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## **New DHS AI Policy Raises Concerns About AI Deployment on Immigrants, Including Facial Recognition**

WASHINGTON D.C.– Yesterday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released their department [policies](#) regarding the acquisition and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including facial recognition. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas released the directive shortly after the GAO's [report](#) outlined the agency's lack of policies and training for personnel on facial recognition technology already being used by the agency.

In the new policy directive, DHS sets out a confusing process for using facial recognition, providing only U.S. citizens an opportunity to opt out for non-law enforcement related uses, measures that severely fall short of addressing civil rights community concerns. At the start of the Biden administration, civil liberties groups wrote a [letter](#) to Secretary Mayorkas expressing their concerns with the deployment of facial recognition technology and DHS contracts with controversial tech company, Clearview AI. DHS has yet to terminate these [contracts](#).

**Paromita Shah, Executive Director of Just Futures Law released the following statement:**

“We continue to hold grave concerns about the rapidly escalating use of surveillance technology, including AI and facial recognition technology by DHS. Intentionally leaving out immigrants from being able to opt out from facial recognition technology raises major concerns and confusion around their protocols.

DHS claims this technology is for our public safety, but we know the use of AI technology by DHS, including ICE, increases the tools at their disposal to surveil and criminalize immigrants at a new level. We remain skeptical that DHS will be able to follow basic civil rights standards and transparency measures, given their troubling record with existing technologies. The infiltration of AI into the law enforcement sector will ultimately impact immigrant communities.”

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*Just Futures Law is a transformative legal organization that defends and builds the power of immigrants' rights, criminal justice organizers, and base-building community groups working to disrupt and dismantle our deportation and mass incarceration systems.*