CS 485 Essay 1

1.

I chose the week 2 presentation about facial recognition in China.

2.

One of the stakeholders is the Chinese government and the officials that abuse it.

3.

The Chinese government gets to suppress the people in Hong Kong by identifying individuals and taking their information. Secondly, they get a lot of information about every single person that moves around in Hong Kong. Lastly, they can use less resources on the ground by tracking electronically.

4.

Another stakeholder are the Hong Kong protesters and the people in Hong Kong in general.

5.

The facial recognition has allowed pro government protesters to create channels like dadfindboy which lets them identify police officers. This has also led to doxing of many police officers and family members. They also are trying to mess up the system with wearing masks and other techniques to confuse the facial recognition system.

6.

The last stakeholder are the companies involved in creating this technology and distributing it to the Chinese government.

7.

They might be able to sell this technology to other governments. Which could lead to large gains in profit and loss of democracy. They can also improve on the technology and work around things such as masks to identify more people. Another impact is training officers to use this technology would make the technology biased for the people using it.

8.

The ethical concern that this issue has a major impact in is security. Being anonymous in a protest for your rights is very important if you do not want retribution for your actions. It seems that the police are making up reasons to go in and take away your rights. But to stop the root cause is to stay anonymous so officials do not even know who you are. There are also other ethical issues at hand such as civil liberties and corrupt government, but the main cause with facial recognition abuse is privacy of the individual. A reason why this is sort of justified for the police is that the protesters are committing a crime and therefore give up their privacy.

9.

The ACM code of ethics is a professional standard for computation professionals, which gives standards and morals for people in computation industry. It clearly states avoid harm and not to discriminate. Facial recognition is clearly harming the protesters and police officers. Even though this technology can be sold there are online resources available for you to create some on your own as stated in the article. The IT professionals could take some note from these standards, however unless you do not use this technology in the way it is being used.

<https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/about/acm-code-of-ethics-booklet.pdf>

10.

The way this technology is used, it is impossible to say it does not violate ethical standards. The only way to make this ethical is not to use this technology against protestors and police officers alike. This is because the technology itself is not built to be biased but the people and circumstances allow it to become biased. It is immoral because the facial recognition technology is used to imprison random protesters for bogus reasons. It is only being used for harm in Hong Kong and the protesters have also used it as a retaliation in violence against the police.

A counter argument would be that the technology is used to help the police do their job more effectively and helps ultimately save time money and resources. This would be a very utilitarian approach to the situation. However, this can be easily refuted as one can argue that its more about the civil liberties and that they are still being oppressed for crimes that they did not commit.

Another point would be that the protestors deserve to be surveilled since they are protesting and breaking the law; they are gathering, and the Hong Kong government has banned this. Which is not valid because the character in the story has supposedly not committed any crimes. He is being wrongly persecuted for simply being in an online forum. The police are part of this corrupt government that allows them to charge anybody with baseless accusations.