

## **THE EMERGENCE OF A GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MASS REGISTRATION AND SURVEILLANCE**

Global security and the “war on terror” now dominate the political agenda. Driven largely by the United States, a growing web of anti-terrorism and security measures are being adopted by nations around the world. This new “security” paradigm is being used around the world are registered, that

globally, that electronic communications and transactions can be monitored, and that all the information that is collected in public and private life of individuals is stored, linked, data-mined, and made available to state

the infrastructure is not ordinary

more than 80,000 individuals who registered reported many stories of harassment, insult, and rough treatment. NSEERS resulted in more than 13,000 people being put into deportation hearings and thousands more fleeing the country in fear.

**US-VISIT.** NSEERS was eventually phased out, but that has hardly resulted in an end to the registration of foreigners; it was replaced by another program

But overtaking this trend is the emergence of a new identity tool that is being implemented in all countries: the “globally interoperable biometric passport.” Based

#### **4th Signpost: The Creation of an Infrastructure for the Global**

money-laundering to terrorist financing, and the Organizationina



The *eighth signpost* is the creation of a new “corporate security complex.” In the computer age, an ever-larger proportion of our activities are being tracked and recorded by private companies, and that information is increasingly available to governments. Government powers to demand access to such data are being expanded, but many businesses are also voluntarily selling databases and other services to government agencies.

For technology and data companies, the “war on terror” has opened up a new government customer base. For government security and intelligence agencies, left searching for a *raison d’être* after the end of the Cold War, the “war on terror” has offered an unprecedented opportunity to increase its investigative and surveillance powers. This new corporate security complex has become an aggressive driver of the

undermined freedom of expression and association

Where mass registration and surveillance measures have been adopted by repressive regimes, they have bolstered or worsened the status quo. The example set by Western nations allows governments in less democratic countries to consolidate their grip on power and gives them a green light to commit human rights and other abuses.

## **10<sup>th</sup> Signpost: Rendition, Torture, Death**

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that poses no threat whatsoever. They alienate the very communities from whom intelligence agencies need assistance in order to obtain good intelligence. They do nothing to address the root causes of terrori