

Mid-Year Impact Report 2026

This year has made clear that The Intercept’s work – the investigations, the accountability reporting, the stories others wouldn’t touch – has the power to resonate, spark real consequences, and remind readers why independent journalism matters. Thanks to reader support, The Intercept is making a difference in the lives of millions—from protecting your health data from Palantir to exposing the bigotry and cruelty driving the administration’s new policies.

Unmasking ICE

When federal officials refused to name the ICE agent who fatally shot 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis, we **identified the shooter as Jonathan Ross** by working sources, uncovering public records, and researching on social media. Our continued reporting on Ross helped pressure federal prosecutors to produce his personnel file, training records, body camera footage, and cellphone data for a magistrate judge.



Photo: Jonathan Maturen/Getty Images

Less than two days after Ross fatally shot Good, the Department of Homeland Security posted a recruitment ad to its official Instagram set to “We’ll Have Our Home Again” by Pine Tree Riots – **a song popularized in neo-Nazi spaces** with lyrics about reclaiming “our home” by “blood or sweat.” The song had opened the manifesto of the white supremacist who killed three Black people in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2023 and had been chanted by the Proud Boys at rallies. Our reporting triggered immediate congressional action: Reps. Becca Balint (D-VT), and Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), **sent a letter** to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg – **citing The Intercept by name** – demanding the company pull the ad campaign from its platforms and disclose the full scope of its advertising relationship with DHS. The pressure worked: DHS quietly deleted the post without announcement, even as its spokesperson publicly dismissed the backlash.

Through additional investigation, we revealed that law enforcement officials themselves raised serious concerns about the same ad campaign. Colorado law enforcement officials warned that **ICE recruitment posts were so deeply embedded with white supremacist imagery** and themes that they risked inciting vigilante violence against immigrants – and potentially attracting extremists to infiltrate federal law enforcement agencies. **This was the first**

known instance of officials within the U.S. counterterrorism establishment publicly voicing alarm about the federal government’s own messaging.

Our reporting on “death cards” left by **ICE agents in the abandoned vehicles of detained immigrants** in Eagle County, Colorado, triggered an immediate chain of congressional action. Within days of publication, Colorado Rep. Joe Neguse joined Sens. John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet and the full Democratic House delegation in formally demanding that the DHS Office of Inspector General open an independent investigation into the death cards and requesting a comprehensive briefing on ICE activity in Eagle County. Hickenlooper took the images directly to the Senate floor, condemning the threatening, racist death cards and demanding written confirmation of any disciplinary action.



Collage: The Intercept / Screenshots: Colorado Information Analysis Center

Defending the First Amendment

Our coverage of Renea Gamble, an Alabama grandmother who had been arrested for **wearing a penis costume at a No Kings protest** in October 2025, turned a local misdemeanor case into a national referendum on free speech and the criminalization of dissent. Instead of dropping the case, the city of Fairhope piled on charges of disturbing the peace and providing a false name. **The Intercept’s coverage of her trial helped mobilize supporters and activists, who showed up at the courthouse on trial day in solidarity costumes.** Gamble was ultimately acquitted on all charges. Outside the courthouse, she told the crowd: “We have civil rights in Fairhope. ... As Alabamians, we dare defend our rights, and this fight is not over.”



Still: The Intercept

Holding Big Tech Accountable

In February, **we broke the news** that NYC Health + Hospitals – the country’s largest public hospital system, serving over a million New Yorkers – had been quietly paying Palantir nearly \$4 million to process patient data. The same company that powers ICE’s deportation operations had access to protected health information at Bellevue and dozens of other

city facilities.

Our story sparked immediate action. NYC community groups mobilized, residents testified before the City Council, and the hospital system's CEO **announced that the Palantir contract won't be renewed this fall.**

Trump Administration

At a moment of immense public interest around allegations of FBI Director Kash Patel's drinking and conduct in office, we obtained his personnel file from the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office through a public records request, uncovering a 2005 letter Patel wrote to the Florida Bar that had never been reported. In the letter, Patel disclosed two **alcohol-related arrests from his college and law school years**: one for public intoxication for drinking underage in 2001, and another in 2005 for public urination after a night out. Our reporting added crucial documentary evidence to ongoing questions about Patel's conduct, revealing a pattern of alcohol-related incidents that stretched back two decades. The story landed as Patel was already facing mounting pressure over allegations of excessive drinking in office, reports that he had become unreachable behind closed doors, and claims that he had ordered lie-detector tests and sent agents to tail journalists covering him. The document showed how Patel's alcohol use had been subjected to professional scrutiny before, lending weight to current concerns about his fitness to lead the nation's top law enforcement agency.



Photo: Graeme Sloan/Bloomberg via Getty Images

When the Trump administration deployed ICE agents to American airports in March, we published a **digital privacy guide** on how to keep federal agents from getting into your phone. But we didn't stop at just publishing the article; we sent a billboard truck to John F. Kennedy International Airport. The truck circled JFK terminals asking travelers, "Do you trust ICE with your phone?" and directing them to the digital security guide. The campaign represented a new model for investigative journalism: taking the story directly to the people who needed it most, at the exact moment they faced the threat. We worked closely with content creators to get the story out far and wide. Through these collaborations we reached an audience of 2.2 million across several platforms. NiemanLab profiled our truck as an example of journalism in action. **The billboard campaign transformed a service piece into direct action journalism – meeting readers where government overreach was happening in real time.**

The Trump Department of Justice indicted the Southern Poverty Law Center on fraud and

money laundering charges in April, alleging the civil rights organization had defrauded donors by paying informants inside hate groups. We reached out directly to SPLC donors to find out if they actually felt deceived. The answer was overwhelming: They didn't. More than a dozen donors told us on the record that paying informants to infiltrate groups like the Klan was exactly what they hoped the SPLC would do with their money. "We knew they were paying informants," said one longtime supporter. The story dismantled the DOJ's entire premise by **centering the voices of the very people** prosecutors claimed to be protecting – and **those people rejected the claim that the actions outlined in the indictment amounted to fraud**. This article was later cited in a **letter to the DOJ** from Rep. Jamie Raskin, ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, demanding answers for the department's "weaponization of the government" by arresting, investigating, and prosecuting individuals and groups simply for making political statements the president dislikes.



Photo: The Intercept

Through our collaboration with content creators, the story reached 1.2 million people. The reach demonstrated a new model for accountability journalism – stories that achieve massive impact when amplified through strategic creator partnerships, reaching audiences who might never visit a news site but still want to understand how their government is weaponizing the justice system against civil rights organizations.

Justice

Richard Glossip spent nearly three decades on death row for a murder he says he didn't commit, facing execution nine times. Today, he is free on bond – and investigative journalism played a direct role in getting him there.

We were among the first to shine a national spotlight on Glossip's case, exposing the flimsiness of the evidence used to condemn him and bringing urgency to his fight for survival. Our reporting helped inspire a documentary series that drew new witnesses forward, and the evidence that followed built the foundation for a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned his conviction in February 2025.



Photo: Liliana Segura/The Intercept

When Glossip walked out of the Oklahoma County jail on May 14, 2026, we were there; The Intercept sat down with him days later for an **exclusive interview** about his first days of freedom in a world he hadn't experienced for nearly 30 years.

War on Gaza

While mainstream outlets looked away or even actively amplified Israeli government narratives, The Intercept was on the ground documenting the truth of the war on Gaza. In May, we published a sweeping data analysis of over 12,000 news articles and 5,000 TV segments that proved what many have long suspected: U.S. media systematically dehumanized Palestinian lives, applying words like “massacre” and “barbaric” almost exclusively to Israeli victims while Palestinian children and journalists went virtually uncovered. **This report is not just a data set – it is a call to action for The Intercept’s reporting and a record of what would be left if independent media goes away.**



Collage: The Intercept

What's Ahead

The stakes for 2026 couldn't be clearer. As AIPAC, crypto, AI, and corporate money are flooding midterm elections with millions of dollars while trying to hide their spending via front groups, The Intercept is cutting through the noise to find out who is behind the money.

Meanwhile, our accountability journalism continues, such as our reporting on Trump's war on dissent and free expression – revealing restrictions on protest, tracking the rollout of executive orders targeting left-wing and progressive organizations, and documenting the criminalization of pro-Palestinian as well as anti-ICE speech. We've launched dedicated federal law enforcement coverage to meet this moment of authoritarian overreach. Our national security reporting – already recognized for our stories on Trump's boat strikes in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific – has exposed what one government official called a “casualty cover-up” in the U.S. war on Iran. And through it all, we have never stopped reporting on Gaza, where a critical story is still unfolding that mainstream media refuses to tell.

This is the journalism your support makes possible.