Press Release.
OBSCURITY and RIGHT2REMOVE
October 10th, 2018. NYC. U.S.

Paolo Cirio addresses the politics of Internet regulations in his ongoing projects
https://Obscurity.online and https://Right2Remove.us

The project *Obscurity* connected individuals affected by the mugshot publishing industry and provided a point of departure for the project *Right2Remove* to regulate the exposure of stigmatizing and abusive content on Internet search engines.

After two years of activism and organizing, *Right2Remove* grew into a community of activists, lawyers, and journalists spread across the United States and internationally. *Right2Remove* is now forming as an organization and partnering with the *Association for Accountability and Internet Democracy*. In order to create Internet regulations Paolo Cirio's campaign is successfully shifting the cultural understanding and knowledge about the Right to Be Forgotten and privacy inequality in United States.

The data collected for the *Obscurity* project, over 10 millions images of mugshots and 15 millions criminal records, has all been deleted without archived copies as a final part of the Internet art performance. In addition, the obfuscated websites will be delisted from search engines since they served their function and mugshot websites have been changing and multiplying.

The artwork *Obscurity* is currently in display as an art installation at the 12th Gwangju Biennale in South Korea:
https://paolocirio.net/work/obscurity/inst-gwangju.php

The *Right to Remove* and content moderation on Internet platforms will be discussed with experts in a panel organized by Paolo Cirio and the *Center for Technology, Society & Policy* at *The School of Information*, University of California Berkeley on November 15:
https://ctsp.berkeley.edu

Finally to conclude the projects, Paolo Cirio addresses abuses and freedom of speech on the Internet with the theoretical text "*Perceptions on Systems of Justice over the Internet*":
https://paolocirio.net/press/texts/text_obscurity-right2remove.php

The theoretical text is also recapped in this video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzIkMq1oTB4&list=PLJHWosFmMRqofm03UvU8_0tLKopTXKOra

See a new mission statement that identifies our principles and defines what the *Right2Remove* is and is not:
https://Right2Remove.us/mission/

The *Right2Remove* was recently discussed by Sarah Esther Lageson on Douglas Rushkoff's:
https://teamhuman.fm/episodes/ep-103-sarah-lageson/
And the *Right2Remove* was also featured in The Guardian US in June:
https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jun/12/mugshot-exploitation-websites-arrests-shame

These interviews flesh out the magnitude of this problem and its context. Unfortunately, our debate has become an ideological and polarizing one that ignores the real people affected and the solutions readily available.

An undeveloped and privileged understanding of free speech in America has brought about the suffering of millions of everyday citizens. Only recently free speech absolutists in the U.S. have been defeated by the banning of conspiratorial content from Internet platforms. This makes us wonder why most privacy organizations in the U.S. don't support victims of inequality and injustice who have been affected by indelible records that are aggregated by Internet search engines and social media platforms. Such timid posturing is how privacy inequality is created in the U.S. and how it ultimately deepens social and economic inequality in society.

The *Right2Remove* aims to restore the freedom of speech to those who have been silenced by digital harassment, punishment, or shaming on the Internet. Muting everyday people, Internet platforms don't offer the afflicted the right to speak for themselves with their own voices. Meanwhile, vulnerable individuals are tagged and profiled on public lists, causing them to be persecuted, shunned, and surveilled by society. This situation, coupled with the so-called free speech absolutists and cyberlibertarians' staunch position, produces widespread discrimination, which results in poverty, homelessness, suicides, and despair.

Beyond the organizational efforts, the *Right2Remove* community consists of activists, affected individuals, lawyers, and journalists who are committed to seeking solutions to this problem. Our community's tenacious spirit is spread across the country, and it needs your support. Join the mailing list here: https://right2remove.mobilize.io/registrations/groups/12494

Over 3,500 people already signed the petition for our Internet privacy policy *Right to Remove*, which improves and adapts the Right to Be Forgotten for use in the United States. Sign the petition here: https://www.change.org/p/introducing-the-right-to-remove-personal-information-from-search-engines-in-the-us

Thank you.
Paolo Cirio.