

# Summer 2025 U.S. Immigration Alert!

A Newsletter from National Immigrant Solidarity Network  
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## Nationwide Protests Demand: ICE Out of LA!

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## 6/10 L.A. fights back: Mass resistance erupts against ICE raids and military occupation

Scott Scheffer- Struggle-La Lucha

Los Angeles — For three straight days, furious protests rocked Los Angeles as federal ICE gangs terrorized working-class communities. Sunday saw the largest crowds yet, reflecting mounting outrage among broader layers of the population.

President Donald Trump branded Los Angeles a city in “state of rebellion” and federalized the National Guard, sending 2,000 troops into the city. Within 24 hours, he escalated further — announcing the deployment of 700 Marines to LA’s oppressed communities. The country’s second-largest city now sits under military occupation.

ICE has been rampaging across L.A., snatching up workers in mass raids — and this may only be the beginning of what is to come throughout the country.

Sources say the raids are expected to continue for a month — at least that may be the plan by the fascists in the White House. But, as has happened so many times throughout history, the capitalist rulers seem to have underestimated the resolve of the working class.

This began last week, when Trump’s fascist Deputy Chief of Staff, Stephen Miller, ordered ICE gangs to carry out Trump’s demands and triple the number of detentions of undocumented workers compared to earlier this year.

In response, ICE shifted from mainly detaining smaller numbers at their homes or on the streets to raiding workplaces and waiting outside immigration courts. They are now kidnapping much larger numbers at a time.

Families are being ripped apart as the raids and arrests have spiked, and entire neighborhoods have hit the streets in a courageous defense against the escalating workplace invasions.

## Community resistance erupts across the city

The anger throughout the city is palpable, and the protests over the last several days have drawn throngs of people, both from L.A.'s migrant communities and their supporters. On Friday, June 6, thousands faced off against ICE agents aided by Los Angeles cops for hours, enduring tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bang grenades as the new Gestapo tried to break up a protest at the downtown L.A. Federal Detention Center. The LAPD is, by law, prohibited from assisting ICE in any of its activities, a law they've blatantly defied.

Another standoff lasted all day long near a Home Depot in the town of Paramount and also in Compton on Saturday. In Paramount, the sky was filled with tear gas and smoke from fires lit in the street by protesters. Late in the day, ICE vehicles were pelted with rocks as their caravan was chased out.

On Sunday, the Detention Center became the epicenter again, with tens of thousands in a standoff with ICE and the police agencies illegally aiding the racist attacks. Many thousands marched and blocked the 101 freeway in a spectacular demonstration of solidarity with the victims of this reactionary rampage.

For three days now, protesters have been sprayed with tear gas, and some have been seriously injured by projectiles from the gas canisters and flash bang grenades, but they've kept coming back. They've hurled debris back at the secret federal police agents who had plenty of protective gear. They've yelled and chanted, refusing LAPD orders to disperse. Anti-ICE and anti-Trump graffiti are now visible on the walls of numerous government buildings in the Civic Center area of downtown Los Angeles.

The brave responses of people in L.A.'s communities have been similar to those in the Boston area, Minneapolis, San Diego, Chicago, Seattle, and other communities in recent weeks. Now, the anger has simply exploded on a much larger scale.

## Trump declares 'state of rebellion'

The repressive forces of the capitalist state are momentarily caught off guard by widespread anger and by the people's determination to stop the fascist abductions and deportations. The U.S. ruling class appears to be confused and possibly even at odds with each other over how to respond.

L.A. is supposed to be a sanctuary city – the claim is that none of the local police agencies are supposed to aid ICE operations. But, L.A. County Sheriffs and LAPD have been conducting a war against the community to try to clear out protesters from the communities.

The brass from both agencies say that they're not helping ICE operations, but if ICE agents claim to be in danger, the LAPD joins in attacking the communities. Clearly, sanctuary claims are a smokescreen. Local police forces arrested nearly 60 people on Friday and Saturday.

ICE detained 118 workers on immigration charges over the same two days, including SEIU California President David Huerta, who required hospitalization, after being knocked to the ground by ICE agents and hitting his head on a curb. As of today, Huerta remains imprisoned, facing federal charges of obstructing access to a worksite.

As important Democratic Party figures, California Governor Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass are saying they are in opposition to Trump and his fascist gangs. Both raised objections to the raids in the press. Newsom went so far as to dare DHS leader Tom Homan to arrest him.

But as Ron Gochez pointed out on "Democracy Now" on June 9, Newsom is still ostensibly in charge of the state's National Guard.

Gochez told listeners, "Talk is cheap. Gov. Newsom can order the National Guard to stand down and has not done so. Here in Los Angeles, Mayor Karen Bass is saying she is against the raids, well, why are her police officers aiding and collaborating with ICE to attack the community? ... Those rubber bullets and the gas they're shooting are aimed at the wrong people. They should be aimed at the agents who are trying to kidnap the people in our community."

## Coalition builds community defense network

Gochez is a leading member of Unión del Barrio, which initiated the broad Community Self-Defense Coalition. Over 80 organizations participate in weekly meetings to strategize, help to organize protests, and importantly, patrol the streets to spot ICE agents preparing for raids.

When community patrols spot ICE vehicles, they go to work warning workers and handing out literature to advise people of their legal rights, which may help them step away from being abducted by ICE. When they encounter an ICE operation as it is happening, they use sound equipment to project their voices and let would-be victims know that, without a warrant, ICE is not legally allowed to enter a home or a workplace.

The reach of the coalition's strategy is expanding week by week. A group of activists from Ventura County – 60 miles to the north of L.A. – that has been in touch with CSDC leaders, prevented deportations when a factory worker they had been in touch with refused to let ICE agents into the Oxnard, California, factory and turned them away.

Much of the U.S. media is now clucking its collective tongue to shame protesters over “violent” protests. They may be referring to several self-driving taxis that were torched, harming no one. So far, the violence has been from ICE and the police.

Gochez ended the Democracy Now interview with an answer to the self-righteous condemnations when he closed the show by saying, “The Trump administration is trying to make an example of Los Angeles, which is the heart of the Mexican and Central American community in the U.S. We cannot afford to fail. The resistance will continue. We will be peaceful when we can, but when we face violence, we have every right to defend ourselves.”

## 6/5: Trump's embrace of dystopian Palantir spying tool sends stock soaring

Kit Klarenberg-The Grayzone

**The Trump administration has charged the surveillance firm Palantir with agglomerating the US population's personal data across government agencies, raising alarm about a centralized spying tool targeting hundreds of millions without oversight. Wall Street responded to the news by sending Palantir's stock price to unprecedented heights.**

During an end-of-year investor call this February, Palantir co-founder and militant Zionist Alex Karp bragged that his company was making a financial killing by enabling mass murder.

“Palantir is here to disrupt and make the institutions we partner with the very best in the world and, when it's necessary, to scare enemies,” he stated, adding: “And on occasion, kill them.”

On this front, Karp claimed Palantir was “crushing it,” and he professed to be “super-proud of the role we play, especially in places we can't talk about.”

Karp went on to predict social “disruption” ahead that would be “very good for Palantir.”

“There's a revolution. Some people are going to get their heads cut off,” he warned, suggesting that his firm was producing the most vital technology enabling elites to restore control during the coming unrest.

Palantir is already playing a decisive role in the besieged Gaza Strip, where its products assists Israel's application of a ferocious AI targeting system known as Lavender which directs its ongoing genocide. In the face of public protest, Karp has acknowledged that he is directly involved in killing Palestinians in Gaza, but insisted the dead were “mostly terrorists.”

At the start of January, the overtly pro-Israeli firm's board of directors gathered in Tel Aviv for its first meeting of the new year. Since then, its financial fortunes have improved dramatically.

Throughout May, Palantir's stock exploded, making it the S&P 500's top-performing company. On June 2, Palantir's share price hit an all-time high, a year-on-year jump of 512%, turbocharging the company's market value to roughly \$311 billion. Driving this abrupt burst of investor exuberance was a series of lucrative deals signed with multiple US government agencies since Donald Trump took office, and the expectation Palantir will ink massive contracts going forward.

### **Palantir's products expand mass surveillance at home, Pentagon targeting across the globe**

On May 30th, the New York Times published a lengthy probe linking these deals to an executive order signed by Trump in March, calling for seamless, mass sharing of data across government agencies through a Palantir application called Foundry.

The paper report did not explain to readers how Palantir emerged as a small startup thanks to sponsorship from the CIA's venture capital wing, In-Q-Tel, which gifted Peter Thiel's company \$2 million in 2004. Instead, the paper leaned in to a partisan angle playing on Democratic fears that Trump could abuse a unified database to target political foes.

Nonetheless, the Times provided valuable insight into Palantir's penetration of a vast array of US government agencies, by raking in more than \$113 million in federal government spending since Trump took office, on top of "additional funds from existing contracts as well as new contracts with the Department of Homeland Security and the Pentagon." In late May, the company's existing contract with the Department of Defense was beefed up by \$795 million, bringing it to an eye-popping total award of \$1.3 billion.

Palantir currently provides the Pentagon with AI targeting software known as Maven, which it uses in battlefields from Syria to Yemen to Ukraine and beyond. The contract will last until at least May 2029. The Trump administration's fondness for Palantir has placed its data analytics and storage tool Foundry in at least four federal agencies, including the DHS and Health and Human Services Department. Talks are also apparently ongoing with the Social Security Administration and Internal Revenue Service to adopt the resource. This would facilitate merging all these agencies' datasets.

According to the Times, Palantir was selected to deliver on Trump's order to enhance intradepartmental data sharing by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency. At least three DOGE members previously worked at the company, while two others have worked at Thiel-funded firms. The outlet cited leaked screenshots indicating DHS officials exchanged emails with DOGE in February about merging citizen records, while quoting nameless Palantir employees worrying "about collecting so much sensitive information in one place," particularly given the allegedly "sloppy" approach to security of "some DOGE employees".

While focusing heavily on the risks posed by Trump's embrace of Palantir technology, the Times acknowledged in passing the company "has long worked" with different branches of the US federal government, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In February 2022, Palantir was enlisted by the Biden administration to manage Covid vaccine distribution. Meanwhile, in April, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's "removal operations team" gave Palantir \$30 million "to build a platform to track migrant movements in real time."

Karp, for his part, has infuriated Trump's base by boasting during an interview in Davos, Switzerland in 2023 that "singlehandedly stopped the rise of the far-right in Europe" through an application called PG. The following February, he claimed before an audience at the Future Investment Initiative Institute that by supposedly stopping "innumerable terror attacks" across Europe, Palantir prevented the resurgence of fascism.

"I love when I'm getting yelled at in cities in Europe," Karp declared. "Keep yelling at me... the only reason why someone's not goose-stepping between me and you is my product," he laughed.

### **Palantir penetrates the West as privatized national security state backbone**

For years, Palantir has been at the heart of US-led efforts to neutralize Iran's alleged nuclear program. It has created a predictive analytical tool dubbed Mosaic for the purpose, used by the International Atomic Energy Agency and US officials to visualize ties between the people, places and material involved in the Islamic Republic's nuclear activities. Data harvested and pored over by the resource includes potentially tainted material supposedly stolen from Tehran by Mossad.

Such work mimics the services Palantir has provided for US government agencies such as the CIA, DHS, FBI, and Pentagon. These entities routinely turn over untold quantities of data to the firm to exploit for a variety of applications. For example, Palantir's Gotham tool has been weaponized by the US military to supposedly predict insurgent attacks. In Afghanistan, it combined maps, intelligence briefings, and incident reports for mission planning, leading Bloomberg to dub Palantir the "secret weapon" of the so-called war on terror.

Meanwhile, documents leaked by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden indicate the US signals intelligence giant and its British counterpart GCHQ have relied heavily on Palantir's products. A leaked 2011 presentation connected the company's wares to multiple secret Five Eyes spying operations, and provided glowing personal testimonials from the agencies' analysts. One crowed: "[Palantir] is the best tool I have ever worked with. It's intuitive, i.e. idiot-proof, and can do a lot you never even dreamt of doing."

Local law enforcement agencies are also making use of Gotham. The total number of forces worldwide using the technology is unknown, but leaked Los Angeles Police Department training documents on Gotham, including an 'Intermediate Course' and an 'Advance Course,' shed significant light on the tool's internal workings. The sheer volume of data collected on citizens – whether they are law-abiding, are suspected of having committed a crime, or are simply connected to individuals accused of wrongdoing – is staggering.

This includes sex, race, names, contact details, addresses, prior warrants, mugshots, surveillance photos, personal relationships, past and current employers, tattoos, scars, piercings and other identifying features. Such a cutting-edge service doesn't come cheap, and Gotham subscriptions run to millions of dollars annually. The vast windfall reaped from multiple state entities since Palantir's inception has made the firm's founders very wealthy indeed – Karp's personal worth alone is currently estimated at \$12.2 billion – and allowed the company to go public in September 2020.

On top of the privacy concerns raised by a secretive company with access to so much private data, the practical efficacy of Palantir's technology has also come under scrutiny its Foundry application was implanted in Britain's NHS in December 2020. That's when Palantir was awarded a legally dubious no-bid contract to run the Service's Covid-19 Data Store for two years despite warnings that the company could preside over "an 'unprecedented' transfer of citizens' private health information" into its own database.

The following year, the NHS awarded Palantir a \$447 million contract to build a "Federated Data Platform" combining the medical records of all British citizens. Next, the British government paid millions to a consultancy firm called KPMG to market Palantir's platform to local NHS Trusts, which oversee the administration of individual hospitals throughout the country. Since then, several senior medical officials have warned that Palantir's technology was inferior to current systems, and could actually hinder NHS work.

Yet British PM Keir Starmer has continued his government's cooperation with Palantir, even visiting the company's offices in downtown Washington DC immediately after meeting with Trump this February. Louis Mosley, the head of Palantir UK, cheered Starmer's attitude after the visit: "You could see in his eyes that he gets it. The ambition is there – the will is there." Palantir's Mosley happens to be the grandson of Sir Oswald Mosley, the World War II-era Nazi sympathizer who led the British Union of Fascists.

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## **4/6: Chinese woman detained by US border patrol in Arizona dies by suicide**

**Officials reportedly didn't publicly acknowledge death until inquiries were made about woman, 52, who overstayed visa**

**Diana Ramirez-Simon – The Guardian**

A woman being detained in Arizona by US border patrol for overstaying her visa has died by suicide, according to Democratic congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

The woman, a 52-year-old Chinese national, had first been picked up in California after it had been determined that she had overstayed her B1/B2 visitor visa, Jayapal said in a statement. She was later sent to the Yuma station in Arizona where she stayed until her death on 29 March.

The Tucson Sentinel first reported the woman's death, saying that border patrol officials did not follow internal policies about publicly acknowledging the death of someone in custody – and then only provided a statement after the Sentinel made inquiries.

Yuma sector border patrol reported in a social media post that two people – a 38-year-old man and the woman, both Chinese nationals – had been arrested on 26 March during a vehicle stop near Needles, California. The agents seized more than \$220,000 wrapped in aluminum foil in two duffel bags which officials say was the proceeds from unspecified illegal activity.

Jayapal said "initial reports" suggest border patrol agents failed to perform required welfare checks prior to the woman's death.

"When Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents take a person into custody, they are responsible for their well-being, full stop," Jayapal's statement read. "This detainee died by suicide, and initial reports have indicated that certain CBP procedures to ensure the safety and welfare of individuals in custody were not conducted." Jayapal, a ranking member of the House subcommittee overseeing immigration, said that while welfare checks were logged, officials investigating the death could not verify whether the checks had actually happened.

“As the CBP’s Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) investigates this death, they must provide answers on why these welfare checks were not conducted and falsely recorded, and why this woman was able to die by suicide without any guard intervention,” Jayapal said.

She further expressed concern for the conditions at detention facilities amid an immigration crackdown that the second Trump administration has carried out during its first three months in office.

The congresswoman said reports have consistently shown that the US falls short of its obligations to “treat all detained people with dignity and fairness”.

A border patrol spokesperson told the Tucson Sentinel that the woman was found “unresponsive in a cell” at the Yuma border patrol station on 29 March. Border patrol staff provided medical assistance to the woman before emergency medical services transported her to the hospital where she was pronounced dead, the spokesperson told the Sentinel.

“All in-custody deaths are tragic, taken seriously, and are thoroughly investigated by CBP,” the spokesperson said.

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NISN is a coalition of community, immigrant, labor, human rights and student activist groups, founded in 2002 in response to the urgent needs for the national coalition to fight immigrant bashing, support immigrant rights, no to the sweatshops exploitation and end to the racism on the community. Please visit our website:  
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