STATE AND LOCAL POLICE ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS

Michael J. Wishnie*

Federal law enforcement agencies responded to the attacks of September 11, 2001, with forceful initiatives directed at noncitizens and their communities. Several of these measures raise grave civil rights concerns. Quite apart from investigations prompted by individualized leads, officials have singled out Arab, Muslim, and South Asian immigrants for "voluntary" interviews, fingerprint registration, arrest, and deportation, based merely on these individuals' membership in certain racial, ethnic, religious, or gender groups. Federal

* Professor of Clinical Law, New York University. I gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Filomen D'Agostino and Max E. Greenberg Research Fund at the New York University School of Law. I thank Anil Kalhan and Peter Markowitz for their comments and Oona Peterson for invaluable research assistance.

1 See DOJ Orders Incentives, 'Voluntary' Interviews of Aliens To Obtain Info on Terrorists, 78 INTERPRETER RELEASES 1816, 1818 (2001) (discussing interview guidelines); Gary Fields et al., U.S. Draws Up List of over 5,000 Men It Wants Interviewed in Terrorism Probe, WALL ST. J., Nov. 14, 2001, at A6 (describing planned interview program). The program was expanded in spring 2002. See New Round of Interviews Planned with Foreigners, WALL ST. J., Mar. 21, 2002, at A8 (noting a second round of terrorism-related interviews). In addition to civil rights criticisms of the interview program, law enforcement officials attacked its effectiveness. See, e.g., Jim McGee, Ex-FBI Officials Criticize Tactics on Terrorism, WASH. POST, Nov. 28, 2001, at A1 (quoting a former FBI assistant director who stated that the voluntary interview program was from "the Perry Mason School of Law Enforcement, where you get them in there and they confess. Well, it just doesn't work that way. It is ridiculous. You say, 'Tell me everything you know,' and they give you the recipe to Mom's chicken soup.").


3 See Memorandum from Larry D. Thompson, Deputy Attorney General, to the Commissioner of the INS, the Director of the FBI, the Director of the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office (Jan. 25, 2002) [hereinafter Absconder Apprehension Memo] (describing the Absconder Apprehension Initiative that targets Arab and Muslim immigrants) (copy on file with author). For an excellent overall analysis of these programs and others targeting noncitizens since September 11, see DAVID COLE, ENEMY ALIENS: DOUBLE STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM (2003) (arguing that these measures may be politically easy but are constitutionally suspect).
officials have subjected many arrestees to secret or prolonged detention, without access to counsel, witnesses, or family members, sometimes without charge or for extended periods beyond the conclusion of deportation proceedings.⁴

In the nearly three years since the September 11 attacks, some of these initiatives have waned,⁵ but one that may come to rank among the most dangerous and enduring has seemingly gathered steam: the determination of the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ"), as well as some members of Congress,⁶ to enlist state and local police in the routine enforcement of federal immigration laws, criminal and civil alike.

Over the past century, individual police departments have occasionally participated in federal immigration enforcement,⁷ but the strategy rapidly became central to the DOJ’s post-September 11 "war on terror." First, in early 2002, the media reported that the DOJ had abandoned its long-standing view that Congress has preempted state and local police from enforcing civil immigration laws, concluding instead that these law enforcement officials have the “inherent authority” to enforce federal immigration law,⁸ and senior

---


⁵ The government has not held a third round of "voluntary" interviews, for instance, and the FBI and Department of Justice have reformed some of the practices that led to extended detention of noncitizens in the first six months after the attacks. See Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice, Analysis of the Response by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to Recommendations in the OIG’s December 2003 Report on the Abuse of September 11 Detainees at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York (Mar. 2004), available at http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/special/0312/response.pdf (acknowledging improved procedures for detention of noncitizens in some areas and noting continuing deficiencies). The Justice Department also suspended some of the NSEERS registration requirements, while continuing others in force. See Suspending the 30-day and Annual Interview Requirements, supra note 2 (outlining the suspension of the previous program).


⁷ See infra note 28 and accompanying text.

administration officials soon confirmed the reports. When asked to release to the public this secret new policy, the DOJ refused.

Second, in late 2001, the INS Commissioner testified before Congress that INS would begin entering certain categories of civil immigration information into the FBI’s main criminal database, the National Crime Information Center ("NCIC"), which is accessed millions of times each day by state or local police. Such a move would enable the FBI to advise state and local police, via the NCIC database, to make immigration arrests when stopping or questioning persons they might encounter. Subsequently, the Attorney General announced that further categories of administrative immigration information would be entered into the NCIC and disseminated to state

---


11 See Statement of James W. Ziglar, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, before the House Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, (Dec. 5, 2001), at http://uscis.gov/graphics/aboutus/congress/testimonies/2001/ziglar_120501.pdf (last visited May 6, 2004) (testifying regarding plan to enter immigration “absconder” records into NCIC); see also Unified Agenda: Statement of Regulatory Priorities, 67 Fed. Reg. 74,158, 74,159 (Dec. 9, 2002) [hereinafter DOJ Regulatory Priorities] (“In the AAI [Absconder Apprehension Initiative], the Service has begun reviewing the files of absconders to enter appropriate records into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database . . . .”); Chris Adams, INS To Put in Federal Criminal Databases the Names of People Ordered Deported, WALL ST. J., Dec. 6, 2001, at A22 (reporting statement of Commissioner and agency spokesperson that INS will start data entry “immediately,” but task will take six to twelve months).
and local police upon inquiry.\textsuperscript{12} In December 2003, government officials announced plans to add still further categories of immigration data to the NCIC, including student visa violators.\textsuperscript{13} Relying on the information in the NCIC database, local police around the nation have begun to make immigration arrests of persons encountered in routine traffic stops and other ordinary police-civilian encounters.\textsuperscript{14}

Finally, through various means, senior DOJ officials have encouraged reluctant state and local police departments to make immigration enforcement a local priority. The Attorney General has urged police officials to make immigration arrests,\textsuperscript{15} and his senior staff have attended meetings of state and local law enforcement officials to press them to enforce federal immigration laws in the course of ordinary policing.\textsuperscript{16}

Together, these initiatives mark a sea change in the traditional understanding that federal immigration laws are enforced exclusively by federal agents, with local policing priorities set principally by local officials. The federal effort to enlist, or even conscript,\textsuperscript{17} state and local police in routine immigration enforcement has also prompted numerous policy criticisms. Law enforcement officials have objected that such a program will deter crime reporting by noncitizens, is an unfunded mandate, will divert resources from local policing priorities, and may expose local police to liability for wrongful ar-

\textsuperscript{12} See Ashcroft, NSEER Remarks, supra note 9, at *3 (announcing new regulations requiring registration by many immigrants and stating, "[w]hen aliens violate these rules, we will place their photographs, fingerprints, and information in the National Crime Information Center (or NCIC) system").

\textsuperscript{13} Minutes from the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Advisory Policy Board Meeting 28-29 (Dec. 3–4, 2008) (copy on file with author). The Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") subsequently retreated from its announcement that additional immigration records would be added to the NCIC. See Letter from F. Franklin Amanat, Assistant United States Attorney, to Michael J. Wishnie and Mayra Peters-Quintero (Feb. 27, 2004) (copy on file with author) [hereinafter Amanat Letter] (stating FBI and DHS averment that "they do not presently have the intention" to add two further categories of immigration records to the NCIC).

\textsuperscript{14} See Nina Bernstein, Crime Database Misused for Civil Issues, Suit Says, N.Y. TiMES, Dec. 17, 2003, at A10 (reporting on arrests in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, and other cities); see also Cam Simpson et al., Immigration Crackdown Shatters Muslims' Lives, CHI. TRIB., Nov. 16, 2003, at A1 (reporting on arrest of Amir Shah, car wash supervisor found sleeping in car waiting for business to open, by Schaumburg, Illinois, police officers, on basis of Shah’s old deportation order).

\textsuperscript{15} See, e.g., Casey Letter, supra note 9 (encouraging police enforcement of federal immigration law’s pursuant to OLC determination that state and local police possess “inherent authority” to do so).

\textsuperscript{16} See, e.g., Minutes from the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Advisory Policy Board Meeting 45-48 (June 4–5, 2003) (noting statements made by Kris Kobach, Office of the Attorney General, urging state and local police officials in audience to make immigration arrests in course of ordinary policing activities).

\textsuperscript{17} The CLEAR Act now pending in Congress would mandate state and local police enforcement of immigration laws as a condition of receipt of certain federal funds. See Criminal Alien Removal Act, H.R. 2671, 108th Cong. (2003).
Civil rights and immigration policy organizations have condemned the effort as likely to increase racial profiling by state and local police, and as undermining social unity by discouraging noncitizens from accessing the police, fire, hospital, school, and a myriad of other local services.

In this Article, I first consider the validity and implications of the administration’s determination that state and local police possess the “inherent authority” under federal law to make immigration arrests. Part II examines the lawfulness of a chief FBI method adopted to encourage such arrests, namely the use of its NCIC database to disseminate immigration status information to state and local police. In Part III, I consider some of the implications of state and local immigration enforcement for racial profiling and selective enforcement.

I. VALIDITY OF LOCAL ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS

In the early years of the nation, there was little federal regulation of immigration, in large part because disagreements over slavery prevented the development of national legislation. From nearly the moment Congress began to develop federal immigration policies during the Reconstruction Era, however, it has been widely understood and accepted that the federal government possesses a plenary and exclusive power to regulate immigration, and that the national government’s exercise of this power has wholly ousted any state role in regulating “entrance and abode,” the classic scope of immigration law.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized these principles over the course of more than a century, emphasizing that the power to regulate immigration “belongs to Congress, and not to the states.” More recently, the Supreme Court has explained that the “[p]ower to

---

20 See, e.g., CHISHTI, supra note 2, at 80.
21 See GERALD L. NEUMAN, STRANGERS TO THE CONSTITUTION: IMMIGRANTS, BORDERS, AND FUNDAMENTAL LAW 51 (1996) (“The uncoupling of migration from slavery as a result of the Civil War made federal regulation possible . . . .”).
23 Chy Lung v. Freeman, 92 U.S. 275, 280 (1875) (invalidating state inspection and bond requirements for arriving noncitizens); see also Henderson v. Mayor of New York, 92 U.S. 259, 273 (1876) (invalidating state tax and bond rules for arriving noncitizens); The Passenger Cases, 48 U.S. (7 How.) 282 (1849) (invalidating state taxes on arriving immigrants).
regulate immigration is unquestionably exclusively a federal power.\textsuperscript{24} In a case involving a rare state effort to engage in direct immigration regulation, the Court easily found the state scheme preempted by the exclusive federal power.\textsuperscript{25} The preemptive force of the federal immigration power is so great that it can bar even state social or economic legislation discriminating against immigrants.\textsuperscript{26} Nor may this constitutional power to regulate immigration be devolved by statute or executive decree to state or local authorities, because the federal immigration power is "incapable of transfer" and "cannot be granted away."\textsuperscript{27}

Beyond immigration policy making, the settled principle that immigration regulation is exclusively a federal concern has long guided congressional enactments regarding state or local enforcement of federal immigration laws. Thus, although individual police officials have occasionally directed their departments to enforce immigration laws,\textsuperscript{28} on the whole, enforcement of the immigration statutes has traditionally been the province of federal immigration officials. Congress's extensive regulation of immigration enforcement has preempted, directly or by implication, state and local arrest authority. This is true for both the civil provisions of the immigration statutes, governing deportation and exclusion proceedings (now jointly referred to as "removal" proceedings),\textsuperscript{29} and the numerous criminal provisions of the immigration laws, such as those establishing criminal liability for entry without inspection,\textsuperscript{30} aiding or assisting an-

\textsuperscript{24} De Canas v. Bica, 424 U.S. 351, 354 (1976); see also Hampton v. Mow Sun Wong, 426 U.S. 88, 101 n.21 (1976) ("[T]he authority to control immigration is... vested solely in the Federal Government, rather than the States... ").

\textsuperscript{25} See Hines v. Davidowitz, 312 U.S. 52, 73-74 (1941) (holding that a state registration system for noncitizens was preempted by federal law).

\textsuperscript{26} See, e.g., Toll v. Moreno, 458 U.S. 1, 17 (1982) (holding the state denial of student financial aid to certain visa holders was preempted); Graham v. Richardson, 403 U.S. 365, 376-80 (1971) (holding state welfare discrimination against legal permanent residents was preempted); Takahashi v. Fish & Game Comm'n, 334 U.S. 410, 419 (1948) (holding a state alienage restriction on commercial fishing licenses was preempted).

\textsuperscript{27} Chae Chan Ping v. United States, 130 U.S. 581, 609 (1889); see also Wishnie, supra note 22, at 509-11 (discussing the federal government's power to regulate its borders).


\textsuperscript{29} See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. §§ 1229-1229a (1997) (governing initiation and conduct of removal proceedings). There are also immigration provisions that establish civil fines for certain misconduct. See, e.g., id. § 1324a(e)(4), (5) (imposing civil fines for knowingly hiring or employing an unauthorized immigrant); id. § 1324b(g) (imposing civil fines for discrimination in employment based on citizenship status or national origin).

other's illegal entry, or engaging in a pattern or practice of knowingly hiring or employing unauthorized workers.

Indeed, for many years the DOJ was of the view that state and local police were not empowered to enforce civil immigration laws. Commentators endorsed the conclusion that state and local police lacked authority to enforce civil immigration laws. Further, even before the 1996 amendments clarified Congress's intent to preempt state and local immigration enforcement except as expressly provided in statute, some scholars concluded that police were preempted from enforcing most criminal immigration laws.

The courts have had few occasions to address the scope of state or local authority to enforce federal immigration laws, and have not yet examined the question in any detail. In an early brush with these issues, the Ninth Circuit in *Gonzales v. City of Peoria* rejected a preemption challenge to an Arizona city police policy of making arrests for criminal violations of the immigration laws, reasoning that Congress had not "occupied the field of criminal immigration enforcement." By contrast, the Ninth Circuit "assume[d] that the civil provisions" of federal immigration law implicitly preempt any state or local

---

51 Id. § 1327.

52 Id. § 1324a(f). Other criminal immigration provisions include penalties for willful failure to depart after entry of a removal order, id. § 1255; willful failure to comply with immigrant registration requirements, id. § 1306(a); willful failure to disclose that one has, on behalf of any person and for a fee or other compensation, assisted in preparing a false or fraudulent immigration application, id. § 1324c(e); and importation of a noncitizen for immoral purpose, id. § 1328.

53 1996 OLC Memo, supra note 8; see also Linda Reyna Yañez & Alfonso Soto, *Local Police Involvement in the Enforcement of Immigration Law*, 1 HISP. L.J. 9, 36 (1994) (quoting a 1978 DOJ press release indicating that "local police should refrain from detaining 'any person not suspected of a crime, solely on the ground that they may be deportable aliens'").


55 See Manheim, supra note 34, at 981. He noted:

Unsupervised enforcement by local police not only undermines the constitutional and pragmatic requirements for "uniform" immigration laws, it runs the risk of complicating the nation's diplomatic relations. "Effectuation of federal immigration policy is not a matter that can be left to the vagaries of state arrest and detention law nor to the discretion of the local police officer."

Id. (quoting People v. Barajas, 147 Cal. Rptr. 195, 205 (Cal. Ct. App. 1978) (Reynoso, J., dissenting)) (footnotes omitted); Cecilia Renn, Comment, *State and Local Enforcement of the Criminal Immigration Statutes and the Preemption Doctrine*, 41 U. MIAMI L. REV. 999, 1002 (1987) (arguing that "state and local arrests for criminal immigration violations are likely to thwart critical federal interests in the immigration context" and further that "immigration regulation must be uniform").

56 722 F.2d 468, 475 (9th Cir. 1983) (emphasis added); see also Barajas, 147 Cal. Rptr. at 199 (upholding criminal immigration arrest by local police officers).
authority. A year after the Gonzales decision, the Tenth Circuit concluded in a brief opinion that a state trooper had the authority to make an arrest for a criminal immigration violation. In the years since 1996, when Congress clarified its scheme for local immigration enforcement, the Tenth Circuit has adhered to the view that police possess broad authority to enforce criminal immigration provisions, albeit with dicta that seemingly recognizes an authority to enforce civil immigration laws as well. By contrast, in the years after the 1996 amendments two other courts of appeals have described state and local police authority to enforce immigration laws as “doubtful,” “questionable,” and, at best, “uncertain[].”

Nevertheless, in 2002, the Department of Justice concluded that state and local police possess the “inherent authority” to enforce federal immigration laws, criminal and civil. In subsequent public statements, the Attorney General, White House counsel, and other senior government officials have confirmed that in their view state and local police may arrest any immigration violator—civil or criminal—listed in the NCIC database. Although the Department of Justice has refused to disclose the scope or analysis of the OLC opinion

---

57 Gonzales, 722 F.2d at 474–75 (emphasis added); see also Jeff Lewis, et al., Authority of State and Local Officers To Arrest Aliens Suspected of Civil Infractions of Federal Immigration Law, 7 BENDER’S IMMIGR. Bull. 944 (2002) (arguing that Congress preempted civil arrest authority by state and local police).

58 United States v. Salinas-Calderon, 728 F.2d 1298, 1301 & n.3 (10th Cir. 1984) (holding that a state trooper had probable cause to make arrest for violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2) prohibiting transportation of illegal immigrants).


60 See, for example, Vasquez-Alvarez, 176 F.3d at 1296, where the Tenth Circuit commented that “state law-enforcement officers have the general authority to investigate and make arrests for violations of federal immigration laws,” without distinguishing between criminal and civil enforcement. The language is plainly dicta, since Vasquez-Alvarez and Santana-Garcia, like the earlier Tenth Circuit decision in Salinas-Calderon, involved criminal prosecutions only. Questions of state and local authority to enforce civil immigration provisions were not before these courts.

61 Mena v. City of Simi Valley, 332 F.3d 1255, 1265 n.15 (9th Cir. 2003).

62 See Carrasca v. Pomeroy, 313 F.3d 828, 837 (3d Cir. 2002) (vacating summary judgment in § 1983 action challenging immigration arrest by New Jersey park ranger and stating “[t]here is too much uncertainty on this record of the state of the law with respect to state rangers’ authority to detain immigrants . . . to affirm the District Court’s holding of qualified immunity on that ground”).


64 See supra notes 11–16 and accompanying text (discussing INS congressional testimony, press releases, and DOJ encouragement of local police arresting violators of national immigration laws).
that yielded this conclusion, in public speeches and congressional testimony, officials have elaborated on the analysis underlying the agency's new conclusion. This analysis has depended on dicta in the Tenth Circuit opinions and, more fundamentally, on an interpretation of the legislative scheme for state and local immigration enforcement.

Upon examination of this legislative scheme, however, it is evident that Congress's extensive regulation of immigration law and enforcement impliedly preempts any state or local enforcement. This is clear from the several statutory provisions enacted explicitly to permit state and local immigration enforcement in narrowly circumscribed areas. For instance, Congress has expressly authorized direct enforcement of two criminal immigration provisions. Section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") prohibits the smuggling, transporting, or harboring of illegal immigrants. Subsection (c) of 8 U.S.C. § 1324, entitled "Authority to Arrest," empowers INS agents "and all other officers whose duty it is to enforce criminal laws" to make arrests for violations of § 274 of the INA. The plain language of this provision makes readily apparent Congress's intent that all those authorized to enforce criminal laws be empowered to make arrests for smuggling, transporting, and harboring offenses.

The legislative history of the provision confirms its plain meaning. When first drafted, the provision empowered criminal law enforcement officers "of the United States" to arrest alleged smugglers. Congress's elimination of the limiting phrase "of the United States" confirms its intent that all those authorized to enforce criminal laws be empowered to make arrests for smuggling, transporting, and harboring offenses.

The legislative history of the provision confirms its plain meaning. When first drafted, the provision empowered criminal law enforcement officers "of the United States" to arrest alleged smugglers. Congress's elimination of the limiting phrase "of the United States" confirms its intent that all those authorized to enforce criminal laws be empowered to make arrests for smuggling, transporting, and harboring offenses.

---

46 See, e.g., Testimony of Kris W. Kobach, former Counsel to the Attorney General, before the House Immigration Subcommittee (Oct. 1, 2003), available at http://www.house.gov/judiciary/Kobach100103.htm (arguing that state and local police possess "inherent authority" to enforce immigration laws based principally on Tenth Circuit decisions, analysis of 8 U.S.C. §§ 1252c, 1357(g) and legislative history).
48 8 U.S.C. § 1324(c) (emphasis added).
49 See, e.g., Gonzales v. City of Peoria, 722 F.2d 468, 475 (9th Cir. 1983) (noting that section 1324(c) "expressly authorizes local police to enforce the prohibitions against transporting and harboring certain aliens").
50 See H.R. CONF. REP. NO. 82-1505, at 1361 (1952), reprinted in 1952 U.S.C.C.A.N. 1360, 1361 (noting conference agreement to a House amendment striking out "of the United States" so that "other officers whose duty it is to enforce criminal laws, would have authority to make an arrest for a violation of a provision of the act"); see also Chapman & Kane, supra note 34, at 145-46 (discussing the legislative history of INA §§ 274 and 275 and concluding "[s]ince both of these sections deal with illegal entry into the United States and since both were considered by
A California appellate court concluded that the history of INA § 274 did not demonstrate a legislative intent that other criminal immigration provisions be enforced only by federal immigration officers, and a few years later in Gonzales, the Ninth Circuit adopted the state court's analysis. But more recently, the Ninth Circuit has acknowledged that the 1996 INA amendments undermine its prior Gonzales preemption analysis, leaving state and local arrest authority "doubtful.

More recently, Congress enacted amendments authorizing state and local police to arrest a second set of immigration violators. In 1996, as part of a broad reform of immigration laws, Congress empowered state and local police to make arrests for violations of INA § 276, which establishes criminal penalties for illegal reentry following deportation. The 1996 measure expressly provided that "state and local law enforcement officials are authorized to arrest and detain an individual who (1) is an alien illegally present in the United States, and (2) has previously been convicted of a felony" and ordered deported.

Moreover, the legislative history of this new authorization demonstrates that Congress well understands it has preempted all state and local power to make immigration arrests except where specifically authorized. Representative Doolittle offered a floor amendment that became 8 U.S.C. § 1252c. In justifying his proposal, Doolittle described the problem: "the Federal Government has tied the hands of our State and local law enforcement officials," given that "current Federal law prohibits State and local law enforcement officials from arresting and detaining criminal aliens whom they encounter[] through their routine duties." His amendment, he explained,
would "untie the hands of those we ask to protect us,"\textsuperscript{58} at least with respect to previously deported felons who have illegally reentered the country.\textsuperscript{59} The House approved Doolittle's amendment, which became part of the final legislation signed into law; in so doing, the House confirmed that \textit{without} express statutory authority, state and local police are preempted from enforcing federal immigration laws.\textsuperscript{60}

Two other provisions in the INA confirm that Congress has preempted any state or local police authority to make federal immigration arrests. Section 103(a)(8) of the INA confers emergency powers on the Attorney General to authorize "any State or local law enforcement officer" to enforce federal immigration laws in the event the Attorney General certifies that there exists "an actual or imminent mass influx of aliens arriving off the coast of the United States, or near a land border."\textsuperscript{61} Elsewhere in the INA, Congress has established \textit{nonemergency} procedures for the authorization of state and local jurisdictions to enforce federal immigration laws. These procedures require training, execution of a "written agreement" with, and supervision by the Attorney General.\textsuperscript{62} These nonemergency procedures are not burdensome, and at least two jurisdictions have already entered into precisely the sort of arrangement envisioned by Congress.\textsuperscript{63} More importantly, these twin procedures—the emergency

\textsuperscript{58} Id.

\textsuperscript{59} See id. ("[L]aw enforcement officials would no longer be required to release known dangerous felons back into our communities.").

\textsuperscript{60} The legislative history of 8 U.S.C. § 1252c is also recounted in \textit{United States v. Vasquez-Alvarez}, 176 F.3d 1294, 1298–99 & nn.4–5 (10th Cir. 1999). Although the Tenth Circuit did not discern from section 1252c and its history a legislative intent to preempt state and local immigration enforcement authority, the court failed to explain how its interpretation would render section 1252c anything but surplusage, and another court of appeals questioned the \textit{Vasquez-Alvarez} analysis. See \textit{Mena v. City of Simi Valley}, 332 F.3d 1255, 1266 n.15 (9th Cir. 2003) (noting \textit{Vasquez-Alvarez} but stating authority under federal law of local police officer to question or detain noncitizen for immigration violation is "doubtful" and "questionable" unless done on suspicion of crime of illegal reentry, per section 1252c, or pursuant to agreement under INA § 287(g)); \textit{see also} \textit{Carrasca v. Pomeroy}, 313 F.3d 828, 837 (3d Cir. 2002) (noting "uncertainty" regarding state and local police authority to make immigration arrests).


\textsuperscript{62} INA § 287(g), 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g). Congress established these procedures in 1996 upon enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. \textit{See also} INA § 103(c), 8 U.S.C. § 1103(c) (2000) (authorizing INS Commissioner to "enter into cooperative agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of assisting in the enforcement of the immigration laws").

\textsuperscript{63} \textit{See Memorandum of Understanding Between United States Department of Justice and State of Florida} 2 (July 2002) (on file with author) ("Only participating state and local officers who are selected, trained, authorized and supervised as set out herein have authority pursuant to this [memorandum] to conduct the immigration-officer functions enumerated in this [memorandum]."). Alabama has reportedly negotiated a second such agreement. \textit{See} Bernstein, \textit{supra} note 14, at A34 ("Congress has resisted involving local police officials in immigra-
“mass influx” procedures and the ordinary “written agreement” process—reflect a legislative determination that immigration laws should be enforced by state and local police only pursuant to a detailed congressional scheme, guaranteeing federal training, supervision, and oversight.

Were the Attorney General and OLC correct that state and local police possess the “inherent authority” to enforce all federal immigration laws, then the numerous statutory provisions outlined above would be superfluous. Congress need not have bothered to authorize direct state and local arrests of immigrant smugglers or felons who had illegally reentered the country (as it did in INA § 274(c) and 8 U.S.C. § 1252c(a), respectively), nor have created emergency and nonemergency procedures for the Attorney General to authorize state and local immigration enforcement (as it did in INA § 103(a)(8) and § 287(g)).

The Attorney General's conclusion makes little sense, and contradicts not only well-settled canons of statutory interpretation, but also the specific legislative history of these provisions. In addition, the DOJ's conclusion contradicts the century-old understanding that regulating immigration is an exclusively federal function, and enforcing federal immigration rules is reserved for federal officials. More fundamentally, conscription of state and local police as immigration agents threatens severe damage to the social fabric of communities across the nation. Police, fire, school, and other local officials depend on the cooperation of all residents for the performance of their duties. If those same local officials are charged with enforcing immigration laws as well, millions of persons across the United States will fear to communicate or interact with them, in turn undermining public safety, health, and the welfare of all who reside in this country.

II. ILLEGAL USE OF THE NCIC DATABASE TO ENFORCE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS

The Attorney General's campaign to encourage state and local police to incorporate immigration enforcement into their regular duties has not been limited to reason and persuasion. Perhaps prompted by the opposition of some state and local police, the Attorney General directed that the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and the

---

64 See, e.g., Walters v. Metro. Educ. Enter., Inc., 519 U.S. 202, 219 (1997) (holding that a significant conflict between a federal policy or interest and a state law must be shown before federal power can be found to displace state laws).

65 See supra notes 47–53 and accompanying text (describing legislative history of 8 U.S.C. § 1252c and INA § 274(c)).
FBI begin entering certain categories of civil immigration information into the FBI’s powerful NCIC database, a computer database accessed millions of times each day by state and local law enforcement officials upon encountering a motorist, pedestrian, or other individual. The inevitable result of this directive has been to induce individual police officers who submit an inquiry to the NCIC to arrest suspected immigration violators. This use of the NCIC database to disseminate civil immigration information is unprecedented in the seventy-year history of the database. As it turns out, it is also unlawful—a point powerfully demonstrated by the current effort in Congress to amend the NCIC statute to authorize the entry and dissemination of immigration information.

The text of the statute establishing and governing the NCIC appears at 28 U.S.C. § 534. It enumerates several categories of information that may be entered and disseminated via the database: “identification, criminal identification, crime, and other records,” records that would assist in the “identification of any deceased individual” or “missing person,” and “orders for the protection of persons from stalking or domestic violence.” In addition, a separate statutory provision authorizes the entry and dissemination of information regarding persons with a felony conviction who have previously been deported.

The categories of civil immigration that the DOJ has begun to enter and disseminate through the NCIC include information regarding individuals (1) with an outstanding removal order and (2) who have been determined by the DHS, pursuant to a process yet undislosed, to be in violation of the new fingerprint and registration requirements of the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (“NSEERS”). Importantly, a removal order is an administrative determination, not an adjudication of criminal culpability. Similarly, a determination by DHS that a person is subject to, but not in compliance with, NSEERS is merely an administrative conclusion. In

---

66 For more information on the NCIC Database, see http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/ncic.htm.
69 Id. § 534(a)(2), (3).
70 Id. § 534(e)(2)(B). “[P]rotection orders” are defined to include “temporary and final orders issued by civil or criminal courts.” Id. § 534(e)(3)(B).
72 See stephen h. legomsky, immigration and refugee law and policy 3 (3d ed. 2002) (IIRIRA replaced both exclusion and deportation with the single word ‘removal.’).
73 See Ashcroft, NSEERS Remarks, supra note 9 (describing the NSEERS program and entry of information regarding alleged NSEERS violators into the NCIC).
addition, in December 2003, officials from DHS announced that two additional categories of immigration data—foreign student visa violators and persons deported with misdemeanor convictions—would be entered into the NCIC and disseminated to local police on inquiry.\(^74\)

The only statutory categories that would arguably permit entry of this information into the NCIC are those providing for entry and dissemination of "identification, criminal identification, crime, and other records."\(^75\) The plain language of these terms, however, does not authorize the entry of civil immigration information. Neither removal orders nor determinations of NSEERS violations are a "criminal identification" or "crime" record. Nor are these "identification" records in the ordinary meaning of that term.\(^76\) Finally, the category "other records," construed under ordinary canons of statutory interpretation, necessarily means others similar to those previously listed.\(^77\)

The case law interpreting the NCIC statute confirms the plain meaning of its terms. In *Menard v. Saxbe*,\(^78\) the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia held that an arrest by the Los Angeles Police Department of a man sleeping in a park, later classified as a "detention" under California law, was not a "criminal identification" or "crime" record within the meanings of those terms as used in the NCIC statute.\(^79\) Because this "detention," which itself was not challenged as improper, was not within the statutory terms permitting entry and dissemination of data via the NCIC, the court held that the FBI was obligated to expunge Menard's arrest and detention from the database.\(^80\) In a later decision, the court reaffirmed the validity of Menard's narrow construction of 28 U.S.C. § 534(a)(1).\(^81\)

\(^74\) See Bernstein, *supra* note 14, at A10 (discussing a lawsuit challenging "the addition of civil information about thousands of noncitizens to the National Criminal Information Center database"); Dan Eggen, *U.S. Considers Expanding FBI Database: Names of Noncriminal Deportees and Student Visa Violators Would Be Added*, *WASH. POST*, Dec. 17, 2003, at A12 (discussing the possible expansion of the FBI database to include the names of noncriminal deportees and student visa violators).


\(^76\) Indeed, the FBI's long-standing regulation defining the term "identification" record speaks of rap sheets. 28 C.F.R. § 16.31 (1991); see also Chishti, *supra* note 2, at 84 ("The term 'identification records' [in 28 U.S.C. § 534] does not contemplate full civil immigration data.").

\(^77\) See, e.g., Circuit City Stores, Inc. v. Adams, 532 U.S. 105, 114-15 (2001) (applying canon of *ejusdem generis,* "[w]here general words follow specific words in a statutory enumeration, the general words are construed to embrace only objects similar in nature to those objects enumerated by the preceding specific words") (quoting 2A NORMAN J. SINGER, SUTHERLAND ON STATUTES AND STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION § 47.17 (1991)).

\(^78\) 498 F.2d 1017 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

\(^79\) Id. at 1030 n. 53.

\(^80\) Id. at 1028-29.

\(^81\) See Tarlton v. Saxbe, 507 F.2d 1116 (D.C. Cir. 1974) (holding that the FBI has a duty of reasonable care to assure the accuracy of records in the NCIC, even where those records are provided by other law enforcement agencies and merely entered into NCIC).
The structure of the NCIC statutory provisions confirms that Congress has not authorized the entry of civil immigration information, even where the civil information may be in some way associated with possible criminal liability. For instance, the language of section 534(e), authorizing the entry of protection orders issued by civil courts, demonstrates that when Congress intended for civil information to be entered into NCIC, it said so explicitly. Violation of a civil order of protection may involve criminal liability, just as willful failure to depart the country when ordered may indicate criminal liability. Yet if the terms “identification, criminal identification, crime, or other records” allowed the entry of civil orders of protection, the violation of which may state criminal liability, then Congress’s enactment of section 534(e) in 1994 was superfluous.

Similarly, the language of 8 U.S.C. § 1252c, adopted in 1996, authorizes the entry of information regarding deported felons into the NCIC. In section 1252c(a), Congress authorized state and local officials to arrest deported felons who have illegally reentered the country. In section 1252c(b), Congress directed the Attorney General to “assure” that “information in the control of the Attorney General, including information in the NCIC,” is “made available” to “assist State and local law enforcement officials in carrying out duties under subsection (a) of this section.” At least until the creation of the DHS in 2003, information regarding the deportation of persons with felony convictions was in the control of the Attorney General. Section 1252c(b) thus provided statutory authority to the DOJ to enter information regarding deported felons into the NCIC and disseminate it to state and local officials. This provision further demonstrates that when Congress meant to authorize the entry of civil information, indeed civil immigration information, into the NCIC, it explicitly stated as much in statutory language. Moreover, in 1996, Congress appears to have recognized that the existing authorizations of 28 U.S.C. § 534(a)—“identification, criminal identification, crime, or other records”—did not permit entry of deported felon information into the NCIC. Any other reading of § 534(a) would render a part of 8 U.S.C. § 1252c(b) superfluous.

---

86 See 8 U.S.C. § 1103(a) (2) (1996) (giving the Attorney General “control . . . of all the files and records of the [INS]”).
The legislative history of the NCIC statute also demonstrates that
the enumerated categories of information that may be entered and
disseminated via this uniquely powerful database do not authorize
the entry and dissemination of civil immigration information, such as
absconder, NSEERS, and foreign student violator information. In
1929, Attorney General Sargent wrote George Graham, Chair of the
House Judiciary Committee, seeking legislative authority for the col-
lection and maintenance of criminal records.88 Graham obliged by
introducing a bill to establish a Bureau of Investigation, responsible
for "acquiring, collecting, classifying, and preserving criminal identifi-
cation records . . . and the exchanging of said criminal identification re-
cords with the duly authorized officials of government agencies, of
States, cities, and penal institutions."89 In committee, Graham's bill
was expanded to authorize the collection of "criminal identification
and other records."90

This amendment prompted an important floor debate, as Repre-
sentative Cochran objected to the increased Justice Department au-
thority to include in the database "other records," explaining, "If you
are going to confine the division solely to criminal records, then I
have no objection, but here you put in 'and other records.'"91 Gra-
ham responded by carefully distinguishing between criminal records,
which were to be collected for dissemination to state and local police,
and general investigatory information, which was not:

There are two classes of information that is gathered. One is criminal re-
cords, and another is the information that is gathered about criminals
that is not a matter of record. That they do not give out, but the criminal
records they do give out. That information is gathered for the depart-
ment itself and its agents, in order that they more effectually do their
work.92

Representative LaGuardia then offered a floor amendment to insert
the word "criminal" after "other," so that the authority to collect and
exchange records would be restricted to the collection and exchange
only of "criminal identification and other criminal records."93 Graham
agreed to LaGuardia's amendment, and the bill was enacted without
further change.94

88 Letter from Jno. G. Sargent, Attorney General, to Rep. Graham, Chair, Committee on the
is in existence and operation, but . . . there is no legislative authority for it other than that
which appears in the appropriation bill and it is desired, for this reason, that [authorizing legis-
lation] be enacted.").
92 Id. (remarks of Rep. Graham).
93 Id. (remarks of Rep. LaGuardia).
The appropriations bills supplying funds for the Justice Department’s new database had an important life of their own, however. The original 1928 appropriations bill had provided for the collection and exchange of “criminal identification records.” The 1930 appropriations bill was enacted after the House Judiciary Committee had approved H.R. 977 (with the language, “and other records”), but before LaGuardia’s floor amendment had narrowed H.R. 977 to authorize the collection and exchange of “other criminal records”; not surprisingly, therefore, the 1930 appropriations bill tracked the then-approved Committee language. In 1932, the appropriations language became simply “identification and other records,” eliminating any mention of “crime” or “criminal,” and apparently remained unchanged in appropriations bills through 1964.

In 1966, Congress created the modern 28 U.S.C. § 534 in a statutory reorganization and recodification, intended to “restate, without substantive change, the laws replaced.” Confusingly, however, the 1966 statutory reorganization combined the language of the 1930 statute—“criminal identification and other criminal records”—with the language of the most recent appropriations bill—“identification and other records”—to yield the four categories authorized by the modern 28 U.S.C. § 534(a)(1)—“identification, criminal identification, crime, and other records.”

The best interpretation of the effect of the 1966 recodification is that, as the 1966 law stated, Congress made no substantive change to the preceding law, and thus the DOJ’s authorization to disseminate records remains limited, as it was in 1930, to criminal records. This is the interpretation of the effect of the 1966 recodification adopted by the D.C. Circuit in Menard. In addition, subsequent legislative history confirms that the 1966 recodification did not expand the NCIC statute to authorize dissemination of civil records. As noted above, in 1994 Congress amended section 534 to authorize the inclusion of protection orders, including those issued by a civil court, confirming that Congress understood that the existing NCIC categories did not

97 H.R. 9349, 72d Cong. (1st Sess. 1932).
100 Id. at sec. 7(a), 80 Stat. at 631.
101 Id.
immigration laws
embrace such records. And in 1996, Congress enacted 8 U.S.C. § 1252c, which referred to the NCIC by name and specifically authorized the Attorney General to disseminate information regarding previously-deported felons to state and local officials.

Finally, it is noteworthy that in December 2002, when the FBI's own data systems advisory body, composed primarily of state and local police officials, considered the plans to enter and disseminate NSEERS violator records via the NCIC, the advisory committee voted against the proposal—at least until clear legislative authority for the initiative was identified. When DHS officials returned to the FBI’s advisory body in December 2003 to announce its plans to add two further categories of immigration data to the NCIC, alleged student visa violators and deported persons with nonfelony convictions, the advisory body again objected.

Congress, the courts, and even the FBI’s own advisory body have acknowledged that the NCIC statute authorizes the entry and dissemination only of criminal records and enumerated civil records, specifically civil orders of protection and immigration records related to previously deported felons. Even civil records whose violation may state criminal liability—such as orders of protection or deportation—may be entered into the database only where Congress has specified. Nowhere has Congress approved the blanket entry of administrative immigration orders, such as deportation orders (other than for previously removed felons) or alleged NSEERS violators. Moreover, members of Congress have introduced legislation to amend the NCIC statute to allow entry of immigration information, which confirms that, as currently written, the statute does not permit the practice.

In short, the DOJ’s announced policy of entering and disseminating hundreds of thousands of deportation NSEERS violator records, and its proposal, withdrawn for now, to add records regarding alleged student visa violators and others, is unauthorized by Congress and contrary to law.

104 Minutes from the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Advisory Policy Board Meeting 69-70 (Dec. 4-5, 2002) (copy on file with author) (adopting motion against entry of NSEERS violator data into NCIC).
105 Minutes from the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Advisory Policy Board Meeting 28-29 (Dec. 3-4, 2003) (copy on file with author) (adopting motion against entry of additional immigration data into NCIC).
III. THE EFFECT OF LOCAL ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS ON STATE RACIAL PROFILING POLICIES

A third set of issues raised by the federal effort to induce state and local police to enforce routine immigration laws concerns the likelihood that the enforcement requested will lead police to violate state and local laws prohibiting racial profiling. In addition to the prospect of increased unlawful profiling, the immigration enforcement currently sought by the Department of Justice would compel police to engage in selective enforcement of the laws, in violation of equal protection norms in federal and state constitutions. This is most evident in federal attempts to induce police to arrest alleged NSEERS violators. Only men of a certain age and national origin—essentially men born in predominantly Arab or Muslim countries—were required to comply with NSEERS call-in registration. The universe of potential NSEERS violators is therefore overwhelmingly Arab and Muslim men, and so a request that local police arrest “NSEERS violators” is tantamount to a request to arrest Arab and Muslim men.

Courts, however, have analyzed discriminatory immigration enforcement based on race or ethnicity differently from discriminatory criminal law enforcement. A generation ago, the Supreme Court held that the Fourth Amendment applies to INS searches at locations other than the border, and that INS agents may not stop persons based on ethnic appearance alone. The Court did hold, however, that ethnicity may be “a relevant factor” among others in satisfying the constitutional standard for an INS stop. More recently, the Court has questioned whether noncitizens are even among “the people” protected by the Fourth Amendment’s prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures. The Supreme Court has also deter-


108 Of the twenty-five countries whose nationals were subject to call-in registration, all but one—North Korea—were predominantly Arab or Muslim. Of course, some persons born in such countries are neither Arab nor Muslim, and some alleged NSEERS violators may be persons from other nations who are referred for registration at the border, but there is little question that as a factual matter nearly all alleged NSEERS violators are persons born in predominantly Arab or Muslim countries. See CHISHTI, supra note 2, at 42-45.

109 See Almeida-Sánchez v. United States, 413 U.S. 266 (1973) (holding that a warrantless search of a Mexican citizen with a valid work permit violated the Fourth Amendment despite the fact that border patrol search occurred twenty-five miles north of the border).

110 United States v. Brignoni-Ponce, 422 U.S. 873, 884 (1975) (permitting roving INS patrols to stop vehicles only upon “reasonable suspicion”).

111 Id. at 887 (deeming “Mexican appearance” a “relevant factor”).

mined that two important rules of criminal procedure do not generally apply in immigration proceedings: the exclusionary rule and the prohibition on selective prosecution. Importantly, however, in Reno v. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee the Supreme Court reserved the question whether a claim of selective prosecution may exist in a case involving “outrageous” discrimination.

In the American legal tradition, no discrimination is more outrageous than that based on race or ethnicity, and there is a significant literature condemning reliance on race or ethnicity in the domestic enforcement of immigration laws. The twentieth century included documented immigrants not among “the people” protected by the Fourth Amendment who may bring motion to suppress in criminal prosecution. For a historical rebuttal of the Verdugo-Urquidez Court’s reliance on an originalist analysis, see Michael J. Wishnie, *Immigrants and the Right To Petition*, 78 N.Y.U. L. REV. 667 (2003).


In its decision holding that the exclusionary rule does not generally apply in immigration proceedings, the Supreme Court had similarly reserved the possibility that “egregious violations of Fourth Amendment or other liberties” might warrant suppression in deportation cases. *Lopez-Mendoza*, 468 U.S. at 1050–51. Lower federal courts have since interpreted this reservation to permit suppression of evidence obtained based on INS racial or ethnic discrimination. See Ruckbi v. INS, 285 F.3d 120, 125 (1st Cir. 2002) (acknowledging authority under *Lopez-Mendoza* to suppress for egregious violation of the Fourth Amendment); Martinez-Camargo v. INS, 282 F.3d 487, 492 (7th Cir. 2002) (same); Westover v. Reno, 202 F.3d 475, 479 (1st Cir. 2000) (same); Orhorhaghe v. INS, 38 F.3d 488, 505 (9th Cir. 1994) (suppressing evidence in arrest and investigation based on Nigerian-sounding name); Gonzalez-Rivera v. INS, 22 F.3d 1441, 1443, 1452 (9th Cir. 1994) (suppressing evidence from stop based on Latino appearance); Arguelles-Vasquez v. INS, 786 F.2d 1433, 1436 (9th Cir. 1986) (same), vacated as moot, 844 F.2d 700 (9th Cir. 1988).

several notorious instances of discriminatory targeting of immigrants by ethnicity or national origin, particularly during times of national crisis, real or perceived: the registration, arrest, detention without charge, and deportation of thousands of German immigrants during World War I; the Palmer Raids in the interwar years, resulting in the arrest, detention, and deportation without charges of thousands of alleged communists, principally Russian and East European immigrants; the interment of 120,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II, as well as smaller numbers of Germans and Italians, and the targeting of young Iranians after the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979. The discriminatory post-September 11 programs are but the latest manifestation of this taste for discrimination against immigrants in times of national crisis, real or perceived.

However, the permanent involvement of state and local police in routine immigration enforcement raises the further risk of racial profiling and selective immigration enforcement beyond moments of real or perceived national threat. In the pages that follow, I present data regarding discrimination in routine immigration enforcement in the years immediately preceding September 2001. This data demonstrates that even before the September 11 attacks, INS regularly engaged in racial profiling and selective enforcement based on ethnic appearance. In addition, the data from a previously unpublished case study of arrests in the INS's New York District strongly suggests that when the INS makes arrests during one important category of immigration enforcement, worksite raids, federal agents single out worksites for enforcement actions based on the presence of “Spanish music” or workers of “Hispanic appearance,” and target individual Latinos—from amidst ethnically diverse workforces—for questioning, arrest, and prosecution.

The evidence that even federal immigration officials, trained in the arcana of immigration law and (presumably) the risks of improper reliance on profiling, frequently resorted to stereotypes and

---


118 Id. at 1457–61.


121 See Narenji v. Civiletti, 617 F.2d 745 (D.C. Cir. 1979) (rejecting equal protection and others challenges to registration requirement for Iranian students ).

122 See infra notes 1–4 and accompanying text.

123 INS JFK Report infra note 139.

124 See infra Part III.B.2 (analyzing the data).
discrimination, confirms that the move to enlist or conscript state and local police in ordinary immigration enforcement is fraught with risk. Because the behavior of those police are frequently constrained by state or local rules against racial profiling, the federal government's current drive to enlist police in immigration enforcement creates a very real prospect of expanded, and unlawful, profiling.

Section A presents data supplied by INS in response to presidential and congressional requests. Section B presents the results of a study of INS enforcement practices in the New York District, the product of Freedom of Information Act litigation against the INS.

A. Immigration Enforcement Generally

Enforcement of immigration laws at and away from the border has long been a priority, and remains so after September 11. Previously, INS "interior enforcement" was dedicated largely to four areas: removal of immigrants with criminal convictions, worksite enforcement strategies, antifraud, and anti-smuggling operations. These remain central priorities of DHS's post-September 11 internal enforcement agenda.

1. Interior Enforcement—National Data, 2000

Data regarding immigration enforcement operations in the year before the September 11 attacks are contained in the 2000 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In fiscal year 2000, INS made 1,814,729 arrests of noncitizens, of which 1,676,438 (92%) were made by INS Border Patrol agents, nearly all (98%) on the southwest border. Of all persons arrested by the INS in 2000, 1,744,304 (96%) were from Mexico.
Focusing on INS interior enforcement strategies, criminal cases accounted for 91% of the closed cases in 2000. In that year, INS closed 1966 worksite cases and made 953 worksite arrests, dramatically lower figures than the peak year of 1997, when INS closed 7537 worksite cases and made 17,552 worksite arrests. INS also arrested 46,001 persons in 2000 classified as "smuggled aliens." Of the 184,775 persons removed by INS in 2000, 150,068 (81%) were removed to Mexico.

2. Data Collection Pilot Program at John F. Kennedy Airport, 2000

In June 1999, President Bill Clinton signed a memorandum entitled Fairness in Law Enforcement: Collection of Data, directing federal agencies to "collect and report statistics relating to race, ethnicity, and gender for law enforcement activities in [their] department." In response, in October 1999, the DOJ noted a range of difficulties in securing INS compliance, chief among them that the U.S. Customs Service operates the data systems used by INS and that INS conducts "more than 450 million primary inspections" at ports of entry each year, rendering data collection "impractical." Nevertheless, INS committed to implementing a field test of a data collection system at three airports, creating certain roving patrols and fixed inspection points, and reviewing its worksite enforcement files "to determine at which point in the process race, ethnicity, or gender becomes known and whether that knowledge has an impact on how cases are handled by INS." One of the three airports at which INS agreed to implement its field test was John F. Kennedy International Airport ("JFK") in New York.

Although INS has apparently not made public the results, if any, from the field tests it promised to conduct in November 1999,
Congress added a provision to the F.Y. 2000 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act directing that the INS “‘conduct a pilot program to collect data on the race, ethnicity, and nationality of persons referred to secondary inspection at J.F. Kennedy airport in New York.’”

In response to the congressional directive, and in partial compliance with the presidential memorandum, INS collected data on its operations at JFK during a six-month period in 2000 and delivered a summary to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on September 21, 2001. The INS pilot program focused on inspections at JFK.

In recent years, INS has conducted more than 9 million “primary inspections” annually at JFK, each done very quickly, sometimes in a matter of seconds. Those persons whom INS agents determine may be inadmissible or whose inspection requires additional time are referred to “secondary inspection.” Of the more than 9,000,000 annual primary inspections at JFK, approximately 150,000 result in a referral for secondary inspection. Some number of those persons referred to secondary inspection become the subject of adverse INS action, such as placement in ordinary or expedited removal proceedings.

INS’s report to the House Appropriations Subcommittee analyzes by race and ethnicity the rate of referral (a) from primary to secondary inspection and (b) from secondary inspection to adverse action. In the sample period at JFK, INS conducted more than 5,000,000 primary inspections, referred 99,837 to secondary inspection, and took adverse action against 2648 of those. Although noting limitations of its data collection and baseline figures, INS conceded to Congress that “the data do reflect higher rates of referrals of Asians, Blacks, and Hispanics for secondary inspection than their representation in the baseline.” The INS data evidencing these findings is set forth in Table 1.

---


140 Id.

141 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3) (1997) (“All aliens (including alien crewman) who are applicants for admission or otherwise seeking admission or readmission to or transit through the United States shall be inspected by immigration officers.”).

142 See INSJFK Report, supra note 139, at 1.

143 Id.

144 Id.

145 See id. at 1–2.

146 Id. at 6.

147 Id. at 8.
### TABLE 1

**JOHN F. KENNEDY AIRPORT PILOT PROGRAM, 2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of Baseline Population</th>
<th>Percentage of Discretionary Referrals</th>
<th>Rate of Discretionary Referral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>0.0538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>0.0668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>0.0309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>0.0524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>0.0368</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the data demonstrates, and INS acknowledged, before the September 11 attacks, Asian, Black, and Hispanic persons arriving at JFK were substantially more likely than Whites and non-Hispanics to be subjected to a discretionary referral to secondary inspection. Analyzed by race, the data indicates that the rate of discretionary referrals of Blacks in the sample period was more than twice (2.16 times) that of Whites, and Asians were referred at a rate 1.74 times that of Whites. Analyzed by ethnicity, Hispanics were subjected to discretionary referrals at a rate 1.42 times that of non-Hispanics.

---

148 *Id.* at 7, 10.

149 INS collected data on the reason given by an agent for referral to secondary inspection and omitted grounds for referral that it classified as administrative or nondiscretionary. *Id.* at 7.
3. Bush Administration Data Collection

In February 2001, President Bush issued a brief memorandum to the Attorney General directing him to examine racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies, and the Attorney General promptly announced a four-point plan to carry out this instruction, including a program of data collection. I am not aware that this data have been released to the public.

B. Interior Enforcement—INS New York District Office

In settlement of Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") litigation brought against the INS District for New York, the agency released data and documents related to its worksite raids in the thirty month period from January 1, 1997 to June 30, 1999. The first set of data concerned the numbers of persons arrested by the INS on worksite raids in the sample period, sorted by country of origin. The second set of data consisted of a randomly selected 20% of the 184 closed INS investigations files from the same period.

1. INS-NY Arrest Data

The raw data provided by INS in settlement of the *UNITE v. INS* litigation is reproduced in Table 2.

---


152 Much of this data was obtained in settlement of *Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees v. INS*, No. 99 Civ. 1884 (S.D.N.Y.) ("UNITE v. INS"). Letter from Edward Scarvalone, Assistant U.S. Attorney, to Michael J. Wishnie, Washington Square Legal Services, Inc. (June 6, 2000) (on file with author) [hereinafter UNITE v. INS Letter] (providing information pursuant to settlement stipulation). The case was litigated on behalf of UNITE by Nina Zuckerman, Nanina Takla, Aramis Rios, and Diana Kasdan, all students of the Immigrant Rights Clinic of New York University School of Law, under my supervision. Diana Kasdan and Jonathan Trutt assisted in the review of the individual records produced by INS.

153 See id.; see also Susan Sachs, *Files Suggest Profiling of Latinos Led to Immigration Raids*, N.Y. TIMES, May 1, 2001, at B1 (reporting on results of FOIA litigation).

154 This study included 37 closed raid files (n=37). See UNITE v. INS Letter, supra note 152.

155 Id. at enclosure B.
### Table 2


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Persons Arrested (n = 2907)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad-Tobago</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica, Malaysia, and South Korea</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (PRC) and India</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary and Nicaragua</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guinea, Guyana, Slovak Republic, and Ukraine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina, Brazil, Congo, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Grenada, Haiti, Indonesia, Israel, Nepal, Nigeria, Romania, Senegal, Suriname, Thailand, and Venezuela</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3 aggregates the INS-NY arrest statistics by geographic region and compares it to baseline estimates of the undocumented population. Highly accurate data are not available for the baseline undocumented population in the geographic area corresponding to the INS New York District and the sample period for the arrest data, 1997–99. For obvious reasons, there is little reliable data on undocumented persons generally, and no data matching precisely the geographic and temporal determinants of the INS-NY arrest data. Nevertheless, I have used as a baseline an estimate of the country of origin of the New York state undocumented population in 1995 contained in a 1998 Urban Institute study by Jeffrey Passel and Rebecca Clark, which is generally regarded by demographers as the most reliable estimate of its kind.  

**TABLE 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of Origin</th>
<th>INS Arrests</th>
<th>Percentage of All Arrests</th>
<th>Urban Institute Percentage of Undocumented Population</th>
<th>INS Percentage of Undocumented Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>9.91</td>
<td>14.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>5.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

156 See Jeffrey S. Passel & Rebecca Clark, Immigrants in New York: Their Legal Status, Incomes, and Taxes 1 (1998) (reporting "essential demographic and economic information on legal immigrants residing in New York state").  
159 Including Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, France, Hungary, Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic. See Passel & Clark, supra note 156, at 34 tbl.K (listing country groups sometimes used for immigration estimates).  
160 Id. (including Congo, Senegal, Nigeria, and Guinea).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of Origin</th>
<th>INS Arrests</th>
<th>Percentage of All Arrests</th>
<th>Urban Institute Percentage of Undocumented Population</th>
<th>INS Percentage of Undocumented Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico, Central and S. America</td>
<td>2764</td>
<td>95.08</td>
<td>35.35</td>
<td>28.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Mexico)</td>
<td>(1567)</td>
<td>(53.90)</td>
<td>(3.66)</td>
<td>(4.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>24.35</td>
<td>26.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and East Asia</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>26.08</td>
<td>15.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data demonstrate that in the 1997-99 sample period, INS arrests in New York were overwhelmingly of immigrants from Mexico, Central, and South America. In fact, the INS determined that more than 95% of arrests were of people from these regions. While not all individuals from these countries would self-identify as ethnically Latino, a majority of the populations in these countries are Latino. Moreover, any discounting would likely be offset by increases reflecting arrests of ethnic Latinos from other regions; for instance, one-third of the thirty-seven INS arrests from Caribbean countries were of citizens of the Dominican Republic, a heavily Latino country.165

The high concentration of INS arrests of presumptively Latino individuals is also disproportional to the baseline figures. The INS and Urban Institute baseline estimates both reflect New York’s ethnic diversity, agreeing that 65-70% of New York’s undocumented population is from regions other than Latin America.166 Yet the arrest data demonstrate that the INS arrested almost no one but individuals from

---
161 Id. (including Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil, and Costa Rica).
162 Id. (including Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad/Tobago, Grenada, and the Dominican Republic).
163 Id. (including Egypt and Israel).
164 Id. (including South Korea, Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, China (PRC) and Japan).
165 Id. tbl.1.
166 PASSEL & CLARK, supra note 156, at 80 tbl.2; UNITE v. INS Letter, supra note 152, at enclosure B.
Latin American countries during the 1997–99 sample period.\textsuperscript{167} Mexicans in particular were disproportionately subject to INS arrest; while both INS and the Urban Institute estimate that about 4\% of New York's undocumented population is from Mexico,\textsuperscript{168} Mexicans alone accounted for 54\% of INS arrests in the sample period.\textsuperscript{169}

By contrast, the arrest statistics from some of New York's better-known non-Latino undocumented communities are startling: in thirty months there were 2907 INS arrests, of which seven of those arrested were from China (0.14\%); seven were from Russia (0.24\%); and thirteen were from Poland (0.45\%).\textsuperscript{170}

2. INS-NY INVESTIGATIONS FILES

In the same thirty-month sample period, from January 1, 1997 to June 30, 1999, the INS New York District Office reported that it closed 184 worksite raid cases. It provided the investigation files from a randomly selected 20\% of these closed cases, or a total of thirty-seven files.\textsuperscript{171} In each of these cases, INS received a tip, conducted surveillance of the worksite, and based on its surveillance, initiated a worksite raid. Yet a review of the investigation files reveals that in thirty-five of the thirty-seven cases (95\%), INS agents relied on explicit ethnic criteria in justifying their request for authorization of a raid. In their surveillance reports, the INS would regularly record such factors as hearing "Spanish language" or "Spanish music," or observing "Hispanic appearance" or clothing "not typical of North America."\textsuperscript{172}

Together, this data suggests that before the September 11 attacks, INS personnel engaged in a significant amount of racial and ethnic profiling and selective enforcement of the immigration laws. This conclusion has several important implications for immigration law and policy.

First, such practices are unlawful under the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment, and warrant suppression of evidence and termination of individual proceedings under the "egregious violations" and "outrageous discrimination" exceptions

\footnotesize
\textsuperscript{167} See supra note 127 and accompanying text.
\textsuperscript{168} PASSEL & CLARK, supra note 156, at 80 tbl.2.
\textsuperscript{169} UNITE v. INS Letter, supra note 152, at enclosure B.
\textsuperscript{170} Id.
\textsuperscript{171} INS released these files in settlement of the UNITE v. INS litigation. Id. The data in the accompanying text were derived from an analysis of those files conducted by the author, Diana Kasdan, and Jonathan Trutt. The files are referenced in UNITE v. INS Letter. Id.
\textsuperscript{172} Id.
recognized by the Supreme Court in *Lopez-Mendoza* and *American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee*, respectively.\(^{175}\)

Second, this data may compel reconsideration of these twin opinions. In *Lopez-Mendoza*, a five-to-four decision, the Court applied a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the exclusionary rule should be applied in civil deportation proceedings.\(^{174}\) Explicit in its analysis was the Court's determination, in 1984, that INS training, supervision, arrest regulations, and "procedure for investigating and punishing immigration officers who commit Fourth Amendment violations"\(^{175}\) were together sufficient to guard against civil rights abuses, including the ethnic profiling and discriminatory enforcement of concern to the *Lopez-Mendoza* respondents.\(^{176}\)

Yet the *Lopez-Mendoza* majority cautioned that "[o]ur conclusions concerning the exclusionary rule's value might change, if there developed good reason to believe that Fourth Amendment violations by INS officers were widespread."\(^{177}\) The late-1990s data related above indicate that there is just such "good reason to believe" that even trained immigration officers routinely resort to impermissible discrimination in immigration enforcement, thus compelling a re-weighing of the costs and benefits outlined nearly twenty years ago in *Lopez-Mendoza*. Moreover, in a post-September 11 world in which the current administration has summoned state and local police untrained in the complexities of immigration law to the task of immigration enforcement, there is strong reason to expect that Fourth Amendment violations by police will become "widespread." Under the logic of *Lopez-Mendoza* itself, the exclusionary rule may now be appropriate in immigration proceedings.

Finally, the above data caution against the large-scale, ad hoc incitement to state and local police to add routine immigration enforcement to their already substantial duties. It suggests that even law enforcement agents trained in immigration matters—and, by the late 1990s, more socialized to public condemnation of racial profiling than their counterparts in the *Lopez-Mendoza* era—frequently resort to stereotypes and discriminatory enforcement practices. Given the proliferation of state and local ordinances barring racial and ethnic profiling, the devolvement of immigration enforcement threatens to

\(^{175}\) See *supra* notes 113–15 and accompanying text.

\(^{174}\) *INS v. Lopez-Mendoza*, 468 U.S. 1032, 1042 (1984) (applying a "balancing test to the benefits and costs of excluding concededly reliable evidence from a deportation proceeding").

\(^{175}\) *Id.* at 1045. The Court also noted that "the INS has developed rules restricting stop, interrogation, and arrest practices." *Id.* at 1044.

\(^{176}\) *Id.* at 1045 (noting respondents' argument that "retention of the exclusionary rule is necessary to safeguard the Fourth Amendment rights of ethnic Americans, particularly the Hispanic-Americans lawfully in this country").

\(^{177}\) *Id.* at 1050.
expose police to civil liability for wrongful arrests and to erode the objectives of those very ordinances. For these further reasons, the nation should vigorously resist the federal government's call to enhanced state and local police enforcement of immigration laws.

CONCLUSION

When undocumented immigrants "are victimized by crime, they are afraid to call the police, or seek recourse in the legal system."178 This terrible reality, familiar to local police and immigrant communities alike, was proffered by President Bush as one of several justifications for his January 2004 proposal to overhaul the nation's immigration laws.179 But several of the Bush administration's major post-September 11 law enforcement measures have the inevitable effect of discouraging immigrants from communicating with police and other local officials, and therefore of denying local police the community cooperation on which the law enforcement officials depend.

The repeated federal calls for expanded police enforcement of routine immigration laws, and the determination of some in Congress to compel such enforcement, will have enormously adverse consequences for public safety and civil rights. The DOJ's conclusion that state and local police possess the "inherent authority" under federal law to enforce all immigration laws is wrong as a matter of law, and the administration's entry and dissemination of civil immigration data via the FBI's NCIC database is unauthorized by statute. Together, these measures seem likely to expose local police to liability for wrongful arrest and in some instances for violations of state or local anti-profiling ordinances. The wiser and lawful course is to allow police to concentrate their scarce resources on local policing priorities and, when requested by federal authorities, on the investigation and apprehension of specific individuals actually suspected of involvement in terrorism.


179 See also id. (noting that immigrants in President's proposed temporary worker status "will be able to talk openly to authorities, to report crimes when they are harmed, without the fear of being deported").