"The software is of immense use and benefit to the prison administration in identification of prisoners, security and keeping the data" - S B Sawarkar, Inspector General of Prisons, Maharastra State, Pune

Indian Prison Chooses the PersonID Fingerprint Identification System for its Inmates

Situation

For years, the prison created identity cards for each inmate. These cards contained the prisoners' information, such as their first and last names, height, color of eyes, distinguishing features, (such as birthmarks) and a photo. The wardens checked these ID cards whenever an inmate left or returned to the prison from court visits and the like.

Unfortunately, the system was time-consuming, inefficient and error-prone. The prison had no way to truly verify that the person who left the prison was the same person who came back.

The prison also faced the problem of "prisoner switching." Families and friends of an inmate who had a long prison sentence would hire a replacement, who looked like the inmate, creating the same identifying marks on this person's body. The "look-alike" would then commit a petty crime so that he would get a light sentence. Once in the prison, the inmate and this hired person would exchange their ID cards. As a result, when it was time to release the hired person, the first inmate would get out instead.

Solution

The prison selected the PersonID system from 360 Biometrics to manage the inmates' identifying information easily, quickly and accurately. PersonID was selected because of its ease of use and

reliability.

Here is how it works. When new inmates are processed, the wardens capture the inmates' fingerprints, take a photograph using a webcam, and input other identifying information including the person's name, height, and distinguishing features (e.g., birthmarks). This information is stored as the person's record in the 360 Biometrics database.

The prison then uses the multi-biometric system to monitor the inmates' movements before they enter or leave the prison. The inmates either place their fingerprints on the sensor or face the system's webcam for visual verification. PersonID compares the person's fingerprints or face against the stored information to confirm the inmate's identity. This process is much more accurate and faster than doing a manual identification. The system also records each the time of identification, helping the prison maintain an accurate record of inmates' movements.

Results

The result is that the prison now has an accurate, comprehensive database of its inmates, a record that can be accessed online. This increases security and improves productivity because the wardens spend much less time reviewing the ID cards, freeing them up for other tasks.

Because of this increased accuracy, the prison is assured that someone doesn't take an inmate's place, and that the right people get released or brought back to the prison.

In addition to helping this particular prison, this database of inmates could help other prisons and agencies in their investigations.