

MAMBO — MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF MILITARY AND BORDER OPERATIONS

A Project of About Face: Veterans Against the War

U.S. Domestic Enforcement, Foreign Military Operations, and the Unified Strategy

January 20, 2025 – March 9, 2026

OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT — CONTAINS ACTIVE CONFLICT REPORTING

Distribution: Pro-democracy organizations, civil society, legal advocates, policymakers, journalists, and the public.

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About MAMBO and About Face

MAMBO (Monitoring and Analysis of Military and Border Operations) is a project launched by members of About Face: Veterans Against the War to monitor military and federal deployments involved in anti-migrant operations at the U.S. southern border and in the interior. About Face is an organization of post-9/11 service members and veterans who have organized to end a foreign policy of permanent war and the use of military force against communities at home and abroad. MAMBO was launched to monitor military and federal deployments involved in anti-migrant operations and has expanded to document the full scope of the unified domestic-international strategy. All information was obtained legally using publicly available sources. This report is designed to serve as an intelligence foundation for organizations, institutions, and individuals working to understand and respond to the current trajectory of U.S. governance. This report may be shared freely with attribution to MAMBO / About Face.

How to Use This Report

For major donors and board members: Start with the Executive Summary (Section 1), the BLUF (Section 2), the Democracy Assessment (Section 15), and the Predictive Timeline (Section 16). For organizers and field staff: Start with the BLUF, then Sections 11 (Impacts), 17 (Recommended Actions), and 18 (Civil Society Response). For litigators and legal strategists: Sections 8 (Legal Authorities) and 16 (Predictive Timeline including SCOTUS trajectory) are primary. For journalists and researchers: All section-level data is linked to source documentation. For service members and veterans: The report's analytical note on oath, institutional norms, and UCMJ protections applies to you.

1. Executive Summary

Overall Confidence Level: HIGH — corroborated by federal court filings, CBO reports, official DHS/DOJ statements, Congressional testimony, and multi-source investigative journalism.

The United States is experiencing the most significant expansion of domestic federal enforcement posture since the post-9/11 period, distinguished by three concurrent developments: (1) the unprecedented deployment of military and federal law enforcement personnel to American cities for purposes beyond traditional national security; (2) the formal reorientation of the National Defense Strategy to prioritize homeland and hemispheric operations, including explicit support for deportation logistics; and (3) the rapid scaling of surveillance technologies — many with direct lineage to overseas military and intelligence operations — into interior enforcement against civilian populations.

Since January 20, 2025, the second Trump administration has executed a systematic escalation across doctrinal, legislative, operational, and technological domains. The first year saw: sweeping immigration executive orders; the firing of military lawyers to remove “roadblocks”; the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (\$170 billion in enforcement funding); National Guard deployments to six U.S. cities costing \$496 million; multiple federal court findings of Posse Comitatus Act violations; and the deadliest year in ICE detention in over two decades (32 deaths). The opening months of 2026 brought dramatic intensification.

△ ACTIVE OPERATIONS AS OF MARCH 9, 2026: Operation Metro Surge (Minneapolis) is ongoing. Operation Epic Fury (Iran war) is in its 10th day. The United States is simultaneously conducting large-scale domestic enforcement and an active multi-front war. This report documents both as a single unified strategy.

Operation Metro Surge in Minneapolis deployed up to 4,000 federal agents in the largest immigration enforcement operation in U.S. history, resulting in 3,000+ arrests, two U.S. citizen fatalities (Renée Good, January 7, and Alex Pretti, January 24), a statewide general strike, and 96 documented court order violations by ICE. The January 2026 National Defense Strategy formally codified homeland defense and deportation support as the military’s top priority.

The doctrinal, technological, and institutional vectors of this surge represent the domestic application of capabilities and frameworks developed, refined, and fielded in the Global War on Terror and subsequent overseas operations — what this report terms the “Imperial Boomerang.” Simultaneously, the administration has conducted four major named military operations abroad, all without prior congressional authorization.

As of March 9, 2026, the United States is at war with Iran. Operation Epic Fury (Day 10): Supreme Leader Khamenei killed; 2,000+ strikes in 48 hours; 30+ Iranian ships sunk; 7 U.S. service members killed; 1,230+ Iranians killed including up to 180 schoolchildren in the Minab school strike; Hezbollah opened a Lebanon front (397 killed); Iranian retaliation across Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq; Strait of Hormuz effectively closed; oil above \$100/barrel; U.S. gasoline up 17% in one week.

This report documents, across 18 sections and 24 annexes, how the domestic enforcement apparatus and the foreign military operations constitute a single unified strategy — governed by the same authorities, funded by the same legislation, executed by overlapping personnel and platforms, and justified by the same rhetorical architecture.

2. BLUF — Bottom Line Up Front

- The 2026 National Defense Strategy formally elevates homeland defense and deportation support as the military’s top priority for the first time, with the stated operational approach focused on “sealing borders,

repelling forms of invasion, and facilitating deportation operations domestically.” [Source: USNI, January 23, 2026]

- Up to 4,000 federal agents (ICE and CBP) were deployed to Minneapolis in January 2026 under Operation Metro Surge; two U.S. citizens — Renée Good (Jan. 7) and Alex Pretti (Jan. 24) — were fatally shot by federal agents; a federal judge found ICE violated at least 96 court orders in Minnesota since January 1, 2026. [Source: Wikipedia, ProPublica, Chief Judge Schiltz ruling]
- ICE’s surveillance apparatus has been transformed by \$170 billion in total enforcement funding (OBBBA, July 2025), enabling procurement of Palantir’s ELITE and ImmigrationOS platforms, Clearview AI facial recognition, cell-site simulator vehicles, iris scanners, social media monitoring tools, and Graphite spyware — much derived from military/intelligence technology pipelines. [Source: DHS contracts, Annex J]
- National Guard deployments to U.S. cities (Los Angeles, Memphis, Portland, Chicago, Washington D.C., and New Orleans) cost approximately \$496 million through December 2025. Judge Breyer (N.D. Cal.) ruled the California federalization violated the Tenth Amendment and Posse Comitatus Act, describing it as an attempt at “creating a national police force with the President as its chief.” Ruling stayed by the Ninth Circuit. [Source: Federal court filings, Lawfare tracker]
- Four major foreign military operations have been conducted since January 2025, all without prior congressional authorization: Operation Midnight Hammer (Iran nuclear strikes, June 2025), Operation Southern Spear (44 lethal strikes on alleged drug boats killing 151+, September 2025–ongoing), Operation Absolute Resolve (military capture of Venezuelan President Maduro, January 3, 2026), and Operation Epic Fury (full-scale U.S.-Israeli air campaign against Iran, February 28, 2026 — ACTIVE). [Source: CENTCOM; DOD; WOLA; multiple news agencies]
- V-Dem Institute classified the United States as an “electoral authoritarian” regime in September 2025. The Century Foundation Democracy Meter fell from 79/100 (2024) to 57/100 (January 2026). Harvard’s Steven Levitsky described “the most aggressively and openly authoritarian case of democratic backsliding” he has observed. [Sources: V-Dem; Century Foundation; Harvard Kennedy School]
- DHS Secretary Kristi Noem was fired March 5, 2026 — the first Cabinet dismissal of Trump’s second term. Trump nominated Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) as replacement, effective March 31, 2026. Mullin defended both Minneapolis shootings, stated the Good shooting officer “didn’t have an option,” and has publicly defended the full enforcement agenda. [Sources: CBS News, CNBC, CNN]

3. Current State (March 9, 2026)

3a. Federal Posture

- **Department of Homeland Security:** FY2026 budget request: \$178 billion — nearly double recent annual levels. ICE FY2026 budget: \$11 billion (+\$960M). CBP: \$18.98 billion. Detention capacity set at 50,000 beds, expanding toward 92,600. OBBBA (July 2025) provided \$170 billion in additional enforcement funding, making ICE the most heavily funded federal law enforcement agency in the country — more than FBI, DEA, ATF, and Secret Service combined.
- **Department of Defense / Department of War:** The 2026 National Defense Strategy (January 23, 2026) formally reoriented military priorities toward homeland defense and hemispheric operations. Active-duty units including the 101st Airborne Division HQ and 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team/1st Armored Division are rotating through Southern Border deployments. The Department was renamed the “Department of War” by Defense Secretary Hegseth.
- **Department of Justice:** FBI reported over 6,000 immigration-related arrests since January 20, 2025. A new DOJ Division for National Fraud Enforcement established in January 2026, with early operations focused on Minnesota. FBI Director Kash Patel requested \$10.1 billion for FY2026, with immigration enforcement as a highlighted mission area.
- **DOGE / Institutional Restructuring:** DOGE teams embedded across federal agencies, gaining access to Treasury payment systems, personnel databases, Medicaid data, Social Security records, and other sensitive systems. A January 2026 report revealed a DOGE affiliate signed a voter data agreement as an SSA employee with an outside advocacy group. Oversight offices including CRCL gutted. 100+ immigration judges fired.

3b. State Posture

Democratic-led states have enacted protective legislation: Maryland HB 1222 requires judicial warrants; New Mexico SB 36 prohibits disclosure of immigration status; Colorado SB 276 expands privacy protections. Minnesota Governor Walz, AG Keith Ellison, and the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul filed suit against DHS arguing Operation Metro Surge is unconstitutional. Republican-led states have increased cooperation with federal enforcement; Florida implemented immigration checkpoints on the only highway into the Florida Keys. The new Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) integrate federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement for multi-jurisdictional operations.

3c. Legal Posture

The judiciary has been the primary source of friction. Key findings:

- **Posse Comitatus / Tenth Amendment:** Judge Charles Breyer (N.D. Cal.) ruled the federalization of the California National Guard violated the Tenth Amendment and the Posse Comitatus Act, describing the pattern as an attempt at “creating a national police force with the President as its chief.” Ruling stayed by the Ninth Circuit on appeal.
- **96 Court Order Violations:** Chief U.S. District Judge Patrick Schiltz (D. Minn.) found ICE violated at least 96 court orders in Minnesota since January 1, 2026. Judge Schiltz stated the court was “not aware of another occasion in the history of the United States in which a federal court has had to threaten contempt — again and again and again — to force the United States government to comply with court orders.”
- **Lawfully Present Majority:** Judge Jerry W. Blackwell stated the “overwhelming majority” of cases brought by ICE involved people lawfully present in the United States — contradicting the administration’s “worst of the worst” messaging.

4. The Enforcement Apparatus

4a. ICE — Structure and Scale

- **Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO):** The on-the-ground enforcement arm. 25 field offices nationwide. ERO officers since 2025 complete only 47 days of training — a 63% reduction from the prior 13-week standard. Spanish-language courses eliminated August 2025. ERO makes administrative arrests based on warrants issued by ICE officials (not judges), which do not authorize forced home entry.
- **Homeland Security Investigations (HSI):** The principal criminal investigative arm. 8,700+ employees across 237+ U.S. offices and 93+ international offices in ~50 countries. 25–27 weeks of training. Criminal warrants that do authorize forced entry. HSI agents formally requested to split from ICE in 2018; the distinction matters operationally — during Metro Surge, ~600 HSI agents and 1,500 ERO officers collaborated, but only HSI could forcibly enter residences.
- **Personnel Surge:** ICE announced a 120% manpower increase on January 3, 2026 — adding 12,000 new officers and agents in under a year, bringing total force to 22,000. Over 220,000 applications received. Reports emerged of agents falling down and dropping weapons in viral videos, indicating training gaps.

4b. Scale in Numbers

Metric	Figure
ICE detention population (Jan. 2025)	~40,000
ICE detention population (Nov. 2025)	~66,000
ICE detention population peak (early 2026)	~73,000
Planned total capacity (Reengineering Initiative)	92,600 new beds

Maximum potential capacity (AIC calculation)	~135,000
Detainees with no criminal conviction	73.6%
Deportation flights (2025)	13,446 total; 2,138 removal flights to 79 countries
At-large community arrests vs. pre-2025 norms	Increased 600%
People with no criminal record in ICE detention	Increased 2,450%
287(g) agreements (Jan. 2025 → 2026)	135 → 1,504 (39 states)
Facilities opened or reopened (2025)	130+ (91% increase)
Deaths in ICE custody (2025)	32 deaths — deadliest year on record

5. Surveillance and Technology Infrastructure (Annex J)

The enforcement apparatus has been transformed by a \$300M+ investment in surveillance technology, most with direct lineage to post-9/11 military and intelligence programs. Key systems:

Company / System	Product	Contract Value	Key Notes
Palantir Technologies	ELITE, ImmigrationOS, ICM	\$900M+ since Jan 2025	Draws on Medicaid records, Tax data. Co-founder Peter Thiel; Stephen Miller holds financial stake.
Clearview AI	Facial recognition	\$3.75M (Sep 2025)	1.2B face database; expanded to “assaults on officers” use case
NEC Corporation	Mobile Fortify (NeoFace)	Part of DHS contract	100,000+ uses since Jun 2025; deployed without Privacy Impact Assessments
BI2 Technologies	Iris scanners (MORIS, I.R.I.S.)	\$4.5M (Jan 2026)	5M iris records from 1.5M people
Zignal Labs	Social media monitoring	\$5.7M	8 billion daily posts monitored
Paragon	Graphite spyware	Ongoing	Remote phone compromise capability
TechOps Specialty Vehicles	Cell-site simulator vehicles	\$1.6M (2024–25)	Fake cell towers for location tracking
General Atomics	MQ-9 Predator drones	CBP existing fleet	Deployed over LA and Phoenix protests; detect individuals from 7.5 miles
Skydio	X10D drones	\$514K+	Long-range autonomous surveillance
Cellebrite	Phone cracking/extraction	Ongoing	Mobile device forensics on detainees

Critical privacy concern: Palantir’s ELITE tool draws on Medicaid records, meaning a U.S. citizen child’s medical benefits application can expose a non-citizen parent’s address to ICE enforcement. This creates a direct conflict between accessing healthcare and avoiding deportation.

6. Deaths in Custody and Fatal Use of Force (Annex A)

Overall: 53–70+ deaths attributed to ICE or CBP operations since January 20, 2025. 2025 was the deadliest year in ICE detention since records began — 32 deaths, nearly triple the 11 deaths in 2024. December 2025 was the deadliest single month on record (7 deaths). ICE stopped publishing death reports after September 2025 despite a 90-day congressional mandate.

Systemic contributing factors include: ICE halted payments to contracted medical providers in October 2025 (confirmed to cause denial of services); detention population surged to 73,000 (nearly double the prior administration, with 73.6% having no criminal conviction); 130+ facilities opened or reopened in 2025; DHS oversight offices gutted by DOGE; congressional oversight visits restricted; at least 4 miscarriages documented at South Louisiana ICE Processing Center due to lack of care.

6a. Selected 2026 Custody Deaths

- **Geraldo Lunas Campos (Jan. 3, 2026) — RULED HOMICIDE:** Age 55, Cuba. Camp East Montana, TX. ICE initially said “medical distress,” then “suicide.” El Paso Medical Examiner ruled homicide: “asphyxia due to neck and torso compression.” Eyewitness: guards “choked him to death.” First staff homicide a former senior official could recall in 15+ years.
- **Victor Manuel Díaz (Jan. 14, 2026) — AUTOPSY DIVERTED TO MILITARY HOSPITAL:** Age 36, Nicaragua. Camp East Montana, TX. Arrested in Minneapolis Jan. 6 during Metro Surge, transferred to TX. ICE bypassed the county medical examiner (who had previously ruled Lunas Campos’s death a homicide), sent body to military hospital on Fort Bliss. Third death at facility in 6 weeks.
- **Maksym Chernyak (Feb. 20, 2026) — DOCUMENTED MEDICAL NEGLECT:** Age 44, Ukrainian legal parolee (valid through August 2026). Krome Detention Center, Miami. Sought care repeatedly; denied. Staff waited 40+ minutes to call 911 after seizures. Nine medical experts: death preventable. Widow filing wrongful death suit.

6b. Fatal Use-of-Force Incidents (Selected)

At least 33 total shootings by ICE/CBP agents since January 20, 2025; 9 deaths; at least 5 shot were U.S. citizens. WSJ documented 13 instances of firing at/into vehicles since July 2025.

- **Renée Good (January 7, 2026):** 37-year-old U.S. citizen, mother of three. Fatally shot by ICE agent Jonathan Ross in Minneapolis. Her vehicle was stopped sideways in the street; Ross circled on foot and fired three shots as her car moved forward and to the right, turning away from him. DHS said agent acted in self-defense; Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey stated: “Having seen the video myself, I want to tell everybody directly — that is bullshit.” Ninth ICE/CBP shooting in five states since September 2025.
- **Alex Jeffrey Pretti (January 24, 2026):** 37-year-old U.S. citizen, ICU nurse at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Shot approximately 10 times by CBP agents Jesús Ochoa (43) and Raymundo Gutiérrez (35) during a protest. Bystander videos, reviewed by Reuters, BBC, WSJ, and AP, show Pretti on the ground, face down, when the fatal shots were fired. Agent confiscated Pretti’s legally holstered firearm before shooting. The White House labeled him a “would-be assassin”; DHS Secretary Noem called him a “domestic terrorist.” Neither claim is supported by any video evidence. Medical Examiner ruled death a homicide.
- **Keith Porter Jr. (December 31, 2025):** 43-year-old U.S. citizen (Black). Killed by off-duty ICE agent in Northridge, LA. No body camera. No charges. DHS did not acknowledge the death until media reported it in February 2026.

7. Verified Historical Timeline

Selected major events from the full timeline. Confidence ratings: HIGH = corroborated by official documents, court filings, or multiple independent sources; MEDIUM = multi-source OSINT with reasonable corroboration.

Date	Event	Confidence
Jan. 20, 2025	Trump inaugurated. Signs ~20 immigration executive orders including national emergency declaration, reversal of Biden enforcement priorities, and birthright citizenship EO 14160.	HIGH
Jan. 21, 2025	DHS expands expedited removal nationwide. CBP One app shut down.	HIGH
Jan. 29, 2025	Laken Riley Act signed — mandatory detention for noncitizens arrested for theft, burglary, assault of officers, or violent crimes.	HIGH
Feb. 2025	Hegseth fires military lawyers to remove “roadblocks” to domestic deployment orders.	HIGH
June 22, 2025	Operation Midnight Hammer: 7 B-2 bombers strike Iranian nuclear facilities. No prior congressional authorization.	HIGH
June 27, 2025	SCOTUS rules in Trump v. CASA, Inc.: federal courts lack authority to issue universal/nationwide injunctions.	HIGH
July 2025	One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed: \$170 billion in enforcement funding for DHS, including \$75B for ICE and \$45B for detention expansion.	HIGH
Sep. 4, 2025	Largest worksite raid in history: 475 arrests at Hyundai battery plant construction site, Ellabell, GA.	HIGH
Sep. 2025	Operation Southern Spear begins: first boat strike kills 11 (per DHS) in Venezuelan waters. A follow-up strike kills 2 survivors clinging to the wreckage. 44 total strikes through Feb. 2026; 151+ killed.	HIGH
Sep. 2025	V-Dem Institute classifies the U.S. as an “electoral authoritarian” regime — its lowest classification for the U.S. in its dataset.	HIGH
Nov. 2025	287(g) agreements expand from 135 to 700+ (en route to 1,504). 77.2 million Americans (32%) live in a county with a participating agency.	HIGH
Dec. 5, 2025	SCOTUS grants cert in Barbara v. Trump — agrees to hear birthright citizenship constitutionality. Oral arguments set April 1, 2026.	HIGH
Dec. 2025	Operation Metro Surge launched in Minneapolis. Hundreds of armed, masked federal agents begin sweeping operations across the metro area.	HIGH
Dec. 31, 2025	National Guard deployments in LA, Portland, and Chicago ended. Keith Porter Jr. (U.S. citizen) killed by off-duty ICE agent in LA.	HIGH
Jan. 3, 2026	Operation Absolute Resolve: U.S. military captures Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Blindfolded Maduro photo posted to Trump’s Truth Social. Geraldo Lunas Campos dies in ICE custody — later ruled homicide.	HIGH
Jan. 6, 2026	DHS announces 2,000 agents deployed to Minneapolis — largest single domestic immigration enforcement operation in U.S. history.	HIGH
Jan. 7, 2026	Renée Good, 37, U.S. citizen, fatally shot by ICE agent Jonathan Ross in Minneapolis. Sparks national protests. Gov. Walz activates National Guard.	HIGH
Jan. 22, 2026	DHS appropriations bill passes House with 7 Democratic votes; Senate Democrats block it following Minneapolis shootings.	HIGH
Jan. 23, 2026	Minnesota general strike: est. 50,000 march at -20°F. 100+ religious leaders arrested at MSP Airport. 2026 NDS released.	HIGH
Jan. 24, 2026	Alex Pretti, 37, U.S. citizen, ICU nurse, fatally shot by Border Patrol agents during Minneapolis protest. Medical examiner rules: homicide.	HIGH
Jan. 28, 2026	Chief Judge Schiltz: ICE violated at least 96 court orders in MN since January 1, 2026.	HIGH

Feb. 3, 2026	Judge Blackwell states “overwhelming majority” of ICE cases involved people lawfully present in the United States.	HIGH
Feb. 10, 2026	Acting ICE Director Lyons agrees to release body camera footage to Congress. As of March 9, no footage has been made public.	HIGH
Feb. 20, 2026	Maksym Chernyak, 44, Ukrainian legal parolee, dies at Krome, Miami, after documented medical neglect.	HIGH
Feb. 28, 2026	Operation Epic Fury launched: U.S. and Israel strike Iran — ~900 strikes in 12 hours, ~2,000 in 48 hours; Supreme Leader Khamenei killed; Minab girls’ school struck (up to 180 children killed); Iran retaliates across 6+ countries; Strait of Hormuz closure begins.	HIGH (CENTCOM, multiple sources; ACTIVE)
Mar. 1, 2026	6 U.S. Army Reserve soldiers killed by Iranian drone at Port Shuaiba, Kuwait — first U.S. combat deaths.	HIGH (DoD casualty release)
Mar. 3, 2026	Hezbollah opens Lebanon front. 397 killed. Islamic Resistance in Iraq: 27 operations in one day.	HIGH
Mar. 5, 2026	Trump fires Kristi Noem as DHS Secretary; nominates Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) as replacement effective March 31, 2026. Oil above \$100/barrel.	HIGH
Mar. 7, 2026	Dignified transfer at Dover AFB; 7th U.S. service member killed. War death toll: 1,230+ Iran, 397 Lebanon.	MEDIUM (fog of war)
Mar. 9, 2026	REPORT DATE. Operation Epic Fury Day 10. Iran names new supreme leader. Oil surges. Strait of Hormuz effectively closed. U.S. at war on 3+ fronts while domestic enforcement continues.	—

8. Legal Authorities & Constraints

- **Title 10 § 12406 (Federal Military Service):** Used to federalize National Guard troops for domestic deployment. California federalization ruled to violate both Tenth Amendment and Title 10 authorization requirements (Judge Breyer). Ruling stayed by Ninth Circuit. 2026 NDAA includes provisions prohibiting significant troop reductions in Europe or Korea without congressional certification — reflecting congressional pushback on the domestic reorientation.
- **Title 32 § 502(f) (National Guard State Status):** Most commonly used authority for National Guard domestic deployments, allowing federally funded missions while troops remain under state command. The administration has increasingly bypassed this framework in favor of Title 10 federalization, which removes gubernatorial consent requirements.
- **Posse Comitatus Act (18 U.S.C. § 1385):** Prohibits use of federal military forces for civilian law enforcement without congressional authorization. Judge Breyer explicitly found the California deployment violated this Act. Legal scholars and the Brennan Center note it has not been meaningfully updated since the 19th century and provides insufficient protection against executive overreach.
- **Insurrection Act of 1807 (10 U.S.C. §§ 251–255):** Trump publicly threatened invocation on January 15, 2026, in response to Minneapolis protests. Minnesota AG Keith Ellison announced he would challenge any invocation. Legal scholars dispute that conditions permitting invocation have been met. The Act’s broad language has never been subject to definitive judicial limits.
- **War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. §§ 1541–1548):** The 60-day clock for Operation Epic Fury expires approximately April 29, 2026. Congress must authorize continued operations, invoke the Resolution to force withdrawal, or acquiesce through inaction. The administration has framed Epic Fury as within existing anti-terrorism authorizations — contested by legal scholars and bipartisan congressional critics.
- **EO 14160 — Birthright Citizenship:** Attempts to restrict automatic citizenship to children of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Currently blocked by class action injunction (Barbara v. Trump). SCOTUS oral arguments April 1, 2026; ruling expected by early July 2026.

- **Laken Riley Act (Signed January 29, 2025):** Mandates detention without bond for noncitizens unlawfully present who have been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of burglary, theft, shoplifting, assault of a law enforcement officer, or any crime resulting in death or serious injury. Applies retroactively to arrests, not convictions.
- **INA Section 235(b) — Expedited Removal:** Expanded nationwide as of January 21, 2025. Any undocumented individual encountered anywhere in the U.S. with less than two years of demonstrated presence subject to removal without immigration judge hearing. Burden of proof on the individual.
- **ICE Warrantless Entry Memo (January 2026):** Internal ICE memo (obtained by AP) directs officers they may enter homes without judicial warrants using administrative warrants (I-205 forms signed by ICE supervisors — not judges). Courts have consistently held these do not authorize home entry under the Fourth Amendment. AP witnessed ICE officers ramming through a front door in Minneapolis on January 11 with only an administrative warrant, rifles drawn.
- **Fifth Circuit Split on Mandatory Detention:** The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the administration's no-bond policy — creating a circuit split heading to SCOTUS. 300+ other district judges have found mandatory detention unconstitutional. The resolution of this split will determine the legal basis for detaining 65,000–73,000 people.

9. Foreign Military Operations (Annexes Q–X)

△ **ACTIVE OPERATION: Operation Epic Fury (Iran War) is ongoing as of this report. This is the most significant U.S. military campaign since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. All figures are preliminary and subject to rapid change under fog-of-war conditions. Confidence: HIGH for confirmed government statements and verified deaths; MEDIUM for ongoing tactical situation.**

9a. Four Major Operations Since January 2025

- **Operation Midnight Hammer (June 22, 2025):** 7 B-2 Spirit stealth bombers from Whiteman AFB, MO struck Iranian nuclear facilities using GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrators (14 bombs across multiple sites). No prior congressional authorization. Trump notified Gang of Eight after the fact. Claimed complete obliteration of Iran's nuclear program; U.S. intelligence assessment was more uncertain.
- **Operation Southern Spear (September 2025 – Ongoing):** 44 strikes on 45 vessels in Caribbean and Pacific, killing at least 151 people. Strike platforms: MQ-9 Reaper drones (AGM-114 Hellfire), AC-130J Spectre gunships, F-35B fighters. First strike killed 2 survivors clinging to a destroyed vessel in a follow-up attack. 10 Democratic senators cited potential violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1111 (murder), EO 12333 (assassination ban), and UCMJ Art. 118. The Washington Office on Latin America documented 32+ attacks as “amounting to extrajudicial killings.” A retired Navy Captain writing in USNI Proceedings concluded the legal threshold for anticipatory self-defense was not met.
- **Operation Absolute Resolve (January 3, 2026):** U.S. military assets, including 150+ aircraft, captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Blindfolded Maduro photo posted to Trump's Truth Social. Secretary Rubio stated Venezuela was “not an invasion.” Brazil, Spain, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay condemned the action in a joint statement. A naval blockade was imposed on Venezuelan oil exports. Delmaris Rodríguez installed as new president.
- **Operation Epic Fury (February 28, 2026 — ACTIVE):** Full-scale U.S.-Israeli air campaign against Iran. ~2,000 strikes in 48 hours. Supreme Leader Khamenei killed. 30+ Iranian ships sunk. Iranian Navy effectively destroyed. 7 U.S. service members killed (6 Army Reserve soldiers at Port Shuaiba, Kuwait on March 1). Minab girls' school struck — up to 180 schoolchildren killed; independent investigation ongoing. Hezbollah opened Lebanon front (397 killed). Iranian retaliation attacks across Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Strait of Hormuz effectively closed. Oil above \$100/barrel (+40% in one week). U.S. gasoline up 17%. 150+ tankers stranded. European gas prices nearly doubled. Economists warn of stagflation.

9b. The Unified Strategy — Why These Operations Are Connected

The Center for International Policy’s assessment: from Operation Midnight Hammer to Absolute Resolve to Epic Fury, the administration has constructed “a new operational norm, one in which the most militarily powerful state on earth reserves to itself the right to use lethal force anywhere, against anyone, for purposes it defines unilaterally, accountable to no external legal authority.”

The domestic enforcement apparatus and the foreign military operations are not separate policies. They are governed by the same authorities (NDS, executive emergency declarations), funded by the same legislation (OBBBA, NDAA), executed by overlapping personnel and platforms (MQ-9 Reapers over American cities and over Venezuelan waters; 5GW targeting systems used domestically and internationally), and justified by the same rhetorical architecture (“invasion,” “narcoterrorism,” “worst of the worst”). The messaging separation — “public safety” for domestic operations, “national security” for foreign ones — is itself a fifth-generation warfare technique designed to prevent the public from perceiving the operations as a unified strategy.

10. Operational and Political Friction

- **Federal-State Friction:** The Minnesota operation represents the most severe federal-state confrontation since the desegregation era, with the key distinction that federal power is being used not to expand civil rights but to conduct enforcement operations over the objection of state officials. The AG lawsuit, non-cooperation by local police, and the general strike represent an escalating pattern of resistance.
- **Intra-Federal Friction:** The removal of CBP Commander Bovino from Minneapolis following the Pretti killing — with Tom Homan dispatched as replacement — indicates internal recognition that the operation had become counterproductive. The resignation of six federal prosecutors from the Feeding Our Future fraud case following the Good killing suggests institutional friction within DOJ. Noem’s dismissal was attributed to “constant feuding with the heads of other agencies, including CBP and ICE.”
- **Judicial-Executive Friction:** The finding of 96 court order violations in a single month represents an extraordinary level of non-compliance by a federal agency. The pattern of courts ruling against deployment authorities, followed by immediate appellate stays allowing operations to continue, creates a functional reality in which operations proceed under contested legality.
- **War Powers Friction:** The 60-day War Powers clock for Operation Epic Fury is running (expires ~April 29, 2026). The Senate twice rejected resolutions limiting Caribbean strike authority. But the scale of a full-scale war creates different dynamics: the Minab school strike — up to 180 children killed — generates international pressure that congressional critics can leverage. The economic pain from oil prices creates constituent pressure that war supporters cannot indefinitely ignore.
- **Bipartisan Financial Capture:** Palantir’s lobbying network spans both parties: in January 2026, lobbying firms representing Palantir bundled \$2.9 million for the DCCC (38% of the committee’s monthly total), even as progressive activists blockaded Palantir offices. This bipartisan financial relationship limits congressional oversight capacity from either party.

11. Impacts on Communities and the Nation

11a. Immigrant Communities

The psychological and economic impact in Minneapolis has been severe: immigrants have stopped leaving their homes; churches organized food deliveries; schools transitioned to remote learning; the city Emergency Operations Center estimated over \$200 million in January impact across food security, livelihood, shelter, and mental health sectors. ICE detainees have included restaurant workers, airport employees, Target employees, children and families, and members of the Oglala Sioux tribe detained during a raid on a homeless encampment. Six people died in ICE custody in the first three weeks of January 2026.

11b. Children and Families

The Marshall Project found ICE held approximately 170 children on an average day — a sixfold increase from ~25/day under Biden. At least 3,800 children under 18 (including 20 infants) detained since Trump took office. Named cases include: Liam Conejo Ramos, 5, detained in his Spider-Man backpack while walking home from school; Elizabeth, 10, intercepted while her mother drove her to the bus stop. A Texas judge condemned “ill-conceived and incompetently-implemented government pursuit of daily deportation quotas, apparently even if it requires traumatizing children.” Five states (Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Idaho, Indiana) are seeking to overturn Plyler v. Doe (1982), which guarantees undocumented children the right to public education.

11c. U.S. Citizens

The deaths of Renée Good and Alex Pretti — both U.S. citizens with no immigration violations — demonstrate that enforcement operations produce lethal risks for citizens. Judge Blackwell’s finding that the overwhelming majority of ICE’s detainees were lawfully present indicates that the targeting methodology is not effectively distinguishing between enforcement targets and bystanders. People with no criminal record held in ICE detention increased 2,450% under this administration.

11d. Economic Impact of the Unified Strategy

Operation Epic Fury has created immediate macroeconomic disruption affecting every American household: gasoline up 17% in one week; oil above \$100/barrel; Strait of Hormuz closure disrupts 20% of global oil supply; 150+ tankers stranded; Dow fell 400+ points; economists warn of stagflation. Domestically: agricultural workforce lost 155,000 workers March–July 2025; meatpacking plants cut production after raids; fresh vegetable and meat prices rose; California’s total workforce dropped 3.1% in one month. The Kansas Livestock Association stated raids “disrupt our food supply and contribute to higher food prices.” The proposed FY2027 defense budget of \$1.5 trillion, combined with \$178 billion for DHS and \$170 billion in OBBBA enforcement funding, represents fiscal commitments that compete directly with healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social safety net spending.

12. Democracy Assessment (Section 15 of Full Report)

12a. Scholarly Consensus on Democratic Backsliding

Institution	Finding
V-Dem Institute (Univ. of Gothenburg)	Classified the United States as an “electoral authoritarian” regime in September 2025 — its lowest classification for the U.S. in its dataset.
Bright Line Watch (Political Scientists)	Classifies U.S. as a “mixed regime,” ranking between Israel (49) and Mexico (60), and “well below nominal democratic peers of Great Britain (83) and Canada (88).”
Century Foundation Democracy Meter	Score fell from 79/100 (2024) to 57/100 (Jan. 2026). Found “consolidation of executive power is the biggest problem facing U.S. democracy.” Concluded: “The slide into authoritarianism is reversible” only if democratic actors respond.
Carnegie Endowment for Int’l Peace	Administration “has aggressively pursued all three levels of its aggrandizement agenda simultaneously” in a “compressed and simultaneous push that makes identifying and responding to its illiberal elements especially challenging.”
Harvard Kennedy School (Levitsky)	“The most aggressively and openly authoritarian case of democratic backsliding” — but also: “This is authoritarianism that can be reversed — and I think likely will be reversed.”
Toda Peace Institute	“Few, if any, recovering backsliders have regained the level of democratic quality they had achieved prior to the backsliding episode.” Key recovery factors: high GDP per capita, federal decentralization, and mobilized civil society — all present in the U.S.

Ray Dalio (Bridgewater Associates)	Warned in September 2025 that the U.S. was heading toward “1930s-style authoritarian policies.”
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12b. Evidence Map: Democratic Backsliding Mechanisms

Backsliding Mechanism	MAMBO Evidence
Executive aggrandizement	Four foreign military operations without congressional authorization; NDS codifies deportation as military mission; DOGE bypasses statutory authority
Judicial undermining	100+ immigration judges fired; 96+ court orders violated in MN; rapid detainee transfers to evade habeas; “absolute immunity” claims for agents
Legislative bypassing	War Powers Resolution circumvented across 4 operations; Gang of Eight notification substituted for AUMF; “armed conflict” declared by executive fiat
Civil society suppression	650+ federal obstruction charges; journalist arrests; app/platform removals at DOJ request; FAA no-fly zones banning civilian documentation
Electoral manipulation	DOGE-SSA voter data agreement; mid-decade gerrymandering (TX +5 R seats, MO, FL); 5 states seeking to overturn Plyler v. Doe
Civil service purge	100+ immigration judges fired; CRCL gutted; DHS oversight offices eliminated; DOGE mass firings; 100,000+ case backlog in immigration courts
Militarization of domestic governance	National Guard in 6 cities; NDS “Priority 1” includes deportation; MQ-9 drones over American cities; 22,000 ICE officers (doubled); 1,504 287(g) agreements

13. Stakeholder Posturing

13a. Domestic Enforcement

Stakeholder	Key Message	Assessment
White House / DHS	Operations target “the worst of the worst” — murderers, rapists, gang members, and fraud perpetrators	Contradicted by court findings that “overwhelming majority” of detainees were lawfully present; 73.6% have no criminal conviction
MN Governor Walz	Surge is “a war being waged against Minnesota” and “ridiculous”	Frames operations as political retribution; AG lawsuit pursuing legal strategy
Minneapolis PD Chief O’Hara	Federal agents using “questionable methods”; hopes for de-escalation	Unusual public criticism of federal partners by sitting police chief
Federal Judiciary	ICE is violating court orders; majority of detainees are lawfully present	Strongest institutional pushback; 96 documented court order violations; contempt proceedings considered
Sen. Markwayne Mullin (DHS nominee)	Defended both Minneapolis shootings; stated Good officer “didn’t have an option”; told CNBC everyone should carry proof of citizenship	Signals enforcement continuity at DHS; confirmation hearings will be contentious
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)	Called Noem’s leadership a “disaster”; supports Mullin to “clean up her mess”	Bipartisan fracture on management, not immigration policy

13b. Foreign Operations

Stakeholder	Key Message	Assessment
Trump / White House	Epic Fury is “the most stunning display of American military might”; Iran will “never have a nuclear weapon”	Triumphal framing; operational reality contested by intelligence community
Secretary Hegseth	“The most lethal, most complex, and most-precision aerial operation in history”	Calibrated for domestic consumption; contradicted by civilian casualty reports and Minab investigation
Secretary Rubio	Venezuela was “not an invasion”; U.S. “would not deliberately target a school”	Legal framing to avoid War Powers triggers; Minab school strike under independent investigation
UN Secretary-General	Venezuela “a dangerous precedent”; called for “immediate de-escalation” on Iran	International consensus against unilateral action; limited enforcement capacity
WOLA	32+ attacks and 115+ deaths “amount to extrajudicial killings”	Most detailed independent documentation of boat strike illegality
Congressional opposition	10 Senate Democrats cite potential murder statutes; bipartisan NDAA amendment for War Powers compliance	Legislative resistance present but has not yet constrained operations

14. Operational Risk Matrix

Likelihood and Impact assessed for the 90-day forecast window (March 9 – June 2026). Color key: RED = HIGH, AMBER = MEDIUM, GREEN = LOW/MEDIUM.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Rationale
Additional civilian fatality during enforcement operation	HIGH	CRITICAL	Two fatalities in 17 days in Minneapolis; operations continue nationwide with documented aggressive tactics and 96 court order violations. At least 33 total shooting incidents since January 2025.
Federal court contempt finding against DOJ/DHS official	HIGH	HIGH	Judge actively weighing contempt as of March 3; 96 documented court order violations provide ample basis. Pattern of continued non-compliance.
Expansion of Metro Surge model to additional cities	HIGH	HIGH	DHS has established HSTFs in multiple cities; \$170B in available resources; operational template established. ICE arrests up 40% nationwide in Jan. 2026.
Constitutional crisis over executive non-compliance with court orders	MEDIUM	CRITICAL	96 violations documented; appellate stays enable continued operations under contested legality; no clear enforcement mechanism if executive branch refuses compliance.
Insurrection Act invocation	MEDIUM	CRITICAL	Trump publicly threatened and backtracked; legal constraints remain uncertain; any major protest escalation or renewed Minneapolis-style operation could trigger renewed consideration.

SCOTUS upholds EO 14160, eliminating birthright citizenship (ruling expected June/July 2026)	MEDIUM	HIGH	6-3 conservative majority; Court's procedural hostility to class actions in CASA signals. If upheld, tens of thousands of U.S.-born children immediately vulnerable. Implementation chaos likely regardless of outcome.
Operation Epic Fury escalates: Iran retaliatory strike on U.S. soil or regional war widens to include Turkey/Russia	MEDIUM	CRITICAL	Hezbollah front opened; Iranian proxies active in 6+ countries; Strait of Hormuz closure creating economic pressure that could accelerate or decelerate escalation unpredictably.
DHS institutional instability during Noem-to-Mullin transition produces enforcement command failures	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	Noem fired for "feuding with heads of ICE and CBP"; Mullin has no federal law enforcement experience; Tom Homan's parallel authority as "border czar" creates dual chain-of-command dynamic.
Normalization of military presence in American cities through NDS codification	HIGH	HIGH	NDS has codified this as policy; CBO projects \$1.1B annual cost; D.C. deployment extended through end of 2026. No sunset provisions.

CRITICAL = high probability of catastrophic, potentially irreversible institutional damage. HIGH = severe operational and/or legal consequences. MEDIUM = significant disruption requiring response.

15. Strategic Indicators to Watch (Next 90 Days)

⚠ **CRITICAL PRIORITY:** These indicators are assessed as of March 9, 2026, with Operation Epic Fury in its 10th day. The following tripwires supersede all prior indicator assessments.

15a. Immediate (Next 72–96 Hours)

- **Epic Fury Strait of Hormuz Status:** Whether the Strait remains effectively closed. Each day of closure adds economic pressure; oil at \$100+ for 2+ weeks begins to affect consumer behavior and political approval ratings. Watch for Iranian signals on re-opening conditions.
- **Iranian Retaliation Trajectory:** Watch for escalation at Hezbollah's Lebanon front (IDF ground ops already active in south Lebanon), Iraqi proxy operations (27 ops in one day on March 3), and potential direct strike on U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf.
- **New Supreme Leader Policy Signals:** Iran named a new supreme leader following Khamenei's death. The new leader's first policy signals will define whether there is a diplomatic off-ramp or continued escalation.

15b. Short-Term (1–4 Weeks)

- **War Powers 60-Day Clock (expires ~April 29, 2026):** This is the first hard institutional test of whether Congress will assert its constitutional war-making authority. Watch for an AUMF draft, War Powers Resolution invocation, or — the most likely outcome historically — congressional acquiescence through inaction.
- **Mullin Senate Confirmation Hearings:** Watch for committee hearing dates, Democratic vote counts, and any pre-confirmation commitments on body cameras, warrant requirements, Minneapolis accountability, or surveillance technology. A Mullin confirmation with or without reform conditions will define DHS operational constraints through FY2026.
- **Body Camera Footage Release:** Acting ICE Director Lyons agreed on February 10 to release footage to Congress. As of March 9, no footage has been made public. Non-release would indicate continued opacity and potential contempt exposure.

- **Contempt Proceedings Against DOJ/DHS:** As of March 3, a judge was weighing contempt against a top DOJ official over ICE court order compliance in Minnesota. A contempt finding would represent an unprecedented judicial-executive confrontation.
- **DOJ Prosecutorial Decision on Pretti/Good Agents:** If DOJ announces it will not prosecute agents Ochoa, Gutierrez, or Jonathan Ross, expect immediate escalation in Congressional oversight activity, civil litigation, and state-level legal action. Prosecution would create political pressure from within the administration’s own base.

15c. Medium-Term (1–6 Months)

- **SCOTUS Oral Arguments in Barbara v. Trump (April 1, 2026):** Monitor justices’ questions for signals on both the merits (EO 14160 constitutionality) and on class action mechanisms. A bench hostile to the class action approach could leave tens of thousands of U.S.-born children in legal limbo before a merits decision is reached.
- **November 2026 Midterm Elections:** All 435 House seats; 35 Senate seats; 36 governorships; 26 Secretaries of State; 88 state legislative chambers. Democrats need a net gain of 3 House seats for majority. Republicans hold a 218–213 majority. This is the most consequential midterm since 1974 — and the single most important democratic check on the unified strategy documented in this report.
- **Mexico Operations Decision:** Watch for JSOC deployment authorization under Title 50 authority. The escalation pattern (FTO designation → secret directive → training → public signaling → operation) suggests this decision window is live in 2026.
- **FY2026 DHS Appropriations Resolution:** The partial government shutdown and blocked DHS appropriations bill require resolution before June. Whether Democratic demands (judicial warrants, body cameras, sensitive location protections, mask ban) are incorporated in any deal will represent the most significant potential operational constraint on ICE in the current environment.

16. Predictive Timeline: Key Inflection Points (2026–2032)

Date / Window	Event / Inflection Point	Democratic Significance
~Apr. 29, 2026	War Powers 60-day clock on Epic Fury expires	First hard test of congressional war authority
Apr. 1, 2026	SCOTUS oral arguments, Barbara v. Trump (birthright citizenship)	Most consequential pending immigration legal question
April 2026	Expected Mullin Senate confirmation (if on schedule)	Sets DHS operational framework for remainder of 2026
June/July 2026	SCOTUS ruling expected in Barbara v. Trump	Landmark determination on birthright citizenship; potential immediate implementation crisis
Oct. 1, 2026	FY2027 government shutdown deadline	Budget fight 5 weeks before midterms; war funding, enforcement funding in play
Nov. 3, 2026	MIDTERM ELECTIONS (All 435 House; 35 Senate; 36 Governors)	Most consequential midterm since 1974; determines whether unified strategy faces congressional constraint
Jan. 3, 2027	120th Congress convenes	New power balance takes effect; subpoena authority may shift
2027–2028	Possible SCOTUS vacancies (Thomas, 79; Alito, 77)	Any vacancy reshapes the court for a generation

Nov. 7, 2028	Presidential Election	First election without Trump on ballot; determines whether unified strategy is institutional legacy or aberration
2030	Decennial Census	Enforcement-driven undercounts could shift 8–9 electoral votes; redistricting determines House maps for 10 years
Nov. 2032	Presidential Election under post-census maps	Democrats' projected 2024 electoral total drops from 226 to ~217; structural inflection point

Two Trajectories

- **Trajectory A: Democratic Recovery:** The 2026 midterms produce a congressional check. The courts continue to issue adverse rulings. The economic cost of the Iran war generates political backlash. The 2028 election installs an administration committed to reversing the unified strategy. Democracy is weakened but functional. The comparative literature suggests this is possible but historically rare.
- **Trajectory B: Authoritarian Consolidation:** The 2026 midterms fail to produce a meaningful check. The war continues or produces a perceived victory that strengthens executive power. The enforcement apparatus expands. The 2030 census undercounts immigrant communities. The 2032 election is conducted on a structurally tilted map with a surveillance apparatus, military-domestic fusion, and legal precedents that make democratic correction increasingly difficult. The administration's allies at the Heritage Foundation described Hungary as "the model." A Hungarian researcher quoted in this report's Annex E stated: "Trump went further in two months than Orbán could in 15 years."

17. Recommended Actions

For Major Donors and Board Members

- Fund legal representation for detainees. 24,403 habeas petitions have a 97% win rate in SDNY — but most of the 65,000+ detainees lack counsel. Organizations including the ACLU, RAICES, National Immigrant Justice Center, and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project can deploy attorneys immediately with funding.
- Invest in state-level races. The 36 gubernatorial races, 26 Secretary of State races, and 88 state legislative chambers on the 2026 ballot are the most underinvested and highest-return democratic investments. State-level power determines whether communities cooperate with or resist federal overreach for years to come.
- Support independent media. Journalist arrests, body camera suppression, FAA no-fly zones, and social media monitoring are systematic. Independent journalism — from the Minnesota Reformer to ProPublica to The Intercept to your local newspaper — is the immune system of a democratic society.
- Fund community mutual aid networks directly. The infrastructure that enabled 50,000 people to march at -20°F in Minneapolis was built over years by community organizations. That infrastructure needs sustained, unrestricted funding.

For Organizers and Field Staff

- Know your rights and distribute that knowledge. Community organizations should maintain current know-your-rights materials on ICE encounter rights, the limits of administrative warrants, and caregiver authorization affidavits for children whose parents may be detained.
- Build ICE observer networks with legal backing. The 650+ federal obstruction charges against community monitors represent an attempt to criminalize documentation. Organizations should pair observer networks with on-call legal support to protect monitors.

- Attend public meetings. 287(g) agreements, local police cooperation with ICE, and sanctuary policies are decided at city councils, school boards, and county commissioner meetings. Showing up is not symbolic — it determines policy.
- Pace for sustainability. The strategy documented in this report is designed to exhaust opposition. Community infrastructure — rotating leadership, distributing tasks, protecting organizer mental health — is what allows sustained resistance.

For Elected Officials

- Use every legal tool available: lawsuits, non-cooperation, public statements, appropriations conditions, oversight hearings, subpoenas. The Minnesota AG lawsuit, the Chicago unified front, and state-level judicial rulings demonstrate that institutional resistance works.
- Demand accountability for the Minneapolis killings. Congressional Democrats' January 2026 letter to AG Bondi established the documentary record. Sustained oversight hearings, combined with subpoena power, can compel disclosure of the body camera footage Lyons promised and has not delivered.
- Oppose the unified strategy's funding architecture. The Bipartisan Policy Center has confirmed Congress can claw back OBBBA enforcement funding before it expires September 30, 2029 — the longer the wait, the more will have been spent.

For Military and Veterans

- Your oath is to the Constitution — not to any president, party, or policy. If you witness unlawful orders, the UCMJ provides protections for those who refuse them. If you have separated from service, your voice carries authority that civilian critics cannot match.
- About Face: Veterans Against the War (aboutfaceveterans.org), Protect Democracy (protectdemocracy.org), and the National Security Leaders for America (nationalsecurityleaders.org) provide platforms for veterans committed to constitutional governance.
- The German Marshall Fund found that “almost no military units have training in the kinds of policing procedures necessary to facilitate or conduct deportation operations.” Engage your chain of command, inspector general, and JAG corps on legal compliance before and during any domestic deployment.

18. Civil Society Response and Evidence for Hope (Annex K)

The comparative literature on civil society resistance to backsliding identifies one factor above all others: sustained discipline over time. The strategy documented in this report is designed to exhaust opposition. The antidote is community infrastructure.

Documented Resistance — The Evidence Base

- 24,403 habeas corpus petitions filed — more than the previous three administrations combined. 350/362 wins in SDNY — a 97% success rate.
- 300+ federal judges have found mandatory detention unconstitutional.
- 50,000 people marched at -20°F in Minneapolis on January 23, 2026 — the largest general strike in the United States in decades.
- 100+ religious leaders arrested at MSP Airport in an act of moral witness.
- State attorneys general filed lawsuits that produced Posse Comitatus rulings.
- Opposition election victories in November 2025 (NJ, VA) demonstrating that elections still function as a meaningful check.
- Six federal prosecutors resigned in protest from the Feeding Our Future case.
- A retired Navy Captain published a legal critique of the boat strikes in USNI Proceedings — from within the military community.

- The Netherlands partially withdrew from Operation Southern Spear.
- Oman brokered a diplomatic “breakthrough” 48 hours before bombs fell — proving diplomacy remains possible.
- 1,000+ habeas petitions filed during Metro Surge alone — by divorce lawyers, climate attorneys, and education lawyers learning the process in real time.

Three Principles from the Comparative Literature

- **Pace for years, not weeks:** The predictive timeline in this report runs to 2032. Organize for sustainability: rotate leadership, distribute tasks, celebrate intermediate victories, protect the mental health of organizers.
- **Stay nonviolent and lawful:** Erica Chenoweth’s Harvard research demonstrates that nonviolent movements are twice as likely to succeed as violent ones and produce more durable democratic outcomes. Lawful, peaceful, disciplined action denies the administration’s “domestic terrorist” narrative weapon.
- **Build the broadest possible coalition:** The coalition needed to arrest the trajectory must include conservatives who believe in separation of powers, libertarians who oppose mass surveillance, veterans who take their oath seriously, business owners whose livelihoods depend on stable governance, and faith communities whose moral commitments transcend political affiliation. A coalition of the left alone is not large enough. A coalition for the Constitution is.

James Baldwin, writing during an earlier crisis of American democracy: “Not everything is lost. Responsibility cannot be lost; it can only be abdicated. If one refuses abdication, one begins again.”

Priority Intelligence Requirements (Updated March 9, 2026)

Immediate (Next 72 Hours)

1. Operation Epic Fury: Strait of Hormuz status; Iranian retaliation trajectory; U.S. casualty trends; Minab school investigation; congressional War Powers action
2. Oil price trajectory and domestic gasoline impact
3. Hezbollah/Lebanon front escalation pace
4. Iran new supreme leader’s first policy signals

Short-Term (1–4 Weeks)

5. War Powers 60-day clock (expires ~April 29, 2026); AUMF vote prospects
6. SCOTUS habeas corpus ruling on 5th Circuit split; 65,000–73,000 detainees in legal limbo
7. Mexico operations decision — JSOC deployment authorization
8. Body camera footage disposition from Metro Surge (Lyons commitment; still outstanding)
9. Warehouse retrofitting activation timeline — detention capacity toward 92,600 beds

Medium-Term (1–6 Months)

10. 2026 midterm elections (November) as democratic check on unified strategy
11. Post-Maduro Venezuela stability trajectory
12. European autonomous defense capacity development in response to NDS homeland-pivot
13. Russia’s response to U.S. military overextension across multiple theaters simultaneously

END OF REPORT

MAMBO Intelligence Brief: U.S. Domestic Enforcement, Foreign Military Operations, and the Unified Strategy (January 20, 2025 – March 9, 2026)

This report comprises 18 main sections and 24 annexes. It was produced by the MAMBO Project of About Face: Veterans Against the War using exclusively open-source, legally obtained information. It reflects verified information as of March 9, 2026. Operation Epic Fury is an active military operation entering its 10th day; the Iran war is a multi-front regional conflict involving 8+ countries; information is subject to rapid change and fog-of-war distortion.

Confidence assessments follow the MAMBO rubric: HIGH = corroborated by official documents, court filings, or multiple independent sources; MEDIUM = multi-source OSINT with reasonable corroboration; LOW = single source or unverified.

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