Twitter Thread by ACLU



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BREAKING: We're calling on President Biden to pause all federal government use of face recognition technology.

This tech is flawed, biased against people of color, women, trans people, and more.

Even if it worked exactly as advertised, it would be a nightmare. Let's explain.

Study after study has confirmed this bias.

One study showed that face recognition tech failed in identifying Black women nearly 1/3 of the time, but was more accurate on white men.

Subsequent studies, including by @ACLU_NorCal and the government, have confirmed these findings.

These biases have real consequences that disproportionately harm Black people.

Robert Williams, Michael Oliver, and Nijeer Parks are all Black men who were wrongly arrested and detained because of this technology. https://t.co/lYu1Mgvm05

Even if face recognition tech worked perfectly, it would be a civil liberties nightmare — giving the government the ability to track us to houses of worship, protests, healthcare appointments, intimate partners' homes — harming our rights to privacy, speech, and association.

And face recognition technology would surely be used to exacerbate over-policing of communities of color, immigrant communities, poor communities, and others already bearing the brunt of the criminal enforcement system.

Government use of this technology goes beyond law enforcement. It is already being deployed in schools, public housing, and other spaces.

Face recognition tech has no place in our daily lives. It only exacerbates the systemic biases that already exist.

Over the past two years, activists and local leaders have passed bans on government use of face recognition tech in more than a dozen cities and states.

But local authorities have no power over federal agencies like the FBI or ICE, which can still use the technology anywhere.

Right now, President Biden can:

✔■ Sign an executive order halting federal use of face recognition technology
✔■ Limit state and local governments' ability to purchase the technology with federal money
✔■ Support the Facial Recognition and Biometric Technology Moratorium Act

Never before has the government possessed a surveillance tool this dangerous.

Tell President Biden to honor his promise to center racial equity and put a stop to this invasive technology.
https://t.co/bBkITO2utx