breaches in pedestrian fencing from 2010 to 2015 with each breach costing an average of $800 to repair. In addition, the GOA highlighted several costly replacement projects. In Tucson and Yuma, Arizona there was 14.1 miles of border fence replaced, costing almost $70 million, or $5 million per mile. In El Paso, Texas, 1.4 miles were replaced for $13 million. And in Naco, Arizona, there were 7.5 miles replaced at $45 million. Granite Construction was awarded an $11.6 million contract to update the border fence in Nogales, Arizona.

In March 2018, the 2018 spending bill allocated $1.6 billion for border security. Of it, $641 million will go toward fencing while $960 million will be allocated to border surveillance technology and repairing existing infrastructure. A bipartisan agreement guaranteed that none of the money will be given to a solid concrete wall ("The Trump Wall"). However, it includes replacing large patches of low vehicle barriers and scrap metal walls with a new bollard-style wall, 18-30 feet high. It also includes new construction: 25 miles of primary levee fencing in the Rio Grande Valley and eight miles of bollard wall in Starr County, Texas.

The replacement of low barriers with the tall wall has started almost immediately:
In February 2018, in Calexico, California, an $18 million project was awarded to SWF Constructors to replace 2.25 miles of bollard-style wall with a 30-foot tall wall.

In Santa Teresa Port of Entry, New Mexico, Barnard Construction was awarded a $73.3 million contract in April 2018 to replace twenty miles of a low vehicular barrier with a tall bollard-style 18-30ft wall. Four more miles of the same wall are to be built in El Paso, and a later project includes 35 new gates in the existing wall.

In San Diego, California, the replacement project begins approximately one-half mile from the Pacific Ocean coastline and extends 14 miles eastward to the base of Otay Mountain in East County San Diego. The existing 8-10 foot high scrap metal wall is replaced with an 18-to-30 foot bollard-style wall topped off with an anti-climbing plate. This $147 million contract was awarded to SLSCO, a Texas-based construction company.

For 2019, CBP has requested $1.6 billion to add 65 more miles of fencing to the Rio Grande area.

More Information about Publicly-Traded Companies:
- Granite Construction Inc: A US construction company. Constructed and performs maintenance on the US-Mexico border fence.
- KBR Inc: A US engineering and construction company. Does maintenance and repairs of the US-Mexico border fence in Arizona.
- Sterling Construction Co Inc: A US construction company. Designed and built one of the prototypes for the 2017 proposed US-Mexico border wall.
- Tetra Tech Inc: A US consulting and engineering services company. Constructed parts of the US-Mexico border fence in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

High-Tech Surveillance of Immigrants
This section focuses on companies that supply the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with the technologies that undergird its high-tech surveillance apparatus, including the database and case management tools that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses to identify and track targets, the cloud infrastructure that powers these data systems,

biometric collection and matching technologies, and the data brokerage services that mine public and digital records and sell personally identifiable information to DHS. These technologies expand the reach of immigration enforcement by enabling ICE to accumulate, query, and mine large amounts of biographic, biometric, and personal data for the purposes of identifying, monitoring, and targeting immigrants for deportation and removal.

This section of the database relies extensively on an August 2018 report published by Mijente, the National Immigration Project, and the Immigrant Defense Project and researched by Empower LLC titled, “Who’s Behind ICE? The Tech Companies Fueling Deportation.”

A distinguishing feature of high-tech surveillance is what the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has described as a “growing network of interconnected databases that together are drawing in more and more information.” As a result of information-sharing agreements, ICE has access to data collected and stored by other federal and sub-federal law enforcement agencies, which it can then use to identify targets and initiate deportation proceedings. For example, under the Secure Communities program - which President Trump reactivated by Executive Order in January 2017 - when an individual is arrested and booked by a state or local law enforcement agency, his or her fingerprints are automatically sent to the FBI’s Next Generation Identification (NGI) database, which then shares this information with the central DHS biometric database. By making any immigrant who interfaces with the criminal justice system - including those who are wrongfully arrested, arrested but never charged, low-level offenders, and crime victims or witnesses - automatically visible to ICE, information-sharing initiatives like Secure Communities vastly expand the deportation dragnet.

As a result of information-sharing agreements, ICE has access to the records of thousands of local, state, and regional law enforcement agencies. Many sanctuary jurisdictions that prohibit municipal employees and law enforcement from aiding federal immigration officials may still be feeding mission-critical information to ICE. In fact, regional and local data systems often contain granular data points such as alleged gang affiliations, tattoos, associates, and hangout spots that do not make it into federal databases and that help ICE carry out raids and build cases for prosecution. The main companies involved in this sector are:

General Dynamics Corp, of Falls Church, VA (NYSE: GD)
Northrop Grumman, of Falls Church, VA (NYSE: NOC)
Accenture plc, of Dublin, Ireland (NYSE: ACN)
NEC Corp, of Tokyo, Japan (TYO: 6701)
Gemalto, of Amsterdam, Netherlands (Euronext: GTO)
Unisys Corp, of Blue Bell, PA (NYSE: UIS)
Thomson Reuters, of Eagan, MN (NYSE: TRI)
Amazon.com Inc, of Seattle, WA (NASDAQ: AMZN)
IDEMIA, of Paris, France (private)
Giant Oak, of Arlington, VA (private)
Vigilant Solutions, of Livermore, CA (private)
Pen-Link, of Lincoln, NE (private)

Databases

The central DHS-wide database for storing information on immigrants is the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT). Designed in 1994, IDENT is used to store, match, process, and share biometric and biographic information.

Due to recent advancements in biometric capture devices and the Obama administration’s push to expand intelligence systems aimed at immigrants, IDENT doubled in size between 2011 and 2018. It has grown into the largest biometric repository in the U.S, containing unique identity records for 230 million people and processing on average 350,000-400,000 transactions per day. The database contains biometric information such as fingerprints, palm prints, facial images, and iris scans; biographic information; and an “IDENT watchlist” enumerating persons of interest to DHS such as alleged and known sex offenders, gang affiliated persons, deported felons, immigration violators, and those with criminal histories. At a minimum, IDENT contains biometric information on travelers entering and exiting the U.S; visa, refugee, and asylum applicants; naturalized citizens; and immigrants who have interfaced with the criminal justice system. DHS agencies, the Department of State, the Department of Defense (DOD), foreign governments, and local, regional, and state law enforcement all contribute data to and query IDENT. IDENT is also interoperable with the FBI’s Next Generation Identification database and the DOD’s Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS). General Dynamics, through its subsidiary CSRA, provides operations and maintenance support for IDENT.

IDENT will be replaced with a new biometric database called Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology (HART). This system will be built by Northrop Grumman, which was awarded a $95 million contract in February 2018 to develop phase 1 and 2 of the project. HART can be scaled quickly, and will have the capacity to store at least 500 million unique identities and support at least 720,000 daily transactions. It will perform multi-modal processing and matching using at least seven types of biometric identifiers, including fingerprints, iris scanning, DNA, facial and voice recognition, scars and tattoos, and a blanket category for “other modalities.” NEC Corporation will provide face and iris matching algorithms for HART, while Gemalto will provide fingerprint matching technology. Privacy groups have raised concerns around DHS’s lack of transparency regarding the information that will be collected in HART, as well as the dangers of building out a massive database of facial images. As of November 2018, the first phrase of HART is scheduled to be operational by April 2019.

Case Management Software

In addition to using databases to store and find information about immigrants, ICE uses case management software to discover and investigate targets and build cases for prosecution. In 2014, Palantir was awarded a $51.6 million contract to replace ICE's legacy information sharing and case management platform, called TECS. The new system, which is currently in use by ICE, is called Investigative Case Management (ICM) and enables ICE agents to create and manage case files by searching and retrieving information from a range of databases internal and external to DHS. According to a Privacy Impact Assessment filed by DHS, ICM is the "core law enforcement case management tool" used by ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). HSI is primarily tasked with investigating serious cross-border crimes like human trafficking, but has also spearheaded workplace raids and provides intelligence support to ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), the division responsible for deporting immigrants. ERO personnel use ICM to manage criminal immigration cases and to query the system for information that will assist their civil immigration cases. The Privacy Impact Assessment also states that ICE's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor also uses ICM to represent the agency in "exclusion, deportation, and removal proceedings."

ICE uses ICM in tandem with another information management system called FALCON-SA, also built by Palantir. FALCON-SA is a link-analysis software that searches, analyzes, and visualizes data ingested from ICM to help agents identify connections and patterns and to produce intelligence reports in support of criminal and civil immigration investigations. From 2013 to 2018, Palantir received $52.5 million for the development, operation, and maintenance of FALCON-SA (see here, here, and here). In November 2018 it was awarded a one-year contract for FALCON-SA services worth potentially $42.3 million.

Through information sharing agreements, ICE also has access to data systems maintained by local, regional, and state law enforcement agencies through its Law Enforcement Information Sharing Service (LEISS). There are a number of database and case management platforms used by sub-federal law enforcement agencies and queried by ICE, including COPLINK, Palantir Law Enforcement, and LinX. These are built and operated by Forensic Logic, Palantir, and Northrop Grumman, respectively.

Cloud and Data Center Services

DHS relies on a combination of enterprise data centers and commercial cloud providers to power the massive databases and case management tools it uses to track, monitor, and deport immigrants.

Beginning in 2008, DHS began to migrate most of its systems to two main data centers in Stennis, Mississippi and Clarksville, Virgina. The first was set up and operated by CSC Government Solutions (now CSRA/General Dynamics), and the second by Electronic Data Systems (now DXC Technology). Customs and Border Protection (CBP) maintains a separate data center in Springfield, Virginia. In 2017, Accenture was awarded a contract worth $307 million to provide data center services at all three facilities.

In May 2018, DHS CIO John Zangardi noted that 29 DHS applications are hosted in the cloud and another 70 are being migrated to the cloud as part of a "multi-cloud" strategy using various providers. According to Zangardi, the two immigration enforcement agencies CBP and ICE, have been the quickest to move their systems to the cloud. It is difficult to discern which cloud providers host data systems that are implicated in immigrant surveillance and enforcement, since cloud service contracts are usually awarded through third-party IT firms that may or may not disclose the cloud providers they partner with. However, as of January 2019 only four cloud providers are authorized with DHS and have the "high-level" security authorization reserved for the kind of sensitive data contained in DHS databases and case management software: Amazon (AWS GovCloud), Microsoft (Azure Government), Oracle (Government Cloud-Common Controls), and General Dynamics (CSRA/ARC-P Cloud). Of these, Amazon has 110 authorizations compared to 26 for Microsoft, 16 for General Dynamics, and 11 for Oracle.

Several companies have contracts to migrate ICE's TECS Modernization Program, of which ICE's primary case management software ICM is a central component, to AWS GovCloud. Both Booz Allen Hamilton and Prizum (d.b.a. IntegrityOne Partners) have TECS Modernization contracts through May 2019 dating from at least June 2018 and March 2017, respectively. Palantir, the developer of ICM, reportedly pays Amazon approximately $600,000 a month for use of its servers. The central DHS database IDENT is hosted on the AWS GovCloud and its replacement HART will be cloud-based. Amazon also provides cloud storage for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a database that ICE agents can access through ICM to build cases for prosecution.

Biometrics Collection & Matching Technologies

To complement the biographic and personally identifiable information obtained from data brokers, ICE and DHS have placed a major emphasis on the development and use of biometrics. Biometrics refers to the capture and conversion of an individual's intrinsic physical and behavioral characteristics into precise, digitized measurements for the purposes of identification and identity verification. Biometric identifiers include fingerprints, iris, face, palm prints, gait, voice, and DNA.

Privacy and immigration advocates have sounded the alarm on biometric systems for a number of reasons. First, there are numerous sources of uncertainty and variation in biometric systems, including but not limited to variation within persons; sensor calibration and performance; differences in feature extraction, matching algorithms, and comparison scoring mechanisms; and data integrity. Accuracy issues and failure rates within ICE's biometric processing and matching systems can lead to misidentification, unwarranted arrest, and deportation. A lawsuit brought by the ACLU in 2013 takes issue with the Secure Communities program and charges that ICE's reliance on interoperable databases and faulty fingerprint matching technology has resulted in immigrants without criminal histories, legal immigrants, and naturalized U.S. citizens being wrongly targeted for removal. Research by the U.S. GAO, the ACLU, and MIT Media Lab have shown that facial recognition technology in particular is more likely to misidentify people of color as targets, which can lead to racial profiling and wrongful targeting by ICE. Second, biometric systems can easily become tools of mass surveillance given that certain biometric identifiers like facial recognition can operate a distance, without an individual's consent, knowledge, or cooperation. As ICE moves towards databases that combine multimodal biometrics with geo-location tracking technologies and biographic and personal information, constant mass surveillance of immigrants might become the norm. Third, with the proliferation of data-sharing agreements, biometric databases containing information on migrants are being linked together and used for different purposes, turning databases created for reasons unrelated to immigration enforcement into intelligence files used by ICE. For example, ICE has relied on DMV's use of facial recognition software to identify and locate targets.

Both ICE and CBP collect biometric data in the field for immigration enforcement purposes. ICE field agents gather biometric information while carrying out investigations and enforcement operations. ICE collects biometric data on not only those it is targeting for arrest, but also on "collateral" subjects it encounters during the course of an operation. Meanwhile, CBP engages in biometric data collection during enforcement operations and at border crossings and ports of entry as part of its Biometric Entry-Exit program.

The biometric information gathered by ICE and CBP are loaded into DHS's two main biometric databases, EID and IDENT (soon to be HART). Tokyo-based NEC Corporation currently provides face and iris matching algorithms for IDENT, while Netherlands-based Gemalto provides fingerprint matching algorithms. Both companies will continue providing these technologies for the first two developmental phases of HART, the DHS biometric database set to replace IDENT. ICE agents in the field use NEC's NeoScan mobile fingerprint device, as well as a mobile application called EDDIE developed by Wexler Technical Solutions to take fingerprints and photographs and scan them against databases instantaneously. ICE offices in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio were found to be experimenting with installing covert surveillance cameras in streetlights.

In 2016, CBP awarded Unisys a $229.7 million contract to implement biometric checks at U.S. ports of entry and exit. Prior to the 2016 contract, Unisys worked with CBP to deploy automated license plate reader technology to screen vehicles crossing the border and radio frequency identification technology to confirm the identity and immigration or citizenship status of travelers. Unisys has also been instrumental in building CBP's Travel Verification Service (TVS), a cloud-based program that uses facial recognition and biometric matching technologies to verify the identities of air travelers. The program works like this: Prior to boarding an aircraft, a traveler's photograph is matched to a gallery of photos maintained by DHS and the State Department. The traveler's citizenship or immigration status is also checked against various DHS and intelligence databases. If there is no match and the traveler is found to be undocumented, a criminal alien, or have been served a deportation order, he or she is subject to enforcement by CBP or ICE. In cases where the traveler is permitted to board the outgoing plane, CBP can use a mobile device to collect his or her biometrics. If in the future the traveler tries to return to the U.S. or is encountered illegally crossing the border, his or her biometrics will be verified against DHS databases and an alert will be dispatched to immigration enforcement authorities. NEC Corporation provides facial recognition algorithms for TVS, and TVS appears to be hosted on Amazon Web Services. Airlines including JetBlue and Delta, airports, and cruise line operators participate in the Biometric Exit program and are responsible for procuring, operating, and maintaining the front-end biometric capture devices that interface with TVS. As of August 2018, TVS facial recognition matching had been piloted at 14 airports, with CBP intending to scale the program to all U.S. international airports.

Because of data sharing agreements that enable DHS to access biometric information collected and maintained by other federal agencies and local, regional, and state law enforcement, the companies that supply biometric technologies to these agencies are also implicated in immigrant surveillance. France-based IDEMIA provides finger and palm print, facial recognition, and iris matching technology for the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) biometric database, which under the Secure Communities program automatically sends arrested persons' fingerprints to DHS. Three companies - NEC Corporation, Gemalto, and IDEMIA - hold the lion's share of contracts with state and local law enforcement agencies for Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems. Major law enforcement agencies, including the LA County Sheriff's Department, use biometric technologies and mobile capture devices manufactured by Gemalto, NEC Corporation, and the privately-held company DataWorks Plus. ICE agents can access biometric information collected by sub-federal law enforcement through NGI and other information-sharing platforms such as the Law Enforcement Information Sharing Service (LEISS).
Major tech companies are starting to actively market facial recognition software to law and immigration enforcement agencies. In the summer of 2018, Amazon Web Services pitched ICE on its real-time facial recognition surveillance technology called Rekognition. In a January 2018 company blog post, Microsoft claimed that its Azure cloud software enabled ICE to "process data on edge devices or utilize deep learning capabilities to accelerate facial recognition and identification." In response to

public and employee outrage, Microsoft walked back the statement and said that the ICE contract in question was not being used for facial recognition.

Data Brokers
Data brokers collect, repackage, or aggregate information about consumers and civilians from a wide variety of sources for the purposes of reselling it to ICE and CPB. A data broker is also known as an information broker, information reseller, data aggregator, or information solution provider.

In September 2017, DHS announced that it would collect and study social media data on all immigrants, including non-criminals and legal aliens. DHS's spending on social media mining software reached $24.6 million in 2017, three times what it was in 2013. One company that helps DHS collect and analyze social media information is Giant Oak, a private firm that specializes in finding "the people behind the data" to "identify illicit actions, actors, and networks," according to its website. Through its deep web search engine Giant Oak Search Technology (GOST), Giant Oak has been providing social media data mining services to ICE since at least 2014 with contracts totaling nearly $45 million. In 2018, the company received three ICE contracts worth $2.7 million for "social media data analytics." GOST scrapes public indices and social media sites to extract biographic and geo-location information on individuals. It sweeps parts of the Internet that are not indexed by mainstream search engines like Google, and its sophisticated search capability uses machine learning to determine less-than-obvious keywords that can signal an individual's criminal activities or immigration status. In 2016, ICE's Homeland Security Investigations admitted to using GOST to identify visa violators. The CEO of Giant Oaks Gary Shiffman previously worked on Nexus 7, a controversial war-zone surveillance project used by the U.S. military in Afghanistan that mined big data to gather "population-centric, cultural intelligence." Data Mining International, Pen-Link, and Akira Technologies are some of the other companies that have won DHS contracts for social media vetting.

Two subsidiaries of Thomson Reuters, Thomson Reuters Special Services and West Publishing Corporation, are also involved in ICE's data gathering apparatus. In February 2018, TRSS, the U.S. subsidiary of Thomson Reuters, signed a $6.7 million contract with ICE's Detention Compliance and Removal office for a "continuous monitoring and alert service that provides real-time jail booking data to support the identification and location of aliens." In addition to providing real-time information and jail booking, the new system will be capable of tracking 500,000 identities per month and and will catalog arrested persons' vehicle registration information, insurance claims, credit history, payday loans, public court records, employer records, wire transfers, and Taxpayer Identification Numbers. Through its CLEAR (Consolidated Lead Evaluation and Reporting) service, West Publishing Corporation provides law enforcement agencies access to a vast database of public and proprietary information, including utilities data, DMV records, real property data, professional licenses, criminal and court records, healthcare provider content, consumer and credit bureau data, real-time incarceration and arrest records, business data, data from social networks, chatrooms, and blogs, and live access to over 7 billion license plate detections. West Publishing Corporation has over $46 million in current potential contracts with ICE's Homeland Security Investigations for CLEAR services (see here and here). CLEAR is designed to interface and be compatible with Palantir's FALCON analytics program in order to make it easier for ICE to "narrow in and locate persons and assets of interest."

Thomson Reuters also provides ICE's Enforcement Removal Operations access to its license plate reader database, a service it contracts through Vigilant Solutions. Vigilant is a leading supplier of the license plate recognition information fed into ICE-accessible databases. Automated license plate readers (ALPRs) are high-speed, computer-controlled camera systems that are mounted on street poles, street lights, highway overpasses, or police squad cars that automatically capture all license plate numbers that come into view, along with location and timestamp data. ALPR data can assist in immigration raids by enabling ICE officials to map immigrants' travel patterns and schedules, their home and work addresses, and their social networks. In December 2017, ICE signed a contract with Vigilant to gain access to its commercial license-plate reader database, which has more than 2 billion records. The commercial database is populated with data collected by repossession and towing companies, which connect license-plate readers to their vehicles to scan plates on cars that they pass by, along with location and timestamp data. Vigilant also has contracts with local, county, and state law enforcement agencies, which share data with ICE and other DHS partners. A January 2018 analysis by the Electronic Frontier Foundation found that over a dozen California law enforcement agencies share ALPR data with ICE through their Vigilant Solutions account.

In 2018, ICE awarded a $2.4 million no-bid follow-up contract to privately owned Pen-Link for a proprietary telecommunications analysis and intercept software suite. The software mines and analyzes telecommunications and geolocation data, including but not limited to call detail records, cell site usage, email accounts, precision location pings, social media, SMS/texts, and smartphone messaging services such as WhatsApp. Pen-Link also collects wiretap intercepts in real-time for tracking and live monitoring. The $2.4 million contract is part of a larger 4-year contract with ICE through 2022 worth potentially $10 million. More Information about Publicly-Traded Companies:
- Accenture PLC, Ireland: An Irish consulting and professional services firm. Manages hiring process for US Customs and Border Protection Services (CBP) and provides operational support for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

- Amazon.com Inc: A multinational technology company engaged in e-commerce and cloud computing. Amazon is the main provider of cloud infrastructure and services for databases and case management software used by the US government to surveil immigrant communities.
- Gemalto, Netherlands: A Dutch tech company that specializes in digital identity and data protection. Supplies biometric matching technologies for the databases used to surveil immigrants in the US.
- General Dynamics Corp: One of the largest military contractors in the world. Provides weapons and munitions used by the Israeli air force against Palestinian civilians. Involved in monitoring the US-Mexico border and surveilling immigrant communities inside the United States.
- NEC Corp, Japan: A Japanese company specializing in biometric technologies. Provides the US government with biometric technologies used to target immigrant communities.
- Northrop Grumman Corp: One of the largest military company in the world. Develops missile systems consistently used by the Israeli air force against Palestinian civilians; provides drones and radars used to monitor the US-Mexico border; and develops databases and systems for Homeland Security to profile, surveil and monitor immigrant communities.
- Thomson Reuters Corp, Canada: A Canadian electronic content and information services provider. Provides its information and database service to the US government to be used for tracking and targeting immigrants and their communities.
- Unisys Corp: A US information technology company. Provides phone services to prisons and data collection systems to the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Border Surveillance and Monitoring
This section of the database focuses on the main companies that support the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border through the supply of surveillance and monitoring technologies, tools or services.

The entire length of the U.S.-Mexico border is monitored by the U.S. Border Patrol, using a host of border security technologies, including 32 permanent checkpoints and 182 tactical deployable checkpoints, about 8,000 cameras, 12,000 underground sensors, fixed towers, mobile surveillance systems, remote video surveillance systems, thermal imaging systems, radiation portal monitors, ground sensors and license plate readers. Beyond fixed surveillance systems, the the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) deploys a fleet of about 260 surveillance vehicles, 300 vessels, 240 aircraft, including 9 Predator B unmanned aerial drones.

Over the last two decades, a series of federal projects have dramatically increased the militarization of the border, installing ever-more surveillance technologies, and increasing the number of Border Patrol agents from about 5,000 to almost 20,000. As of 2017, about 16,605 agents are stationed in the Southwest border region, almost twice as many than in 2000. Over the same years, Congress has almost quadrupled the Border Patrol's budget, from about $1 billion to nearly $3.8 billion.

The U.S.-Mexico border is militarized through the use of military weapons and surveillance systems as well as military training and tactics to Border Patrol personnel. Both have a direct effect on their treatment of the civilian population on both sides of the border. Reports of dehumanization and abuses of human rights and civil rights have increased over the last few years. These include sexual and physical assaults of migrants, denying their basic rights to medical care, water, with a long history of separating families, peaking with the 2018 Trump administration's zero tolerance policies. The main companies involved in this sector are:

Lockheed Martin, of Bethesda, MD (NYSE: LMT)
Northrop Grumman, of Falls Church, VA (NYSE: NOC)
Boeing Co, of Chicago, IL (NYSE: BA)
OSI Systems, of Hawthorne, CA (NASDAQ: OSIS)
Raytheon Company, of Waltham, MA (NYSE: RTN)
General Dynamics, of West Falls Church, VA (NYSE: GD)
L3 Technologies, of New York City, NY (NYSE: LLL)
Leidos Holdings Inc, of Reston, VA (NYSE: LDOS)
Elbit Systems Ltd, of Haifa, Israel (NASDAQ: ESLT)
FLIR Systems Inc, of Wilsonville, OR (NASDAQ: FLIR)
Smiths Group plc, of London, UK (LON: SMIN)
Griffon Corporation, of New York City, NY (NYSE: GFF)
Unisys Corporation, of Blue Bell, PA (NYSE: UIS)
Accenture plc (NYSE: ACN)
Harris Corp (NYSE: HRS)
General Atomics, of San Diego, CA
Physical Sciences Inc., of Andover, MA
AeroVironment Inc., of Monrovia, CA

Increasing the Number of Border Patrol Agents
In January 2017, President Trump has issued an executive order mandating the hiring of 5,000 additional Border Patrol agents. The presidential budget request for fiscal year 2018 included $100 million for 500 new Border Patrol agents, but Congress did not approve this request. Meanwhile, CBP has been struggling to hire agents to fill the estimated 2,000 unfilled agent positions for its required active duty presence of 21,370. Some reasons stated for this shortage included low pay and distant posts as well as the reduced need for more agents at a time of lower border crossings. Despite that, the president's budget request for 2019 includes 750 additional border patrol agents.

In 2017, Accenture Federal Services, a subsidiary of the Irish multinational Accenture (NYSE: ACN), was contracted to help with hiring and awarded a contract for $297 million and up to $603 million for five years. The same year, the company was awarded over $42 million as a minimum guarantee for hiring for the CBP and in 2018 it was paid $700,000 for "applicant care."

Attempts to Build a Virtual Surveillance Fence
There have been several unsuccessful and costly attempts to create a comprehensive border surveillance system to monitor movement across the U.S.-Mexico border, starting as early as in the 1940s. In 1997, an L-3 Communications subsidiary was contracted to give the Border Patrol “digital eyes and ears” by creating the Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System (ISIS).The program was stopped due to inefficiencies of the remote surveillance systems, delays, and cost overruns. In 2004, what was left of the project was morphed and incorporated into the next “virtual fence” program: America’s Shield Initiative (ASI). ASI attempted to create a virtual fence using radar, sensors, and cameras. It was cancelled less than a year later, after a review board found that ASI failed to integrate into the larger strategy of border control. Separate reviews showed how the remote video surveillance system (RVS) did not work and program office positions were never defined. By 2005, the cancelled ISIS and ASI programs wound up costing taxpayers approximately $340 million.

The next attempt at a virtual fence was launched by CBP in 2005 to secure all U.S. borders, and was titled the Secure Border Initiative (SBI). Its virtual fence component, SBInet, was planned as a combination of surveillance technologies relying primarily on radar and camera towers along the entire length of the border. In 2006, Boeing was awarded the contract for the project estimated at $2.5 billion, promising to detect 95 percent of illegal border crossings. Almost immediately, the project fell behind schedule and went over budget. Worse, it barely worked—sensors confused raindrops or leaves blown in the wind for people, an official from the U.S. Government Accountability Office told 60 Minutes. In 2010, after spending almost $1 billion over four years, Boeing deployed the first segment of SBInet along 53 miles of Arizona’s 387-mile border with Mexico, a mere 2.5 percent of the entire border. In January 2011, in response to concerns regarding the performance, cost, and schedule for implementing the systems, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced the cancellation of any further procurement of SBInet systems, and of the SBI project altogether.

That same month, CBP introduced the Arizona Border Surveillance Technology Plan (ATP) for deploying commercially available, off the shelf technologies, along the Arizona-Mexico border. The technologies included a mix of various fixed and mobile systems, chosen according to the type of terrain in different areas. In June 2014, ATP was expanded to include the remainder of the Southwest border - and titled the Border Surveillance System (BSS).

The BSS is planned to continue until 2020. It combines and builds on the previous surveillance iterations, including:Everything built for SBInet, Integrated Fixed Towers (IFT), Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS), Intelligent Computer Assisted Detection (ICAD), Law Enforcement Technical Collection (LETC), Mobile Video Surveillance Systems (MVSS), Mobile Surveillance Capability (MSC), Agent Portable Surveillance System (APSS), Ultra-Light Aircraft Detection (ULAD), and Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS).

A November 2017 GAO report has determined that CBP had completed the deployment of these technologies to Arizona, Texas, California, and New Mexico. For example, in Arizona, Border Patrol deployed all planned Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) and Mobile Surveillance Capability (MSC) systems, and 15 of 53 planned Integrated Fixed Tower (IFT) systems. All planned MSC systems were deployed to Texas, California, and New Mexico and CBP completed contract negotiations to deploy RVSS to Texas. The report still saw discrepancies in collecting and reporting information. For example, stations in the Rio Grande Valley sector recorded assists from IFTs in about 500 instances from June through December 2016 despite the fact the IFTs were not built in the State of Texas.

The Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS or Drones)
The Office of Air and Marine (OAM) of the CBP operates hundreds of aircraft and marine vessels along the U.S. borders. As part of the ISIS virtual border plan, it operated a drone pilot program in 2004, using a Hermes 450 drone made by Elbit Systems. In 2005-6, the OAM has purchased a fleet of 9 MQ-9 Predator B and Guardian drones, operated from four different states.

An attempt to expand the program has been blocked in 2015 by a damning DHS Inspector General report stating that the drone operation was six times more expensive than estimated, only 22% of the allocated hours were used, and that drones assisted in less than 2% of apprehensions of border crossers. The Inspector general concluded that “we see no evidence that the drones contribute to a more secure border.”

In 2017, the DHS has issued a call for commercial grade small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) with identifying capabilities such as facial recognition, to be launched and operated by agents on the ground and collect data to intersect with DHS databases. Three systems were chosen for a year-long pilot test in three areas: Tucson, Rio Grande Valley and Swanton. The models chosen: Puma and Raven by AeroVironment and InstantEye Quadcopter by PSI Tactical.

Starting in 2017, dozens of federal grants ranging from $750,000 to $1 million were extended to developers who proposed ways to enhance remote surveillance and monitoring technologies, including developing more autonomous drone systems using artificial intelligence.

The use of surveillance drones along the border has created concerns for privacy and civil liberties. CBP has wide authority to stop and search vehicles within 100 miles of the any external boundary of the United States. Within 25 miles of a boundary, CBP officials may enter private property without a warrant as long as the property isn't a dwelling. According to the ACLU that includes coasts, and nearly two-thirds of American adults live in this zone.

Additionally, the Predator B drones, underutilized for border patrols, are often lent to local and state law enforcement, without a warrant. CBP offers its drones for air support missions to other federal agencies, law enforcement agencies, and sheriff departments. The drones can provide the location of vehicles or individuals or direct video feed and recording of a scene during an operation or as part of an investigation. Similarly, the newly commissioned small drones could expand the reach of largely-unregulated law-enforcement networks using facial recognition and other biometrics. In 2016 it was estimated that more than 117 million U.S. adults were included in such databases.

Major Suppliers in Ongoing Projects
The 2018 spending bill allocated $1.6 billion for border security. Of it, $960 million will be allocated to border surveillance technology and repairing existing infrastructure.

Integrated Fixed Towers (IFTs) include radars, day/night cameras and command and control software to associate detected movement with picture and identification. Originally, covering the length of the Arizona border with such towers was estimated at $750 million. Boeing subcontracted Kollsman, a subsidiary of the Israeli weapons company Elbit Systems as an integrator to build the towers in March 2014. After SBInet was terminated, Elbit Systems was hired to continue the work on the towers. In February 2018, the company announced the deployment of its third IFT area along the border, in Douglas, Nogales and Sonoita, Arizona, with over 43 towers erected in Arizona so far.

Elbit Systems has further proposed expanding its services to make use of its experience with underground and fence detection and Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. In 2017, the company was also contracted to install a new air defence radar system along the Texas border.

CSRA was contracted in 2016-2019 to support CBP in choosing technologies for the project. In April 2018, the company was purchased by General Dynamics for $9.7 billion. General Dynamics was also separately contracted, in July 2013, to upgrade the Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) capabilities along the border. CBP announced in April 2017 that the General Dynamics RVSS solution had achieved a 'Full Operating Capability' designation. As of 2018, General Dynamics has tested, installed and deployed the RVSS system across 68 sites in Arizona. In February 2018, the company has announced a successful pilot for its Relocatable-RVSS and an agreement with Parsons Government Services Inc. to support CBP with the deployment of six such relocatable systems in Laredo and McAllen, Texas. CBP plans to expand the deployment across the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas in 2018.

The Mobile Surveillance Capability (MSC) consists of vehicles equipped with surveillance sensors and the software to integrate data received. Such vehicles were provided to CBP by FLIR Systems (a system called MVSS) and by Telephonics Corporation, a subsidiary of Griffon Corporation.

Several companies have provided CBP with monitoring technologies devised for ports of entry and border crossings. Northrop Grumman Corporation was contracted to provide security surveillance for all land ports. Unisys is a long time partner of the Department of Homeland Security and of CBP, with a series of contracts to support the Department IT. Over the last 8 years, it has contracts to develop, integrate, operate, and maintain systems that identify people, vehicles and cargo passing through border crossings, using anything from facial recognition, license plate readers, RFID, biometrics and big data. In May 2018, it was contracted to add to these a risk assessment system for individuals and cargo. ManTech International was contracted to provide business intelligence to the CBP to support predictive terrorism risk assessment.

American Science Engineering, Inc., a subsidiary of OSI Systems, provides CBP with vehicle and cargo scanners, their maintenance and support. Leidos has supplied x-ray and imaging technology. Smiths Detection has provided a mobile x-ray scanner for cargo.

The Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS) includes eight sites along the border with surveillance systems launched on a balloon for long range intelligence gathering and aircraft detection. The system is operated by the Air and Marine Operations division of CBP. The major contractor for the system in 2014 was the Harris Corporation (Exelis). The balloons were manufactured by ILC Dover, with system integrator TCOM.

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