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OPERATION STREAMLINE

AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF
MIGRANTS FOR CORPORATE PROFIT



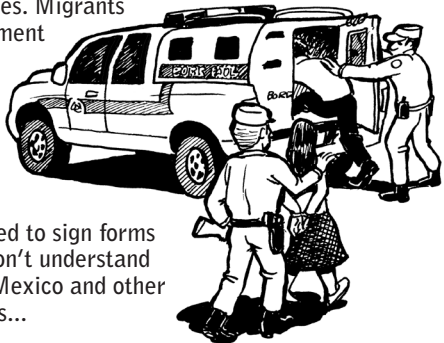
A system that separates families, divides our communities, and makes us see immigrants as criminals.

Operation Streamline began in Del Rio, Texas in 2005 and now operates in seven border cities. The "story" of Streamline starts when Border Patrol agents apprehend people crossing the border in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.



U.S. Border Patrol places everyone they detain into short term detention facilities. Migrants can expect poor treatment while in custody, including lack of food, water, and medical care, as well as verbal and physical abuses.

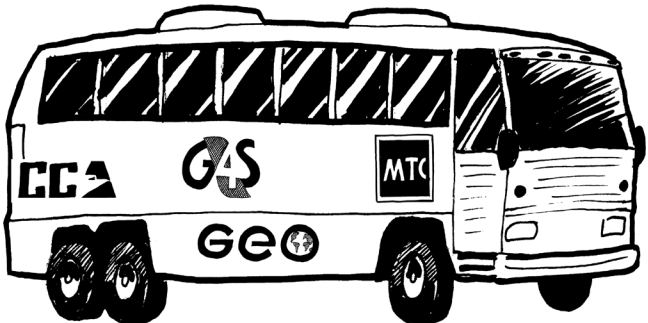
Some people are forced to sign forms in English that they don't understand and are sent back to Mexico and other countries, while others...



...are selected to be prosecuted in federal court in Operation Streamline. The court prefers people who have crossed into the US more than once.



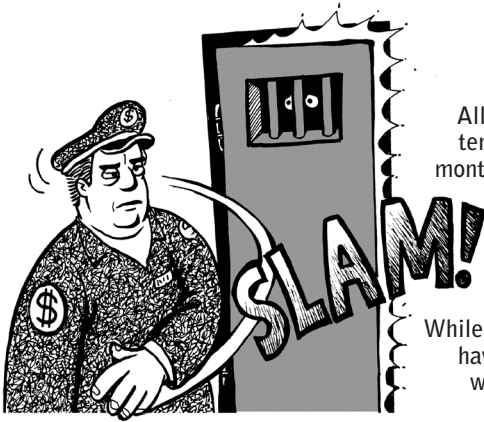
Several private prison, detention, and transportation companies profit from contracts for Operation Streamline. Many of these companies run immigrant prisons all over the world.



Streamline packs federal courtrooms not only with migrants, but prosecutors, public defenders, an interpreter, US Marshals, court clerks, Border Patrol agents, consulate officials, and other support staff. For the Tucson Court alone, the estimated cost of Streamline is anywhere from \$100-\$400 million per year.



The court proceeding convicts up to 70 people in under two hours. Although lawyers are contracted to represent migrants, they only have 20-30 minutes to get to know their clients before appearing before a judge. All defendants charged with "illegal re-entry after deportation" are encouraged to sign a plea bargain with the government to plead "guilty" and serve a prison term for "illegal entry", leaving them with a permanent criminal record.

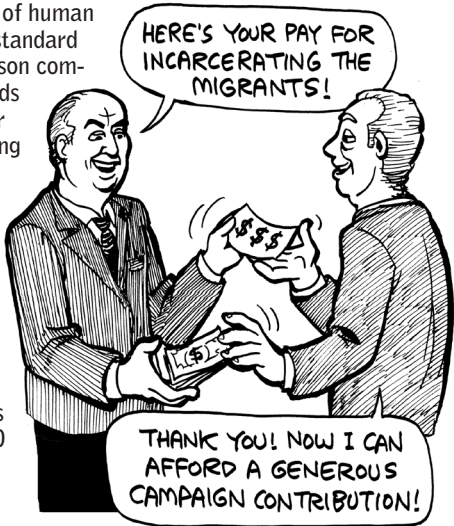


All serve prison sentences for one to six months in private prisons around the region. Money and belongings are often taken and not returned.

While in prison, people have limited contact with family, friends or lawyers.

Despite long histories of human rights abuses and substandard conditions, private prison companies receive hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for incarcerating immigrants.

Many investigative reports have exposed the links between these companies and an increase in immigrant detainees. Programs like Secure Communities and laws like Arizona's SB1070 ensure this corruption continues.



After completing the prison sentences, migrants are deported. Now that they have a federal criminal record, they will be ineligible for any legal means of returning to the US – even if they have family here, including US citizen children.



Homeland Security promotes OS as a necessary way to make the border more secure and make the experience so horrific that no one will try to cross again (even though studies show that they will keep trying).

Streamline does not make the border any safer, nor does it address any of the root causes that prompt people to come across the border.

Instead, Streamline guarantees hefty profits for prison owners while also forcing thousands through the federal court system — both at a tremendous cost to US taxpayers.

A coalition of groups from across the southern U.S. border is demanding an end to Operation Streamline and the criminalization of migrants. Visit OS at 1:30 everyday, M-F, Federal District Court, 405 W. Congress Street, Tucson.

You can find more information and download a copy of this hand-out to print and become a part of educating more people on the injustice of Operation Streamline.

www.EndStreamline.org

We continue to put pressure on the agencies that make Streamline possible in order to end this process of turning thousands of migrants into criminals.



This handout is distributed by the End Streamline Coalition, with support from the American Friends Service Committee & No More Deaths.

Original artwork by Kjartan Arnorsson

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