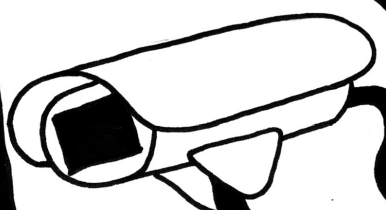# FROM LA TO GAZA
# LET'S CUT THE NET OF CONTROL

There's a reason the Waymos were one of the first things to burn when anti-deportation riots broke out in Los Angeles this past summer: surveillance and data collection is the backbone of the deportation machine and policing more broadly. And the self-driving cars themselves are a clear symbol of the divide between those who see them as an exciting new toy and those who see them as a weapon to be used against us. The flames rising from the cars' burnt-out skeletons were a beacon for everyone who is under the boot of the powerful, reminding us that these tech gimmicks are a Trojan horse for the power of the authorities. And although in terms of dollars and cents, a few cars lost might be meaningless for the tech overlords at Google, the flames carry a dire message: we see what you're trying to do, and we refuse to fall for it.

Earlier this year, ICE awarded Palantir Technologies a $30 million contract to build what they're calling "ImmigrationOS," an AI system designed to give ICE near real-time visibility into immigrants' movements, an expansion of the work the company has been doing for the Department of Homeland Security since 2011. Palantir's technology is what allows ICE to function effectively, bringing together data in one place in order to "streamline" putting people in cages: from social media posts to cell phone location tracking, from biometric data to license plate scans. And we can be sure that the authorities are motivated to fortify their net of control against the scapegoat of the day because sooner or later they intend to use it against the rest of us, especially those who don't intend to quietly submit to the misery of this system of profit and exploitation. The genocide in Gaza is yet another testing ground for this technology, with the Israeli government using AI systems dubbed "Lavendar" and "Habsora" (the Gospel) to target humans and buildings to bomb. In the words of one intelligence officer, "the machine did it coldly, and that made it easier."

On June 15, with the riots starting to die down and thousands of National Guard Troops on the streets, more than 50,000 Spectrum customers in Los Angeles lost internet after fiber optic lines were cut. Those disconnected from the net of control included a U.S. military base, police departments, and police dispatch centers. Four days later, another cut happened in Long Beach. As the initial uncontrollability of the riots began to be channeled into the spectacle of centralized democratic protest, some individuals took it upon themselves to identify and directly attack what makes policing and control possible in the digital age. The anonymous vandals remind us that ICE is nothing without their databases. The information they use to surveil and deport is what we feed them from our own phones, and the lines this information runs over are right under our feet, over our heads. These acts were also an invitation to everyone who fought in the streets: when the riots are over, instead of going back home and watching livestreams of the pigs deporting, harassing and assaulting, hoping that your own door isn't the next to get knocked down, go outside. Look around. Find the threads holding this system of death and control together, grab a trusted friend and... the rest is up to you!