

US immigration Gestapo continues nationwide terror campaign

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Emboldened by Trump and the feckless Democrats, immigration police around the United States are operating with lawless impunity as they carry out their fascist deportation operations. In states governed by Republicans and Democrats alike, federal agents under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) thugs and their accomplices in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)—are arresting parents, children and even local officials without cause, a warrant or due process.

Every day on social media, videos are shared showing horrifying images of heavily armed and masked thugs ripping families apart and handcuffing and disappearing them into unmarked vehicles. The detained are trapped in a network of for-profit prisons for weeks, if not months on end, before being exiled to a “home” country—which could range from an El Salvadoran mega prison, to a Libyan dungeon, or a country the person has not been to in years or has no memory of, because they came to the United States as infants and grew up here.

Unable to carry out “mass deportations” with the current forces at his disposal, Trump ordered DHS Friday to hire 20,000 additional agents. Seeking to deport 1 million people by the end of the year, the Trump administration is enlisting state police to assist in the operations.

In Tennessee, which is controlled by the Republicans, the Tennessee Highway Patrol has partnered with ICE to carry out illegal searches and seizures of residents. The racist and targeted operation began on May 3, focused on Latino neighborhoods around Nashville. In the early morning hours, the state police began making hundreds of traffic stops with ICE agents. Suspected undocumented immigrants were detained and quickly moved onto two charter buses and sent to Louisiana.

Since May 3, the Tennessee Highway Patrol has

conducted nearly 600 such traffic stops, with ICE agents arresting 103 people for alleged immigration violations, according to the Associated Press. The fascist roundup has provoked mass anger throughout the Nashville metropolitan area, home to over 2 million people.

On Saturday, a Major League Soccer game held at Geodis Park in Nashville was boycotted by thousands of local residents. La Brigada De Oro, the officially recognized Latin American supporter group for Nashville SC, canceled all game-day activities, while many of those who did attend the game held signs that read: “We are not all here” in English and “No estamos todo aquí” in Spanish.

In a video posted to her Instagram page early Sunday morning, rock singer Monte Mader reported that there were multiple raids in downtown Nashville while she was performing.

“We worked downtown Nashville, the Broadway Strip and there were ICE raids on Broadway in the bars tonight. Places were closing their kitchens early, getting their staff home, posting signs saying, ‘Private. Do not enter.’”

“And I want to be so f***ing clear,” she continued. “That these masked ‘federal police officers’ who are not announcing themselves and do not have probable cause and do not have warrants are breaking the law. ... This is kidnapping and human trafficking.”

In the same video she reminded “these weak masked-up cowards” that after Hitler “the Nuremberg trials” were held. “This fever is going to break. And you will be held accountable for your crimes.”

In California, a so-called “sanctuary” state controlled by the Democratic Party, immigrant police have been conducting raids up and down the central coast. In a particularly heinous incident, on May 4 at an Oxnard gas station, a man was taken in by DHS thugs, leaving the two children he was with—neither of whom had a driver’s

license—alone in the parking lot.

Gas station worker Juan Conches recounted to 805 UndocuFund, “They arrested someone. They left the children in the truck.” 805 UndocuFund noted that “one of the children left behind was 19, old enough to be alone but unable to drive, stranded, and powerless to leave.” Conches moved the truck and helped the children get in touch with their sister, who was eventually able to come and drive them away.

Claims by the Trump administration that only “criminal aliens” would be swept up in the raids were always false, and that reality is being borne out every day. In Maui, Hawaii, last week, a US citizen teacher had her home “mistakenly” raided by ICE agents.

The teacher, who wished to remain anonymous but recounted her story to local press and the Hawaii State Teachers Association, said about a dozen armed agents pushed through her door and forced their way into her home at around 6:15 a.m. last Tuesday without providing a warrant.

“The whole situation was really overwhelming and traumatic for all of us, but I felt the need to speak out because I feel it could have been handled better,” the teacher said.

The teacher reported that the agents refused to look at her identification for 45 minutes while they detained her and searched through her home. The immigration police took down the names of everyone who lived there, which included other teachers from the Philippines, legally in the US on work visas. Eventually, the agents allowed the teacher to get her passport and show it to them, at which point they finally provided a search warrant—which was for a man who had not lived there for over a year.

In a statement after the raid, an ICE spokesperson said: “The occupants of the location were cooperative and HSI was able to conduct its search without interference or any impediment. For the safety of the agents and the occupants, residents of the home were briefly detained and interviewed in addition to the search.”

The Trump administration has whipped up such a fascistic mood among ICE agents that they feel total impunity to grab anyone whom they confront—immigrant, citizen, or even, apparently, a US politician.

On Friday, the Democratic Mayor of Newark, New Jersey, Ras Baraka, was arrested outside Delaney Hall, a GEO Group detention facility, on federal trespassing charges. The mayor, who was outside the gates of the facility when the masked and heavily armed agents arrested him, has a May 15 court date.

Speaking to Al Sharpton on MSNBC over the weekend, Baraka said, “I was put in a cell. I was given a mugshot, fingerprinted, charged with a federal crime of trespassing.”

Asked by Sharpton if “everyone in that detention center ought to be there?” Baraka replied, “See that’s the point of contention here. We don’t know what’s going on in there. We don’t know who’s in there. They don’t allow inspections...”

In a Saturday interview with CNN, DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin threatened that “there will likely be more arrests coming,” including possibly members of Congress. Democratic Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman, LaMonica McIver and Robert Menendez Jr. were at the facility conducting an oversight visit at the same time as Baraka.

“We actually have body camera footage of some of these members of Congress assaulting our ICE enforcement officers, including body slamming a female ICE officer. So we will be showing that to viewers very shortly,” McLaughlin claimed.

The incredulous CNN host replied, “You say a video of members of Congress body slamming ICE officials?” McLaughlin falsely said, “That’s correct sir, it’s disgusting.”

The CNN host replied, “Are you suggesting that members of Congress will be arrested who were there yesterday?”

“This is an ongoing investigation, and that is definitely on the table,” replied the DHS spokeswoman.



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