

PREVIOUS TACTICS FROM THE FIGHT AGAINST ICE



FIGHTING DETENTION & DEPORTATION

Donald Trump has threatened immigrant communities with one of the largest mass deportations in American history, announcing his intention to deport 1 million people. He has threatened to declare a state of emergency if he has to, sending National Guard troops into sanctuary cities to force them into compliance, and stated wanting to revoke the sensitive location status of schools, hospitals, and places of worship, from which ICE is supposedly not allowed to deport people. These threats are certainly exaggerated to gain the support of his followers – ICE **does not currently** have the infrastructure to detain and deport people in the numbers Trump promises – but they do have the capacity to increase deportations, and these threats still demand thinking through how we might respond to them.

Chicago in particular has been singled out for deportations by Trump. Tom Homan, who will be running Trumps’ deportation program *again* (he was the director of ICE from 2017-2018, *and* during the Obama administration supported the policy of kidnapping children from their families as retaliation for crossing the border), said “We’re going to start right here in Chicago, Illinois,”¹.

What exactly will happen, we don’t yet know. But now is the time to prepare, to build skills, connect with people, and remember what has been done in the past, and is being done now to fight for a world without borders and without detention.

This zine will highlight some of the actions taken against ICE and the violent enforcement of borders, from ICE Watch to occupations. This is not a how-to guide but a compilation of past tactics and efforts, with an emphasis on **direct action and community defense** outside the realm of electoral politics, as we rise to meet this new challenge. Much of this work is not our own – this zine brings

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/tom-homan-trump-border-czar-chicago/>

together reportbacks, reflections, and information from the past 10 years or so of direct action and solidarity efforts, and is far from complete.

CHICAGO

ICE in Chicago

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a federal law enforcement agency under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which started its operations on March 1, 2003, under the GW Bush administration. Since its inception, DHS and ICE have terrorized communities across the country and reinforced the United States' criminalization of immigration, which has been going on for over a century.

ICE has a major office in Chicago, the **“Chicago Area of Responsibility Field Office”** – located at **101 Ida B. Wells Dr., Suite 4000** – which has jurisdiction over Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, and Kansas.

Detention Profiteers

Trump's proposal for a massive increase in deportations also means an increase in detention centers. This will also require huge camps in which to hold people. The ACLU released documents on Dec. 19 from a FOIA request (“Multi-State Detention Facility Support FOIA Documents - Request for Information”) showing responses from the companies **GEO Group** and **CoreCivic** to ICE's request for information on “Multi-State Detention Facility Support for the Chicago Area of Responsibility” for detention centers with 850-950 beds.² Chicago's Democrat mayor last winter signed a contract with **GardaWorld**, the multinational security company known for its

² <https://www.aclu.org/documents/multi-state-detention-facility-support-foia-documents-request-for-information>

human rights abuses, to build tent camps to house migrants in *in the winter*.³

Chicago currently has detention centers for children as well, run through the nonprofit **Heartland Alliance's** “unaccompanied minors” program. Former staff members have spoken out about these centers, describing their treatment of children as “legalized kidnapping” with little to no concern for the mental and physical well-being of the children held there.⁴ Two of these detention centers still remain in Chicago, the others shut down thanks to community campaigns and COVID-19.

Fusion Centers – CPD Surveillance Collaboration

Chicago is a sanctuary city, which means the city government and CPD are technically not supposed to collaborate with ICE – but there are ways ICE gets around this. For example, federal/local data-sharing centers run by the Department of Homeland Security (of which ICE is a part), known as **fusion centers** “already result in cooperation between federal immigration authorities and sanctuary-city law enforcement”⁵. The Chicago fusion center is known as the Chicago Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC). According to a Surveillance Technology Oversight Project report, “Fusion centers give ICE officers a forum through which to request data from local law enforcement databases in sanctuary cities and take advantage of regional surveillance tools, including publicly deployed face recognition systems [as well as data from license plate cameras, schools, and abortion centers], that can't be directly used to aid deportation efforts under sanctuary laws. STOP argues that when cops from sanctuary cities share data with ICE through fusion centers, it believes they may be violating local laws, but the activity

³ <https://itsgoingdown.org/breaking-borders-report-on-anarchist-organizing-in-solidarity-with-migrants-in-chicago/>

⁴ <https://itsgoingdown.org/this-is-legal-kidnapping-former-child-detention-staff-speaks-out/>

⁵ Immigration Police Can Already Sidestep US Sanctuary City Laws Using Data-Sharing Fusion Centers, <https://www.wired.com/story/ice-sanctuary-cities-fusion-centers/>

is less obviously a violation than if the sharing happened through a direct channel.”⁶

As of **January 10, 2024**, Aids. Raymond Lopez (15th) and Silvana Tabares (23rd) filed a notice to bring an amendment up to City Council next week to allow Chicago police “to coordinate with federal immigration officials when undocumented residents are arrested or convicted of certain gang or drug-related crimes — something that is not currently allowed under the city’s “welcoming city” ordinance.”⁷ This could further allow the police and city officials to work with ICE and other federal agents to deport undocumented people.

Chicago/Gary Airport

The Gary Jet Center at the Chicago-Gary International Airport in Gary, Indiana, contracts with ICE to deport people from across the ICE “Chicago Area of Responsibility.”

*Every Friday morning, immigrants who were arrested in the states of Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, including many from Chicago, are bussed from detention facilities and deported from the Gary/Chicago International Airport. The deportation flights leaving from Gary stop in Kansas City to pick up more sports before dropping them on the US-Mexico border. Over 19,000 people have been deported out of Gary in the past decade.*⁸

ICE uses charter plane companies to deport people. **CSI Aviation** is the new contractor for ICE Air, and **World Atlantic Airlines** has been a sub-contractor used by ICE for flights out of the Gary Airport. **GlobalX** is a new charter company sub-contracting with ICE since previous sub-contractor iAero/Swift Air went out of business.⁹

⁶ <https://www.wired.com/story/ice-sanctuary-cities-fusion-centers/>

⁷ <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/01/09/2-alds-want-to-change-sanctuary-city-rules-allowing-cops-to-work-with-ice-ahead-of-trump-term/>

⁸ <https://itsgoingdown.org/blockade-the-deportation-machine-bloquear-la-maquina-deportiva/>

⁹ <https://simpleflying.com/ice-air-operations-guide/>

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BLOCKADE THE DEPORTATION MACHINE // BLOQUEAR LA MÁQUINA DEPORTIVA¹⁰

The following text was distributed by comrades in Chicago on May Day and in the intervening period.

Let's organize ourselves to disrupt the infrastructure of deportation, to make immigration enforcement impossible!

Deportations happen at the Gary/Chicago International Airport.

Every Friday morning, immigrants who were arrested in the states of Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, including many from Chicago, are bussed from detention facilities and deported from the Gary/Chicago International Airport. The deportation flights leaving from Gary stop in Kansas City to pick up more sports before dropping them on the US-Mexico border. Over 19,000 people have been deported out of Gary in the past decade. Non-confrontational and heavily controlled airport protests and vigils sparked by Trump's election are quickly being absorbed into the deportation machine as part of its normal functioning.

ICE is getting more aggressive and wants more infrastructure to detain and deport more people.

ICE has been conducting massive workplace raids across the country for the first time since 2008, including in the Chicago region. ICE conducts regular raids in Back of the Yards and Little Village that rarely receive news coverage: at least five raids have been carried out in those neighborhoods in the last eight months. On April 24, ICE arrested eight people in Highland, Indiana, and another eighteen in Plainfield, Indiana. Earlier in April, ICE agents raided a meatpacking plant in rural Tennessee and arrested 97 people. In the mountains of western North Carolina, ICE conducted a week of raids beginning on April 14, during which they arrested

¹⁰ <https://itsgoingdown.org/blockade-the-deportation-machine-bloquear-la-maquina-deportiva/>

20 people. On June 19, ICE arrested 146 people in one massive raid in Ohio.

The existing detention and deportation infrastructure in the region is not sufficient for ICE's fast-increasing raids and arrests. The federal Omnibus spending bill, signed into law in March 2018, provided \$370 million more to ICE for immigrant detention than last year to be used at ICE's discretion, and could be used to add thousands of detention beds. The funding corresponds to a daily average of 40,520 immigrants in detention, which is an increase of 1,196 people in detention on any given day from 2017 funding.

Despite the recent victories against immigrant detention centers in the region, the motivation that spurred past detention center proposals remains. ICE has been trying to build a detention center near Chicago since 2012. Organizers in Northern Indiana, Illinois, and Chicago have fought off seven separate proposals for detention facilities in different locations throughout the region, but more detention centers are being planned or proposed, in Hopkin's Park, Illinois, Calhoun County, Michigan, and Newton County, Indiana. Further, the struggle to stop deportations out of the Gary-Chicago International Airport is being met with increasingly intense policing.

ICE depends on physical infrastructure to function

This is a call for organizing to interrupt the operations of the deportation machine. Appealing to legislators and politicians for reform is a dead end that traps us in the game of fighting for an inclusion in society that requires the exclusion of others. The reduction of the genocide of migrants to the legislative battle to save DACA – a policy that defines some immigrants as deserving of citizenship and others as undeserving – is key to the erasure of the daily violence done by the deportation machine.

By shifting our focus from policy to infrastructure- the child holding facilities, the parking lots where ICE houses its vehicles, the ICE training facilities, the businesses that contract with ICE, the detention centers, the airports- we can actually interrupt the machine. The way that these logistics have been organized is meant to hide these massive operations in plain sight. These are not only

far-away detention centers, they are also a circuitry that is embedded in the fabric of our city.

Let's struggle in a way that directly threatens ICE's power.

Let's organize against the physical infrastructure that ICE uses to carry out its terroristic state violence.

Immigration enforcement is nothing but a mechanism of exploitation and racism.

Let's make it impossible.

COMMUNITY DEFENSE

ICE Raid Tactics

To carry out their nefarious deportation efforts, ICE uses a variety of methods, one being raids— which are targeted enforcement operations to apprehend undocumented immigrants. These raids are typically composed of unexpected visits to residences and workplaces and have been utilized more over the past few presidencies to meet quotas and criminalize residents.

To expand the scope of raids and meet quotas, ICE commonly relies on collateral arrests, where agents conduct raids targeting a specific individual and detain others in the vicinity as collateral. ICE has also been known to use threats and force during their raids. Individuals have reported armed agents engaging in violent and intimidating behavior, such as breaking furniture, shouting, and physically shaking individuals to create an atmosphere of fear and compliance. I

ICE also deceives individuals to gain entry in residences without a warrant.¹¹ DHS has been known to surround homes with armed

¹¹ Training - ICE Academy Verbal Techniques + Communication for Consent (Undated)

personnel and deceive individuals into opening the door, viewing the act of opening the door as implicit consent to enter, even without a warrant. This tactic has been used to bypass legal protections and facilitate swift entry into homes during raids. Under the Obama administration, the use of administrative warrants also supported raids by allowing agents to conduct arrests based on warrants signed by ICE supervisors instead of judges. This practice enabled raids to proceed without judicial oversight, furthering the reach and speed of enforcement actions. The use of caravans of DHS or ICE vehicles outside homes or workplaces to create a threatening atmosphere also pressured and intimidated individuals into turning themselves in.

ICE has also been known to use ruses to gain access to individuals, detain and deport them. A ruse is a deceptive tactic used to trick someone into providing information or allowing one access to something, often by pretending to be someone or something else. In law enforcement, it's used to gain entry or apprehend a target without a warrant. Some ruses include pretending to investigate a general crime, claiming someone is involved in a criminal investigation, or even fabricating identity theft cases. These ruses typically occur at a residence and lead to the ICE officer, who may sometimes pose as the police, to ask the individual if they can come inside or if the individual can step outside. ICE has also used ruses through phone calls to lure individuals to them. This might involve telling someone they've lost their ID or that they're being suspected of a crime. The goal of these ruses is to manipulate individuals into letting agents into their homes or to lure them into police stations or public spaces, where they can be detained or arrested, often without a warrant. Through these deceptive tactics, ICE can control the time and location of an encounter, minimizing the risk of confrontation and making it more difficult for targets to flee or resist arrest.

Real Examples of ICE Tactics¹²:

¹² Derived from the Immigrant Defense Project
<https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/raids-toolkit/>

- Identity Theft Ruse and Deception to Lured the Individual to Public Space
 - Story 17 (PT): In March 2014, 2 to 3 ICE agents went to a home in Brooklyn, NY very early in the morning. The agents believed PT lived there but it was his sister's address. She answered and told them he did not live there. Agents told PT's sister that he had been the victim of some kind of identity or credit fraud and they had a warrant. His sister called PT and he spoke to the officers over the phone. Since PT worked in information technology (IT), he thought maybe his identity had been stolen, so he told officers to meet him at the local precinct. The agents met PT outside of a precinct and arrested him, showing an administrative immigration warrant.
- Police Investigation Ruse:
 - Story 54 (WDA): In February 2015, WDA's father-in-law answered the door to the home. 3 agents said they were conducting an investigation, but did not identify themselves as immigration. They showed a photo of a stranger and mentioned an unknown name at the door. WDA's father-in-law said, "I don't know him." The officers then demanded to see everyone in the house. When they saw WDA, the officers said that they needed "privacy" and then arrested him.
- Deception (Pretending to Be Police and Probation Officers):
 - Story 104 (IRL): In July 2016, ICE agents went to a home in San Jose, CA around 6:50am. IRL's parents, ages 72 and 68, were sitting outside peeling cacti. The agents, pretending to be police and probation officers, asked for IRL. His mother went inside and spoke to NML, IRL's sister. NML, from inside the apartment, pressed them to show identification and a warrant. They did neither and lied, claiming IRL had missed a probation appointment. NML refused them entry. IRL called his probation officer who said he had not sent anyone from their office but guessed it

might be ICE. The agents outside then admitted they were from ICE. Even though the family said IRL did not want to speak with them, the agents remained outside. At one point, an ICE officer asked NML if she was an attorney because “she talked so much.” After 2 hours, the family thought ICE would not leave until IRL met them. IRL was able to get his immigration lawyer to speak to the agents and they finally left. The family felt unsafe and anxious at the agents’ persistence. IRL’s parents feared they would be evicted because of all the commotion and because ICE officers had initially approached the property manager to gain permission to enter the apartment complex. IRL’s father began to feel ill due to the mounting anxiety and had to be taken to the hospital later that afternoon.

Confronting ICE: ICEWatch/Recording ICE

ICEwatch, like COPwatching, is the act of documenting and monitoring ICE activity. Documenting ICE officers is legal and constitutionally protected, and it is useful for a variety of reasons such as verifying sights and rumors of raids. It can also serve as evidence for individual cases and help document and expose state violence against communities and human rights abuses. Though ICEwatch is a useful tool, one must be mindful of their own risks and the risks you may be putting others in when documenting people’s identity (e.g. face) and location.

Documenting ICE can take on many forms such as writing down what ICE is doing, interviewing witnesses on camera right after the raid, and filming or taking photos of ICE conducting a raid. The following guide will focus on recording ICE.

Guide to Recording ICE

If you spot ICE activity in your community, stop, watch, and document the incident on your phone or camera.

Before you record:

- Scope the situation
 - How many officers are there?
 - Has the situation already escalated?
 - Are there others around?
- Check-in with yourself
 - What are my risks?
 - Are there any consequences if I am arrested?
 - Do I feel safe?
 - Do I want ICE to know I am recording? How close do I want to be from the raid?
- Grounding tips
 - As you prepare to record and approach the situation take a deep breath in and try to stay calm (this situation can be deeply frustrating, so it is understandable if that is not possible). Remember you are not doing anything wrong, and you are within your right to record.
 - If there are community members nearby, let them know you are here to watch ICE and that you are recording. They may not want to be recorded so ask; consent is important!
 - If they express concerns, reaffirm your purpose: to defend them and record ICE
 - In the case that things escalate, try to record in ways that make people less identifiable (from a distance, not showing their face, blurring, etc.)

As you are recording make sure to:

- Get the full scene (don't zoom in too much)
- Say the time, date, and location on the recording
- Describe any ICE misconduct, but don't talk too much. You also want to get audio of what is going on (refer to the threatening and deceitful ICE tactics mentioned above)
- Read the license plate, badge number, or name of the office (if you are able to)
- If you feel comfortable (remember to consider your risks) encourage others to join in recording.

- It is important to note that if you are a target, you should not film, ask someone else to film.
- If you see community members, tell them:
 - Tell them to not say anything and to walk away
 - If they are being detained tell them to assert their right to remain silent
- If an ICE agent approaches you calmly and assertively say:
 - “I’m not obstructing, you in any way. I’m only exercising my legal right to observe and record in public.”

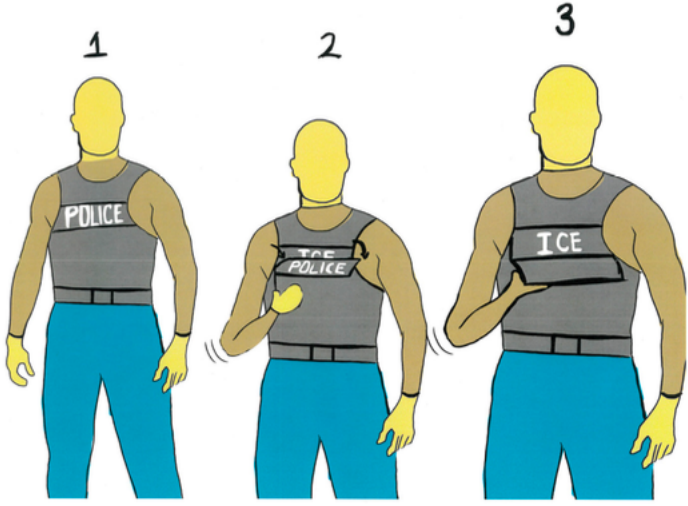
After recording write down the following:

- Date and time of the incident
- ICE Information:
 - How many officers?
 - Any identifying information, such as names, clothes, etc.
- Information about the raid:
 - Did ICE make threats, get physical, use force?
 - Did they detain anyone? Were they searching for someone?
 - How did they conduct the raid? (how did they get into the home, workplace, etc.)
 - What did they do?
 - Did they have a warrant? Or consent?

If you are not a US citizen – especially if you are undocumented and/or have a criminal record – practicing ICE or Cop Watch comes with additional risks. If you want to support, ask others who don’t have the same vulnerabilities as you to document. If you do want to document, do so discretely and from a safe distance and perhaps opt for taking notes instead and sharing that with ICEwatch hotlines.

Responding to Raids

Princeton, 2024 – On July 10, 2024, at approximately 7:30 am, ICE entered the Princeton, NJ community to arrest people in front of the public library. The arresting ICE agents disguised themselves as police, by wearing blue polos and police vest, and refused to identify themselves. In response to this early raid, community members



swiftly mobilized to document and monitor the raid. Together they spotted roughly 4-7 cars (some unmarked) roaming around Princeton attempting to pick up and detain more people. Community members went up to the ICE agents to call them out on their lies and refusal to properly identify themselves and to remind them that Princeton was a sanctuary city. In recording and loudly calling out the agents the community members were able to dissuade passersby from engaging. Community members also intervened by stopping conversations ICE agents were trying to have with residents leaving a predominately Latin American apartment building. They told people “No le diga nada” (transl: don’t tell him nothing) and “vayase rapido! y dile que no diga nada” (transl: go quickly! And tell him to not say anything).

Through their monitoring, documentation, and call to action, which asked community members to gather where the first raid occurred, the community was able to set up a rapid response that may have prevented the detention of more of their fellow neighbors.

Two Reportbacks on Raid Response

Detroit, 2017 – Reportback on Surrounding ICE Vans in Detroit

In the summer of 2017, the Trump administration was ramping up its anti-immigrant policies. It had already attempted to institute the “Muslim Ban”, a set of immigration restrictions focused overwhelmingly on peoples from predominantly Middle East and North African countries. This was a policy largely developed by Stephen Miller who is set to once again be a major policy advisor in the coming Trump Administration. Several generations of Iraqi’s, including Chaldeans (Iraqi Christians), live in Detroit. The Chaldean and Shia communities grew significantly starting in the 1990’s with mass escape from the repression and near genocide carried out by the ruling Iraqi Baathist Party headed by Saddam Hussein. Chaldeans settled en-masse in Detroit creating large communities. Some had been here their entire lives or at the least from childhood. In Detroit, ICE started a series of raids targeting these Iraqi communities. It came as a sharp shock to these communities. ICE transported Iraqi peoples in buses to the downtown Homeland Security Headquarters for further processing and then sending off to deportation facilities in Ohio. An important issue was during this period Iraq and Syria, both major deportation destinations, were in the middle of devastating civil wars and revolutions. Chaldeans particularly were facing sectarian attacks, kidnapping and atrocities including rape and murder. Sending Detroit Chaldeans and others back to these countries were seen by their communities as “death sentences”. The Trump Administration could care less and was committed only to its racist anti-immigrant policies.

Our network of direct action-based groups numbering around only a hundred with short notice united with people, largely youth, from these communities under attack. In hours we mobilized in the streets blocking traffic, trying to stall or prevent the buses from being able to leave, and making a ruckus to get media attention about the unfolding situation of raids and attempts to deport. The Detroit police were deployed to work in conjunction with ICE. Police threatened beatings and arrest of our side and at several points tried to bust up our street mobilizations by driving police cars into the

crowd. Despite hours long blockades and pushing back of the police we were eventually unable to keep the buses from rolling out with those inside screaming for help!

We did succeed in creating a media spectacle and getting the news out there about ICE raids. But we couldn't stop ICE from carrying out their attacks. Over the next several weeks we worked to build relationships with a number of peoples and groups in these Iraqi communities. However, the institutionalized leaderships of these communities worked to counter our efforts, calling us outsiders and arguing instead for legal maneuvers and pleas to the Trump administration. This had a chilling effect on any extra-legal or direct action approaches to fight the attacks. People in these communities were scared and desperate for the safety of their loved ones now facing deportation. It was a hard lesson for us. We were outsiders and had few to no existing relationships or ability to offer real solutions to a government using the full force of the law against these communities. Like a lot of struggles, a lesson is to build these networks and relationship now in preparation for the fights on the horizon.

Los Angeles, 2018 – “Koreatown Popular Assembly: Shutting Down ICE, Building Popular Power”¹³ – Black Rose/Rosa Negra

About 70 activists and community members surrounded and blocked an ICE van in front of LA's Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown Los Angeles the evening of Thursday, February 15. The action was called for by the Koreatown Popular Assembly 24 hours prior as an emergency response to reports of ICE detaining over 100 individuals across the city.

The mass escalation of raids by ICE are seen as part of the Trump regime's promised targeting of “sanctuary” cities as punishment for not cooperating with immigration authorities. This is why it is essential to organize a popular response and resistance to targeted

¹³ <https://www.blackrosefed.org/kpa-shut-down-ice/>

raids which are intended to strike fear in and demobilize immigrant communities. Even the small act of blocking a single van with two officers inside shows that it's possible to disrupt ICE's activity in Los Angeles and organizers are looking to expand this tactic.

Koreatown Popular Assembly: Popular Power in Action

We first discussed the Koreatown Popular Assembly in our piece “Koreatown, LA Fights Back on 7-Eleven ICE Raid,” which reported on the group’s Rapid Response Network that mobilized together with other groups on January 18 to surround a neighborhood 7-Eleven and prevent ICE from returning to the neighborhood to obtain documents from the store manager. While the manager still met with agents elsewhere the mobilization successfully prevented ICE from entering the neighborhood as a form of community intimidation. This kind of mobilization is a form of counter intimidation to ICE and prevents “collateral arrests,” an increasingly common tactic whereby ICE will ostensibly target a specific business or individual but will question and detain any person they encounter. This is how “targeted enforcement” by ICE in reality becomes broad sweeps targeting a whole neighborhood, apartment building or workplace.

The response network was a formed exactly to address situations like these as a project by the Koreatown Popular Assembly. When the nation-wide ICE raids on 7-Eleven happened the week before, members of Rapid Response Network canvassed all the stores in the neighborhood and encountered the Bengali workers who reported the prior raid and requested support.

The network canvasses in the neighborhood with flyers in Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Bengali and English in the neighborhood and operates a 24-hour hotline to monitor reports of ICE raids. With over a year of preparation and training the hotline is staffed with around 30 dispatchers who volunteer to do two to three 4-hour shifts a week. In turn the network has trained nearly 100 first responders who are registered based on geographic areas and dispatched with text messages via an open-source software platform.

OCCUPATIONS, ENCAMPMENTS, AND BLOCKADES

Previous efforts to occupy and blockade infrastructure – airports, ICE offices, and detention centers – have been used to impede the process of deportation itself. It is important to think about the purpose of occupations, encampments, and blockades in each particular situation, to avoid co-optation that can drag us back into electoral politics or concerns of respectability. Is the tactic for visibility? What would this visibility accomplish? Will this tactic materially block the process of detaining and deporting people? Deciding where and how requires research and consideration.

In 2017 and 2018, blockades and occupations in different forms spread across the country in response to Trump’s immigration policies. The 2017 “Muslim Ban,” which targeted people from several majority-Muslim countries, led to the occupations of airports, some of which succeeded in preventing deportations or led to the release of those detained. The Occupy Ice movement in 2018 also led to the occupation and blockade of ICE facilities across the country, stopping ICE from carrying out its duties in several cities. More recently, in 2020, people occupied the child detention center run by Heartland Alliance in Roger’s Park (empty at the time for renovations), slowing for a time to ability of Heartland and ICE to detain children.

MUSLIM BAN AIRPORT PROTESTS & OCCUPATIONS

During 2017 many of the protests directly at airports were able to shut down airports or levels of airports (depending on size of airport & crowd) for short periods of time (a day or several hours). These blockades relied on large numbers of people being able to mobilize because they needed numbers of people to block entrances or fill the interiors of airports to prevent the airport from function, rather than a “hard” blockade that uses objects to lock or block an entrance.

These protests occurred at a wide number of airports in 2017, many responding immediately to reports of people being detained by ICE at those airports. Human chain blockades and large crowd

occupations at the San Francisco International Airport, the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, and O’Hare forced the release of people detained from arriving planes. Successful actions relied on the ability of people to ignore the cops, peace police, and liberal co-optation to block the airports and refuse to allow the normal functions until people are released.

Compiled Reportbacks from Airport Blockades: “Don’t See What Happens, Be What Happens

*Continuous: Updates from the Airport Blockades”*¹⁴ on CrimethInc.com

OCCUPY ICE

During the summer of 2018, occupations and encampments of ICE facilities first in Portland, then in New York, Tacoma, San Francisco, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and many other cities, succeeded in interrupting the activities of ICE at its offices, jails, and concentration camps. These occupations were another important attempt in orienting the focus towards the infrastructure and physical locations of ICE.

The Radical Education Department wrote of the pros and cons of occupations:

“Occupation can be a powerful tool. When done right, it can focus mass attention on an issue and temporarily disrupt the flow of business as usual in an office, school, business, or town or city. It can also result in real class gains. Students occupying of a cafeteria played a major role in saving a number of jobs at the New School; in Philly, the anti-ICE occupation of City Hall helped end the sharing of information between the city and ICE. And as a comrade pointed out to me recently, occupations can be important places for otherwise separate radicals and groups to mix, sparking new ideas

¹⁴ <https://crimethinc.com/2017/01/29/dont-see-what-happens-be-what-happens-continuous-updates-from-the-airport-blockades>

and possibilities. For these reasons and others the occupations should be supported....

[However] They can be reactive rather than active. After a group or coalition first overtakes a space, it then must defend it against an enemy that knows precisely where it is at all times.

A long term-occupation can increasingly drain a movement. The first general law of occupation in the US is this: the longer it exists, the more resources and energy it will need to continue to function. The publicity that may have drawn larger numbers to a camp fades rapidly, along with the energy of comrades. All but the most committed tend to drift away. Police repression will tend to gradually ramp up.”¹⁵

Two Reportbacks on Occupations

San Francisco, 2018 – “San Francisco police raid Occupy ICE SF on behalf of the immigrant deportation machine” – IndyBay.org¹⁶

On July 2, a Block ICE demonstration in front of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services building in San Francisco became a round-the-clock occupation when tents went up in front of the vehicular gate. For nearly a week, the building was unable to physically process immigrants for deportation from Northern California... until SFPD raided the encampment and arrested 39 occupiers in the dead of night on July 9.

Hearings for detained immigrants are held in the building, often via Skype, for those locked up in Richmond, Bakersfield, and other California jails that work in collaboration with ICE. Those set to be deported are physically processed through the facility, with buses transporting immigrants through its gate.

¹⁵ Vol. 1 of “Rebellion and Possibility: Voices in the Anti-ICE Struggle”, <https://radicaleducationdepartment.com/zines/>

¹⁶ <https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2018/07/09/18816401.php>

Immigration lawyers confirmed with occupiers that San Francisco ICE facility processes all deportations in Northern California. The facility was effectively closed for processing immigrants by the occupation, meaning no one was deported from Northern California since the occupation began.

That is, until San Francisco police moved in shortly after midnight on July 9, arrested occupiers, injuring many, and cleared the way for ICE to continue deporting immigrants from Northern California.

Resistance to ICE in San Francisco will persist despite the raid. An already-scheduled protest was held at Salesforce this morning, and another is planned for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, July 10. More will certainly follow.

Portland, 2018 – Occupy ICE Portland: Policing Revolution? Some Critical Reflections -

CrimethInc.com

This reportback focused on many of the common downsides of occupations: co-optation by NGOs, the policing peoples' actions within the encampment. Please look up the much-longer reportback to read more, but also focused on encampments as ways to inspire other tactics: "Furthermore, we call for a decentralized approach. ICE isn't just a building, so don't let your actions be limited to it. Seek out all of the appendages that keep the machine running and strike while we have the power. The information is out there. Find your comrades, form an affinity group, and get to work. Redecorate your local GEO Group building, throw a block party in front of an ICE agent's house, and always hold yourself and your comrades accountable. ICE is starting to melt, but we're just warming up."

On that note...

Chicago, 2020 – Heartland Alliance Prison Vans Tires Slashed – It's Going Down.org

“As for me, I have chosen: I will be on the side of crime. And I will help the children, not to win back access to your houses, your

factories, your schools, your laws and sacraments, but to destroy them.” – Jean Genet

As the realities of school and rent vanish at our backs we find ourselves unleashed into a world of urgency and play. The ubiquity of masks transforms even delayed grocery trips into hunting expeditions guided by howls of distress.

It is not naive to claim that we are the one’s we have been waiting for and emerge from quarantine to lay siege to the colony. Surviving Covid-19 and attacking at the heart of the plague-making machine calls for lots of affinity groups, shared risk thresholds and games to sharpen our claws. It is not enough to someday ‘burn a prison to the ground’ when new forms of captivity are being engineered to rise from it’s ashes as we speak, disguised as clinics, hospitals, shelters...

So just like that, we descended on Heartland Alliance’s driveway, slashed six tires, and disabled three vehicles.

Heartland Alliance Child Jails

In 2020, as part of the efforts to shut down the Heartland Alliance’s jails in which they were holding migrant children hostage from their families¹⁷, people stormed the Heartland Alliance’s jail in Roger’s Park. People climbed over the gates, re-decorated the building (empty at the time for repairs), and climbed onto the roof to claim the building. *Reportback below.*

Chicago, 2020 – Vacant Migrant Child Jail Building Stormed in Chicago on May Day¹⁸

On May 1st a group of outraged neighbors, abolitionists and other rabble-rousers came together to storm the gates and occupy a child detention center run by Heartland Alliance in Chicago’s Rogers Park neighborhood. The child prison is currently under renovations

¹⁷ <https://itsgoingdown.org/this-is-legal-kidnapping-former-child-detention-staff-speaks-out/>

¹⁸ <https://itsgoingdown.org/vacant-migrant-child-jail-building-stormed-in-chicago-on-may-day/>

and is temporarily unoccupied. According to the local news, “More than three dozen immigrant children at a Heartland Alliance shelter...have tested positive for COVID-19.”

This torture chamber located at 1627 W Morse has been used to isolate and punish migrant children who attempted to escape or rebel against their captors in other facilities. The following communique was thrown across the surrounding streets and flung from the rooftop of the facility.

The text of the distributed statement reads:

We are occupying this building in solidarity with all of the rebellious children who have been detained here in the past, those who are still being detained elsewhere, incarcerated people everywhere, and all who continue to experience violence at the hands of the state. With each passing day of this pandemic, we realize, as some have long known, that coronavirus is not the only thing killing us – it’s effects are weaponized by systems we are told to trust and rely on but which are actively harming and disposing of us.

Heartland Alliance, a non-profit organization masquerading it’s sinister program of social control as altruistic endeavor, jails migrant children in all corners of this city, including right here at 1627 W Morse. This detention center is currently empty, not because Heartland has started releasing kids to their families but because the brick and mortar cage is being renovated and re-secured to continue detaining and traumatizing children or to transform it into another type of carceral facility to hold our houseless neighbors while thousands of CHA units remain vacant. Regardless, this building’s purpose will be to surveil, control, and criminalize.

There are currently 42 cases of COVID-19 at Heartland’s facilities. Even before these numbers were confirmed, solidarity demos have been denouncing what in cages is inevitable. As a result Heartland has claimed that singing to the children, demanding their freedom and expressing love, both frightens and endangers them. Meanwhile, those on the outside witness smiles, waves, hands forming the shapes of hearts, signs reading ‘thank you’ and ‘i love

you'. At a recent demo a written plea for HELP was launched towards the crowd standing below after which Heartland had covered their windows with tarps to stop children from interacting with us. Their flustered responses reflect the intensity of our connection and reveals an important truth: solidarity is powerful and our collective action is starting to create some cracks across the prison walls.

We are destroying the illusion that Heartland's baby jail business is anything but an insidious overlap between the non-profit and prison industrial complexes. The pandemic has laid bare this tortured interplay exposing an avalanche of contradictions. It is within these cracks that we begin to grow new worlds. Worlds without incarceration, without domination, in which we no longer rely on systems that seek to extinguish and exterminate our autonomy and joy, and which reject separation from our greater power: each other.

NETWORKING & DIVESTMENT

Since Obama's terms ICE has been increasingly relying on technology to conduct its inhumane operations. The "No Tech for ICE" is a campaign aimed at preventing the use of tech that supports ICE's operations. It primarily targets technologies that use **facial recognition software** that scan public databases, social media, and security cameras to identify individuals, **data-sharing** between ICE, other agencies, and private companies, and **surveillance technology** such as the cameras, license plate readers, and other technologies to track individuals' movements or gather intelligence on immigrant communities.

The main demands of the campaign have been:

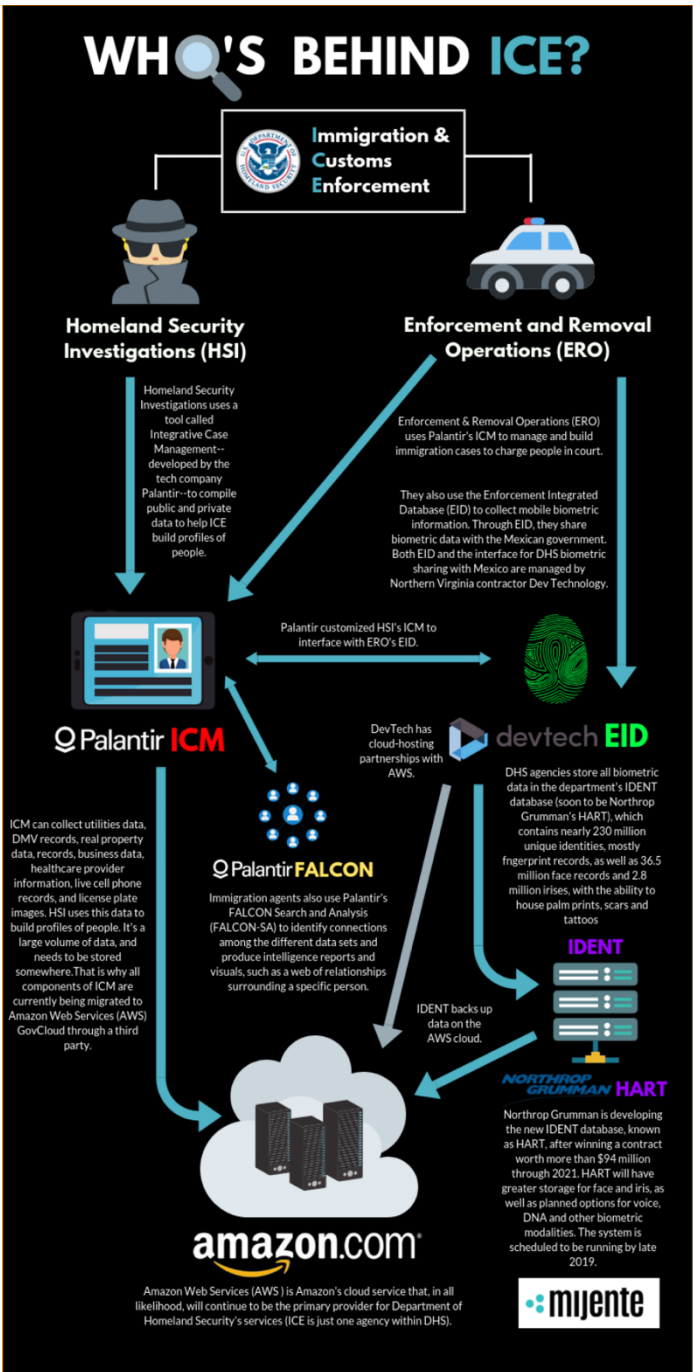
- A cessation of contracts with ICE and other agencies involved in immigration enforcement.
- The prohibition of surveillance technologies that disproportionately affect marginalized groups.
- A commitment from tech companies to not develop or sell products to agencies that violate human rights or contribute to harmful policies.

Not only do these technologies target and monitor individuals without their consent, but it contributes to a system of mass

surveillance that is already disproportionately harming marginalized groups. Tech companies, like Amazon and Microsoft, Palantir, Google, Vizio, Hewlett-Packard (HP), LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, Boeing, and many more, have all faced pressure for their sharing data and surveillance technologies to aid ICE in their operations.

Another important part of the fight against ICE has been tracking down the profiteers who benefit from kidnapping and caging humans. Below are examples of efforts taken to identify these people and corporations, and bringing the fight to them. Different forms of protest targeting contracts and subcontractors of ICE can

be useful in isolating ICE and depriving them of the services they need to function.



Seattle, 2019 – #DivestfromICE Protesters Shut Down Bank of the West – Puget Sound Anarchists¹⁹

On July 11th, over 30 people picketed outside the downtown Seattle branch of Bank of the West, demanding the bank cut ties with ICE. Protesters attempted to enter the bank branch but were barred by Seattle Police Department (SPD) officers utilizing bicycles as barricades. Shortly after, bank management informed SPD officers that the bank branch had locked its doors. The picket continued for an hour as protesters shouted chants, distributed leaflets to passers-by and continued to block the bank entrance. At 5PM participants in the bank shutdown marched to the Close the Concentration Camps rally at Westlake Center organized by El Comite and May 1st Action Coalition.

Bank of the West is a subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a large bank that provides funding to GEO Group, a private prison corporation contracted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain migrants. GEO Group operates the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, long a site of resistance and migrant solidarity, both inside and outside its walls. According to recent financial records, Bank of the West's parent company, BNP Paribas, is listed as GEO Group's "administrative agent" and is one of its leading lenders. Following activist pressure in March 2019, JPMorgan Chase announced that it would cease further financing of the industry. Wells Fargo, US Bank, Bank of America, and SunTrust have also recently pulled back. Without this access to capital, the future for CoreCivic (another large ICE prison contractor) and GEO Group is in jeopardy.

The bank protest was co-hosted by Olympia Assembly, El Comite and May 1st Action Coalition and was organized in conjunction with the July 8th-12 Week of Action to Shut Down ICE Profiteers.

The week of action encouraged concentrated disruptive protest be directed against financial firms invested in ICE prison contractors,

¹⁹ <https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/seattle-wa-divestfromice-protesters-shut-down-bank-of-the-west/>

GEO Group and CoreCivic. In a number of cities, the call was heeded with shutdowns at Bank of the West and PNC Bank branches, but also with protests at the offices of ICE-tech collaborators, like Microsoft and Amazon.

Some people have chosen to dox ICE agents specifically, just as in the past others have chosen to publish the names and offices of contracts and subcontractors involved in maintaining ICE's infrastructure of detention and deportation.

Portland 2018 – “ICE Agents in Seattle Doxxed” – Puget Sound Anarchists²⁰

submitted anonymously. This post will continue to be updated as more information is submitted. Keep checking for updates!

Use this information in whatever way inspires you. Be careful, use security precautions always and do your own research, especially with addresses that could not be confirmed as of 2018. The address corresponds to the name above it.

“UNCONFIRMED” refers to addresses which are accurate as of 2016, but an additional source from 2018 could not be verified. Otherwise, all addresses have been cross-checked in at least two government databases.

Names without addresses means that addresses could not be found in government databases, or there were too many possible addresses. The names and job titles came from an ICE database published in 2017 and from LinkedIn.

²⁰ <https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/ice-agents-in-seattle-doxxed/>

Additional Resources:

Community Rapid Response Guides

**Material taken from “Lessons Learned from New Bedford, MA and Marshalltown, IA”*

LEGAL

Prepare in Advance:

- Create an emergency list of Lawyers that can be on-call
 - General Sources:
 - The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG)
 - Phone: (617) 227-9727
 - MigraWatch
 - Phone: 844-363-1423
- Prepare a database of the names and numbers of individuals who can help with translation and transportation
- Compile a list of law student volunteers who can be called after a raid occurs to support community efforts

To Provide When the Raid Occurs:

- Identify local people in the town where the raid happened that can be ready to brief lawyers
- Consolidate information to help the lawyers
- Pull names from the database of community members who can help with transportation and connect them with family member who want to attend legal proceedings
- Mobilize a number of translators on hand for social, community, and legal services.

SERVICES

To Prepare in Advance:

- You will need a volunteer coordinator. You will likely get a strong response from volunteers but will need someone to match

up the skills of volunteers with the needs of the many organizations participating in the humanitarian and the organizing efforts.

- Transportation will be essential. Either have a deal set with churches or other community organizations or have a contract ready with a transportation company to bring people together quickly.
- You will likely need to create a relief fund for the families. It would be great to have the structure for something like this set-up in advance. You will need an online element to raise money, a community foundation to hold the money, and a streamlined program to give out the money.

To Provide When the Raid Occurs:

- We highly recommend having one place that is the central location for service delivery. It will make life easier on families, agencies, and organizers. It is important to keep a consistent central location for a least the first couple of weeks. If possible, the location should be open for extended hours and on weekends.
 - o Set-up a centralized intake system so people have to report their story a limited number of times. Stories should be collected at this time; this will help in your organizing and media work.
- Create a list of who is missing and where they are being held. This will be essential and family members will be seeking this information. Again, this info needs to be centralized.
 - After a raid, all the key players (social services, churches, lawyers, community organizations, etc.) should meet very regularly, either every day or night or every other day, at least during the first couple of weeks.
 - Create an immediate contact list, so everyone has everyone else's contact
 - Organize a group of trusted people who will check in with families to make sure they are in the loop on the humanitarian effort and getting what they need to restore some security to their lives.
 - Food, diapers, milk, and other necessities are important to have on hand in the first few hours.

ORGANIZING & MEDIA

To Prepare in Advance:

- Have model press releases ready in case a raid hits

To Provide When the Raid Occurs:

- It is likely that in the first few weeks many of the affected families will be too preoccupied with legal issues and trying to put their life back together to be deeply involved in the organizing.
- So community members should organize a resistance to the raid and an event to show solidarity with the families. Churches, unions, community groups, and others will be really important and will also be able to provide financial support.
- Identify strong people, preferably documented, who are willing to tell their stories to the media if needed. The media and others will be asking for stories, and you do not want to keep going back to families repeatedly and asking them to tell their stories.
- Respond immediately and show the human face. Have a press conference that day or the next day and make sure to have affected children and families front and center. Your early framing of the story will be essential - stick on the humanitarian story.
- Use technology to get the word out: Consider using a blog to keep folks updated on a very regular basis. Consider having someone create a short video (2 minute or less), posting it on YouTube, and letting the world know about. The tag at the end of the video should include a request for donations or a call to action.
- If you succeed in getting empathetic coverage, expect a local backlash. It will be important to give the media something new from your side every day or the opponents will fill that space.

