

Trump Quietly Expands Deportation Machine After Public Backlash



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After public killings by ICE forced a rhetorical retreat, the new DHS Secretary vowed to keep enforcement "out of the headlines." Since then, 44 people have died in ICE custody.

Details. Following the [killings](#) of US citizens Renee Good and Alex Pretti by ICE agents, mass protests [broke out](#) in Minneapolis. The local ICE commander was [replaced](#), with his successor promising a more "targeted" approach. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was later [fired](#), and her replacement Markwayne Mullin [stated](#) his goal was to keep the DHS out of the headlines.

- ▶ A [target](#) for 1 million deportations was set for 2026. Since the introduction of a [3,000](#) daily arrest quota, official data confirmed that ICE has been carrying out an average of [1,000](#) removals per day.
- ▶ The [287\(g\) program](#), which deputizes local police to carry out immigration enforcement, has expanded sharply under Trump – allowing enforcement to scale without relying on visible ICE operations. By January 2026, [1,372](#) local sheriff offices and police departments had signed agreements with ICE, up from 135 in January 2025.
- ▶ Since late May 2025, [44 people](#) have died in ICE detention facilities. At an ICE facility in Newark, hundreds of detainees launched a hunger and labor [strike](#) demanding adequate nutrition, healthcare, and an end to abuse.
- ▶ Trump's administration has continued to move against legal obstacles to enforcement. Wisconsin county judge Hannah Dugan was [arrested](#) for allegedly helping an undocumented immigrant avoid ICE officers. Plainclothes officers [continue](#) to make arrests inside immigration courthouses despite having [no](#) legal justification.
- ▶ ICE has continued to [expand](#) surveillance of all residents, conduct third-country deportations, and deploy paramilitary units. These include the Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC), whose members have [records](#) of violence and sexual abuse.
- ▶ The Department of Justice is seeking [\\$3.5 billion](#) in grants to fund "immigration-related law enforcement programs," including construction of additional detention facilities, purchase of surveillance equipment, and hiring of law-enforcement personnel.

Context. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed in July 2025, gave ICE a total budget of [\\$85 billion](#), making it the [16th](#) most heavily funded armed force in the world. The money will be [used](#) predominantly to build [detention centers](#), processing facilities, and fund additional ICE officers.

- ▶ Trump's campaign promised deportations would protect American labor. [In reality](#), the opposite is true – employers are cutting production rather than hiring US-born workers, driving down their employment by [1.3%](#).

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