

# #AbolishICE-Olympia

We are an Olympia Assembly working group employing a direct action-based strategy to confront I.C.E. and it's corporate collaborators.

We play a leading role in the nationwide #ShutDownICEProfiteers divestment campaign, primarily targeting banks and financial institutions invested in I.C.E.'s detention center contractors, GEO Group and CoreCivic.

Through mass, coordinated direct action, like bank shutdowns and office disruptions, this campaign has yielded divestment announcements from the largest ICE funders and profiteers, such as Bank of America and BNP Paribas.

Through this work we seek an end to deportations and detention, a world where the free movement of all is guaranteed.

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# #ShutDown ICEProfiteers



An Overview and Timeline  
*By AbolishICE - Olympia*

As the Abolish ICE movement erupts again, private prison corporations contracting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain migrants are feeling the heat. GEO Group and CoreCivic, who together exert near duopolistic power over the private prison sector, have been hit hard by a wave bank divestments. Throughout the Summer of 2019 the industry's leading bank lenders, including [Bank of America](#), [SunTrust](#), [BNP Paribas](#) (parent company of Bank of the West) PNC Bank and [Fifth Third](#) all announced plans to cut ties with private prisons. They join JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo, [who agreed to cease further financing the companies in March 2019](#). The #ShutDownICEProfiteers direct action-based divestment network has been a crucial player in this diverse broad-based movement.

The divestments have roughly correlated with a groundswell of rebellion. Large swathes of U.S. society are recoiling in the face of the draconian xenophobia of the Trump administration, particularly after conditions detailing the mass detention of migrant children were revealed. Never Again Action and Movimiento Cosecha have revived the disruptive spirit of Occupy ICE from a year ago, launching new rounds of blockades at detention centers, ICE Field Offices and the offices of political leaders.

In this context #ShutDownICEProfiteers identified privately-run immigrant detention centers and their financial relationships with banks as weak links within the deportation and detention infrastructure. Firstly, [the large majority of immigrant detainees \(~70%\) are imprisoned in detention centers operated by private prison companies](#) like CoreCivic and GEO Group, underscoring their importance to I.C.E. operations. Secondly, these

September 25 - Los Angeles: Catholic workers, members of AbolishICE LA and supporters demonstrated at the Prudential offices in Sherman Oaks.

September 26 - Grand Rapids MI: Phone zap against Prudential.

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July 31st: Barclays announces divestment from private prisons and detention centers.

August 9 - Portland OR: Protesters disrupt U.S. Bank branch.

August 9: PNC Bank announces divestment from private prisons and detention centers.

August 12 - Olympia/Lacey WA: Two U.S. Bank branches disrupted during protest.

August 13 - Troy MI: Protest at Prudential offices.

August 27 - Palo Alto CA: Over 150 angry people converged on the Palantir Headquarters.

August 27 - NYC: MACC stages office disruptions at State Street Corp, Prudential, HSBC and BlackRock locations in a rolling picket.

September 23-30: National week of action calling for Prudential to divest from GEO Group put out by No Detention Centers In Michigan.

September 24 - Okemos MI: No Detention Centers In Michigan demonstrates against Prudential Financial.

September 24 - Durham NC: Catholic workers and anarchists shut down a local branch of State Street Corp in response to a call to action to #ShutDownICEProfiteers.

companies are particularly vulnerable to divestment because they are incorporated as real estate companies, requiring them to return 90% of profits to shareholders annually. Without steady credit the economic stability of GEO and CoreCivic are in jeopardy. Bank of America, SunTrust, Barclays, BNP Paribas (parent of Bank of the West), PNC Bank, U.S. Bank, Fifth Third, Prudential Financial, BlackRock Inc. and State Street Corp all had financial ties to GEO and CoreCivic when #ShutDownICEProfiteers kicked off.

#ShutDownICEProfiteers was initiated with a public call for a week of action, released by Olympia Assembly and Block The Wall Network. The July 8th-12th 2019 Week of Action urged coordinated direct action to shut down branches of banks financing migrant detention. Anti-authoritarians and migrant justice organizers throughout the U.S. responded to the call, with disruptive protests from New York City to Seattle.

Following July's actions, organizations and informal affinity groups have maintained sustained pressure on financial institutions and other corporations collaborating with I.C.E. Particular emphasis has been afforded to the largest shareholders of GEO and CoreCivic recently, like Prudential Financial and BlackRock Inc. Forcing shareholders to liquidate their stockholdings could signal an irreversible decline for privately-run detention centers, as it's unlikely that GEO or CoreCivic could afford such massive pay-outs while simultaneously maintaining current operations. Others have shifted attention to the role technology corporations like Palantir and Amazon play in facilitating deportation and detention.

Like blockades at detention centers or airports, financial streams and ICE-corporate relationships are arteries within the deportation and detention infrastructure that can be clogged through direct action. With the divestment momentum growing, now is the time to intervene in this node.

### ***Timeline of Recent Actions and Divestments***

June 18th: July 8th-12th Week of Action: Shut Down ICE Profiteers call to action is released online.

June 27 - Bank of America announces divestment from private prisons and detention centers.

July 8 - Portland OR: week-long protest to “shut down ICE profiteers” began with demonstrations at Bank of the West and Microsoft.

July 8 - SunTrust announces divestment from private prisons and detention centers.

July 9 - Phone-Zap announced by Block the Wall for July 11th-12th to Tell PNC Bank to #DivestfromICE.

July 10 - NYC: Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (MACC) shut down three branches of PNC Bank in Manhattan.

July 11 - Atlanta: Activists stage a demonstration at a local PNC branch in response to the call to action.

July 11- Asheville NC: Sabotage of a local PNC bank branch’s ATM; its card slot super-glued shut and its screen defaced, a “gesture taken in response to the call for a week of action against ICE profiteers.”



***PNC Bank branch shut down in Manhattan***

July 11 - Seattle WA: #DivestfromICE Protesters Shut Down Bank Of The West.

July 12: BNP Paribas (parent company of Bank of the West) announces divestment from private prisons and detention centers.

July 18 - Tampa, FL: Branch Of PNC Bank disrupted.

July 26 - Tampa: Three branches of PNC Bank disrupted.

July 27 - NYC: MACC distributes #ShutDownICEProfiteers informational leaflets at PNC Bank branches in Manhattan.

July 26 - Seattle: Rolling picket of over 40 people marched through downtown Seattle, shutting down bank branches and occupying the lobbies of investment firm offices. HSBC, U.S. Bank, Prudential Financial, BlackRock Inc. and Barclays bank were targeted.