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Donald Trump cited the Boston Globe's coverage of immigration. Here's the backstory.

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Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

By Maria Sacchetti

GLOBE STAFF SEPTEMBER 02, 2016

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump cited [a recent Boston Globe investigation](#) in his speech on Wednesday that examined the recidivism rates of criminals released in the United States because the government couldn't deport them.

The Globe's investigation was the latest installment of a series of articles that began in 2012 with [Justice in the Shadows](#), which examined the release of criminals, the deaths of immigrants in detention and the immigration court system.

Then and now, the Globe's investigations raised questions about the integrity and accountability of this largely secret government system that is often at the center of the political debate in the United States.

Here are some of the key takeaways from the Globe's investigations in 2012, 2015 and 2016:



1. Foreign [criminals released in the United States reoffend at higher rates than the federal government has suggested to Congress](#).

In June, a Globe review of 323 criminals released in New England from 2008 to 2012 found that as many as 30 percent committed new offenses, including rape, attempted murder, and child molestation. At congressional hearings, US immigration officials have suggested that the reoffender rate was below 10 percent.

The review did not indicate that immigrants are any more likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans — and in fact studies have shown that not to be the case.

But the Globe has found that the US can do more to press foreign countries to take back their citizens, such as denying visas to foreign countries that block deportations.

In his speech, Trump blamed former Secretary of State

Hillary Clinton for failing to punish nations that block repatriations. But it is up to Homeland Security to make the first move and alert the Secretary of State that nations are failing to cooperate with deportations.

A leading Republican senator criticized DHS [Secretary Jeh Johnson](#) as recently as June for failing to do so.

2. [Immigration and Customs Enforcement failed to notify most crime victims when it deported criminals or released them in the United States because the criminals' homelands refused to take them back.](#)

In 2012, federal immigration statistics showed that ICE had released or deported more than 1 million criminals over the prior decade, but the agency made just 1,000 to 3,000 victim notifications.

At the time, only 336 crime victims were enrolled in ICE's victim notification program. During fiscal 2014, ICE said it received 494 new victim registrations.

Immigration officials say they want more crime victims to sign up for their system, but it's up to the [victims to register](#).

3. [Immigration arrests and court files are largely secret.](#)

Immigration officials have arrested hundreds of thousands of immigrants for civil immigration violations without ever disclosing their names to the public.

Immigration officials say the arrests and files are not public to protect the immigrants' privacy — and they have almost always been this way in the history of the immigration system.

But the Globe found that the secrecy endangered immigrants, especially those with health conditions. If the immigrants had been arrested for a crime, their names would have been public, they would have been entitled to a lawyer if they could not afford one, and quickly brought before a judge.

From 2003 to July, 162 immigrants have died in detention, according to the latest figures. A citizen of France who lived in Massachusetts was among the deaths; she had no criminal record.

4. [Immigration officials often failed to register sex offenders released in the United States.](#)

In 2015, after winning a lawsuit that forced federal immigration officials to release the names of former criminal detainees for the first time, the Globe found that immigration officials often freed sex offenders without making sure they registered with state and local law enforcement.

And once ICE freed them, the Globe found that they often lost track of the criminals, despite outstanding deportation orders against them.

Immigration officials said at the time that federal law did not authorize them to register sex offenders. After inquiries from the Globe, ICE said they would help make sure sex offenders registered. Members of Congress also filed bills that would require ICE to help register sex offenders.

Tracy Jan and Matt Rocheleau of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Maria Sacchetti can be reached at maria.sacchetti@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter @mariasacchetti

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