



**Contact Us:**

If you would like more information about participating in Operation Genesis, or if you have information on suspected document fraud, please contact the IBFU via e-mail at:  
[ibfu-ice-hq@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:ibfu-ice-hq@ice.dhs.gov)

**Report Suspicious Activity:**

1-866-DHS-2-ICE  
1-866-DHS-2423  
[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

# Operation Genesis

Working Together to  
Combat Document Fraud



# ICE



## Document and Identity Fraud

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the largest investigative agency in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is charged with protecting national security by enforcing the nation's immigration and customs laws. One of ICE's priorities in this mission is combating document fraud. ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Identity and Benefit Fraud Unit (IBFU) is responsible for the identification, disruption, and dismantling of criminal organizations involved in document fraud. IBFU works in close partnership with the HSI Forensic Laboratory (HSI-FL) to accomplish its mission.

Document fraud is a gateway crime that paves the way for additional criminal offenses, including the following:

- identity theft;
- human smuggling and trafficking;
- gang activity;
- financial fraud;
- terrorism and other national security threats; and
- illegal immigration.

Criminal and terrorist organizations pay top dollar for quality counterfeits, which they commonly use to facilitate their illicit activities. For example, reports indicate that al-Qaida and the 9/11 hijackers made use of fraudulent passports, visas, and entry and exit stamps in their international travels.

## Operation Genesis: Partnership with the Printing Industry

ICE launched Operation Genesis in 2009 as a voluntary partnership with the printing industry to share information and develop investigative leads regarding the practices of organized document fraud rings.

HSI has identified a growing trend in which criminal organizations involved in document fraud acquire professional quality printing equipment, stamps and supplies to support their criminal activities, allowing them to produce near-perfect counterfeits of official documents and identification.

The following are examples of the types of items in demand:

- plastic identification card printers (like those used by departments of motor vehicles);
- blank card stock;
- hot foil printers;
- rubber stamps;
- embossers; and
- ultraviolet inks.

Operation Genesis, based upon a similar voluntary partnership project between the London Metropolitan Police Department and printing companies, is an opportunity for the printing and stamp-making industries to collaborate with HSI to identify and disrupt document fraud.

## ► How You Can Help

Print companies, stamp makers, suppliers and service providers (e.g., printer repair shops) are eligible to participate in Operation Genesis and take part in protecting the security of the American people.

**Benefits of participating include the following:**

- direct contact with HSI representatives to share and receive information about trends in document fraud; and
- enhancement of company and industry reputation by supporting a critical law enforcement and national security priority.

**Companies seeking to participate in Operation Genesis agree to the following:**

- Attend a presentation regarding IMAGE, the ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers. (IMAGE is a partnership initiative between the federal government and private sector employers designed to foster cooperative relationships and strengthen overall hiring practices);
- Retain records of all transactions for both domestic and international customers; and
- Carefully evaluate new customer orders for suspicious requests, based upon criteria provided by HSI.

In addition, Genesis participants are encouraged to include an ICE banner on their websites to promote their involvement in the initiative.

