



ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES  
President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador, left, in the Oval Office, said of returning a Maryland man, “Of course I’m not going to do it.”

Tracking Data Makes Migrants ‘Easy Pickings’

This article is by **Paul Mozur, Adam Satariano and Aaron Krolik.**

After a Honduran immigrant arrived in the United States in 2022, officials ordered him to use a government-issued app as part of an immigration surveillance program.

At least once a week, the immigrant, a former police officer in Honduras who was living in Louisiana, would take a selfie through the facial-recognition-powered app to confirm his identity and location. By trading some of his privacy, he avoided being put in a detention center and obtained a work permit.

In February, he received a message: report to an immigration of-

U.S. Contractor’s Tech  
Has Led to Arrests,  
Aid Groups Say

fice so the tracking technology could be updated. When he arrived, federal agents were waiting. They handcuffed him and put him on a vehicle bound for a detention center, where he has been ever since, according to an account from his wife and Jacinta González, the head of programs for the advocacy group MediaJustice who is working with the detained immigrant. He and his wife declined to be named for fear of

harming his legal proceedings.

The maker of the app he had used was Geo Group, the largest private prison operator in the United States. Over the past decade, the company has also built a lucrative side business of digital tools — including ankle monitors, smartwatches and tracking apps — to surveil immigrants on behalf of the federal government.

Those products are now aiding President Trump’s deportation efforts by providing the whereabouts of unauthorized immigrants.

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**CHILDREN IN FEAR** Anxiety for parents vulnerable to deportation as enforcement rises. **PAGE A12**

Man Deported  
In Error Stays,  
2 Leaders Vow

**By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS**

WASHINGTON — In an Oval Office meeting with President Trump on Monday, President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador said that he would not return a Maryland man who was wrongly deported from the United States and sent to a notorious Salvadoran prison.

Mr. Bukele, who has positioned himself as a key ally to Mr. Trump, in part by opening his country’s prisons to deportees, sat next to the president and a group of cabinet officials who struck a combative tone over the case, which has reached the Supreme Court.

“Of course I’m not going to do it,” Mr. Bukele said when reporters asked if he was willing to help return the man, Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a 29-year-old father of three who was deported last month. The Trump administration has acknowledged that his deportation was the result of an “administrative error.”

The message from the meeting was clear: Neither Mr. Trump nor Mr. Bukele had any intention of returning Mr. Abrego Garcia, even though the Supreme Court has ruled that he should come back to

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MARIO VARGAS LLOSA, 1936-2025

Literary Voice That Thundered Beyond Borders

**By SIMON ROMERO**

Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian novelist who combined gritty realism with playful erotica and depictions of the struggle for individual liberty in Latin America, while also writing essays that made him one of the most influential political commentators in the Spanish-speaking world, died on Sunday in Lima. He was 89.

His death was announced in a social media statement by his children.

Mr. Vargas Llosa, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2010, gained renown as a young writer with slangy, blistering visions of the corruption, moral compromises and cruelty festering in Peru. He joined a cohort of writers like Gabriel García Márquez of Colombia and Julio Cortázar of Argentina, who became famous in the 1960s as members of Latin America’s literary “boom generation.”

His distaste for the norms of polite society in Peru gave him abundant inspiration. After he was enrolled at the age of 14 in the Leoncio Prado Military Academy in Lima, Mr. Vargas Llosa turned that experience into his first novel, “The Time of the Hero,” a critical account of military life published in 1963.

The book was denounced by several generals, including one who claimed it had been financed by Ecuador to undermine Peru’s military — all of which helped make it an immediate success.

Mr. Vargas Llosa was never fully enamored, however, by his



JACK MANNING/THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian novelist, in New York in 1986.

contemporaries’ magical realism. And he was disillusioned with Fidel Castro’s persecution of dissidents in Cuba, breaking from the leftist ideology that held sway for decades over many writers in Latin America.

He charted his own path as a conservative, often divisive political thinker and as a novelist who transformed episodes from his personal life into books that reverberated far beyond the borders of

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Syrian Town Tries to Patch Its Religious Mosaic

**By BEN HUBBARD and HWAIDA SAAD**

MAALOULA, Syria — Inside a centuries-old monastery atop a mountain in western Syria, a priest swung an incense holder on a chain, led his flock in melodic chants and delivered a timeless sermon on the importance of loving one’s neighbor.

But when members of the congregation gathered for coffee after the service, their current worries surfaced, about how peaceful Syria’s future would be.

Would the Islamist rebels who ousted the strongman Bashar al-Assad in December ban pork and alcohol, impose modest dress on women or limit Christian worship? Would the new security forces protect Christians from attacks by Muslim extremists?

“Nothing has happened that



DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Years of civil war divided the residents of ancient Maaloula.

makes you feel that things are better,” said Mirna Haddad, one of the churchgoers.

Elsewhere in the historic town of Maaloula, its Muslim minority had different concerns. Like their

Christian neighbors, they had fled their homes here early in Syria’s 13-year civil war. But unlike the Christians, they had been barred from returning by

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**A 3D-Printed Train Station**

As Japan’s population shrinks, maintaining rail service in remote small towns is becoming a challenge. **PAGE A8**

**Targeting Cuba’s Medical Corps**

The U.S. is pulling the visas of foreign officials in countries that pay Havana for doctors and nurses. **PAGE A6**

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The idea of raising taxes on wealthy Americans has caught the Republican Party between its populist ambitions and low-tax instincts. **PAGE A16**

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Administration officials want legislators to rescind \$1.1 billion for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. **PAGE A17**

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Brad Holland’s stark work for Playboy, The Times and underground papers heralded a new era. He was 81.

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A family in Oklahoma bought one pet octopus, but soon had the challenge of caring for dozens of them. **PAGE D1**

**Not Rendering Unto Caesar**

A papyrus discovered in the Judean desert contains trial notes on an intricate tax-evasion scheme. **PAGE D1**

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**U.S. Case Against Meta Begins**

The tech giant went to court on Monday in an antitrust trial focused on its acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp. The case could reshape its future. **PAGE B1**

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**High-Level Influencers**

The mission of the Blue Origin spacecraft’s passengers was to feel weightlessness, view Earth from above and livestream it, our writer says. **PAGE C1**

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**Michelle Cottle** **PAGE A22**

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**A Green Jacket at Last**

Rory McIlroy got his long-predicted Masters triumph, putting him in a rare group of those who have won all four golf majors in their career. **PAGE B7**

