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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS' GROUPS DEMAND DATA COLLECTED FROM ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION PROGRAM

"ICE's reluctance to share what data it's acquiring and how it's using it should give us all pause. We know ICE has not changed their practices, just enhanced them through e-carceration."

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today Just Futures Law, Mijente Support Committee, and Community Justice Exchange sued Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for access to documents that show what data the agency is collecting from individuals placed in the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) program and how the agency is using that data. ISAP is better known as an "alternatives to detention" program through the private contractor B.I. Incorporated, a subsidiary of the GEO Group. The program subjects immigrants to invasive surveillance through the use of facial and voice recognition technology as well as GPS tracking.

The organizations are being represented by the Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic of UC Berkeley School of Law in their fight to acquire information about the growing digital detention practices, including the use of the SmartLINK application and other technological extensions of detention.

"ICE has aggressively grown its e-carceration program in recent years, largely without oversight or public debate," said **Jacinta Gonzalez, the senior campaign director at Mijente**. "There are already 200,000 people in this program, soon to be 400,000 if the current administration has its way, all intensely surveilled. At the very least, we deserve to know how ICE is conducting this program and what data it's collecting."

"ICE's reluctance to share what data it's acquiring and how it's using it should give us all pause," said **Sejal Zota, Legal Director for Just Futures Law**. "We know ICE has not changed their practices, just enhanced them through e-carceration. And we worry about who ICE and B.I. are

sharing this data with, and who they might share or sell the data to in the future. It's all the more concerning given the rising number of people under ICE surveillance."

"Given ICE's history of surveillance and data abuses that drive its detention and deportation machine, it's no surprise that the agency is holding information about its e-carceration program behind closed doors," said **Aly Panjwani, Take Back Tech Fellow for Just Futures Law**. "ICE must give up these records now and end the program with B.I. Incorporated who is profiting from the digital caging of immigrant communities."

"ICE's data creation and collection practices are shrouded in secrecy," said **Ana María Rivera-Forastieri, Migrant Justice Organizing Director at Community Justice Exchange**. "SmartLink and the ISAP program are the latest manifestations of ICE's long history of using data and technology to surveil and attempt to control our communities and must be stopped."

As of March 2022, the number of individuals placed in the ISAP program has risen to 216,000. President Biden's FY23 budget request would add \$527 million for ICE's digital prisons and for "continued expansion and reliance" on e-carceration tools. Back in February 2022, 25 members of Congress [sent a letter](#) to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas to express concern over the drastic increase in ICE's ISAP. The letter was signed by 176 organizations.

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Just Futures Law is a transformative legal organization that defends and builds the power of immigrants' rights and criminal justice organizers and base-building community groups working to disrupt and dismantle our deportation and mass incarceration systems. Follow us [@JustFuturesLaw](#).

Mijente Support Committee is a national organization that coordinates and organizes with its members in several states to address issues relating to immigration enforcement and Latinx political participation.

Community Justice Exchange is a national hub for developing, sharing, and experimenting with tactical interventions, strategic organizing practices, and innovative organizing tools toward prison industrial complex abolition.