APEX ACADEMIA PRESS
ELEGANCE ON EVERY RESEARCH

International Journal of Engineering & Tech Development
ISSN: 3069-672X/ Open Access / IJETD_Y2F1A004
Apex Academia Press / https://doi.org/10.63665/ijetd-y2f1a004

Original Article

Integrated AI Systems for Instantaneous City Monitoring

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Abstract

The ever-growing trend of urbanization in metropolitan cities creates persistent problems related to traffic management, public safety concerns, and crime prevention. The demands of the emerging urban environment change every day and are often unmanageable or unreachable by traditional surveillance systems due to their intrinsically decentralized and dynamic nature. The paper aims at providing the overall architecture of an integrated AI platform that increases efficiency, scalability, and intelligence in city surveillance systems. This will involve different layers like computer vision, edge computing, real-time analytics, and cloud-based data fusion. The integrated platform will, hence, help in arriving at evidence-based decisions, detecting any possible danger much faster and more effectively beforehand, and allow event response by integrating different monitoring technologies with state-of-the-art models of AI. Existing deployments, the essential elements, technological challenges, and possible future improvements of integrated AI-driven video surveillance are discussed here. Their potential capability for enhancing smart city infrastructure is discussed, together with mentioning the solutions being developed regarding privacy and ethical issues.

Keywords

Real-Time Surveillance, Unified AI Platform, Smart City, Edge Computing, Computer Vision, Data Fusion, Public Safety, Privacy, Anomaly Detection, Urban Monitoring.

Article History

Received: 04.01.2026

Accepted: 13.01.2026

Published: 25.01.2026

1. Introduction

A. Background: Urban Population Growth and the Need for Surveillance

Trends of continuous urbanization result in fast increases in the size of the urban population and therefore pose enormous challenges for municipal authorities to effectively manage the urban ecosystem. Growing cities introduce further dimensions relating to traffic flow, increased crime rates, public safety, and emergency response systems. Efficiency in conventional methods of city management cannot keep pace with the evolution of urban challenges. Some of the basic tools that can help realize high operational efficiencies and an improvement in public safety in the urban sectors are surveillance systems. Activities in an urban context are complex and multifaceted in nature; there should be the implementation of real-time, intelligent, integrated surveillance systems.

B. Traditional Surveillance Systems' Drawbacks

It normally depends upon conventional systems of surveillance which tend to operate in silos, show reactive behaviour rather than proactive approaches, and have operational inefficiencies. The system generally involves a large number of CCTVs dependent upon human operators for monitoring. Therein lies the problem of prompt detection of an incident and timely delivery of follow-up measures. The personnel concerned lack the requisite analytical capacity regarding suspect tracking, behavioural analysis, or automatic anomaly detection. Their efficiency becomes mired because of insufficient integration capacity for data coming from multiple sources, producing information gaps, incorrect alerts, and longer response times. This shortcoming shows the dire need for a proper and integrated approach toward city surveillance.

C. The Value of Combining AI Technologies for Urban Monitoring

AI technologies provide an excellent opportunity for surveillance systems to go beyond the scope of traditional frameworks. For urban surveillance, one integrated AI platform has been developed that augments decision-making by the immediate identification of threats through constant monitoring of the situation. Indeed, cities can implement a unified approach to surveillance by seamlessly integrating edge and cloud computing

technologies with most contemporary artificial intelligence-based approaches like computer vision, machine learning, and data fusion. That allows fast processing of data coming from different sources, minute-level analysis, and effective implementation for proactive management of the city. Integration of those technologies in such cases enhances the scalability of the system; it keeps it ready for future needs while enhancing the precision of surveillance with its responsiveness.

D. The Paper's Goals

The paper presented discusses in great detail the integrated AI-based surveillance system for real-time urban environment monitoring. The main objective is to evaluate the possibility of integrating a number of AI technologies into one centralized intelligent ecosystem based on distributed infrastructures intended for monitoring. Critical enabling technologies are assessed, and possible applications in an urban scenario are described, as is a review of the architecture of the platform. This paper focuses on the future of AI-driven surveillance in smart city development and points to some implementation problems: privacy and ethics-related challenges.

2. Overview of Real-Time City Surveillance

A. Safety, Traffic Control, And Crime Prevention Are the Main Objectives.

Real-time city surveillance systems are meant for effective enhancement of public safety, improvement in traffic management, and reduction or elimination of criminal activities wherever possible. These are both response tools and deterrents on their own. The systems are supposed to offer early detection of imminent dangers and suspicious activities while making responses to emergent situations much effective through continuous monitoring of public places, roads, and infrastructure. Real-time video analytics plays an important part in the controlling of urban traffic; the real effect this can induce is flow monitoring, signal time optimization, as well as the timely detection of accidents. Intelligent surveillance is all about enhancing the efficiency of law enforcement agencies through proactive policing, hence helping them undertake efficient monitoring of suspects and doing detailed crime mapping. The integration of these components leads to improvements in security and safety within an urban environment.

B. Current Facilities and Difficulties

Emergency call boxes, traffic sensors, and CCTVs would be some of the many monitoring platforms available in a typical metropolis. Most of the systems are not integrated in that different agencies use different, incompatible platforms; many work in silos. Poor centralized monitoring, limited data sharing, and lack of standardization affect the performance of these systems. Besides, most existing surveillance systems also lack real-time analytics and high-resolution imaging so essential for effective decision-making. Infrastructure legacy encompasses disparate elements such as insufficient storage, outdated technology, and bandwidth problems that exert a negative influence on system performance and scalability.

C. System Demands and Real-Time Requirements

Real-time surveillance requires high-speed data transmission, minimum latency in processing, and reliable analytics. A very large volume of sensor and video data is continuously generated and supposed to be processed in real time. Most of the applications have very strict deadline requirements. While centralized analytics require high-performance servers, edge computing makes it achievable by using local processing capabilities. It also demands high-quality networking solutions such as 5G and fibre-optic backbones. There is a need for real-time alerting systems that can trigger notifications on time to the authorities in case of any potential threat or incident. Such systems would operate nonstop and dynamically adapt to changing conditions-from changes in light levels, to weather patterns and crowd densities-while maintaining high degrees of accuracy and reliability in performance.

3. Unified AI Platform Architecture

A. An Explanation of a Unified Ecosystem for Ai Surveillance

It can be defined as an overarching framework wherein all aspects of urban monitoring are channelled into a single integrated and interoperable platform. In essence, it ties cameras, sensors, and analytics together to push data into a unified system that can support real-time analytics for actionable insights. Such ecosystems tap into the

power of AI in turning raw data into actionable insights that power proactive monitoring, threat prediction, and incident management seamlessly. This will finally ensure that situational awareness and response times are enhanced, thereby strengthening collaboration across agencies with an eye on ensuring the safety of citizens within the urban environment.

B. Core Components

(a) Edge Devices (IoT sensors, cameras)

In the system, thermal imaging sensors, high-resolution CCTV cameras, and multiple IoT-based detectors including motion, gunshot, and air quality sensors are critical components. In such a topology of devices, both visual and environmental data get captured in the urban environment. Most of the edge devices working in recent times have onboard processing capabilities to conduct preliminary processing of captured data in the local environment and hence reduce the transmission requirements to the cloud for conducting the analysis through functions such as motion detection, face recognition, and object classification.

(b) Edge AI Inference

Edge AI makes it possible for machine learning to happen on the device or gateway level. This is a huge help in selecting just what needs to be done and doing it immediately, saving a great deal of time and bandwidth. With cameras for security using edge technology, people undertaking suspicious or criminal activities are immediately reported to the proper recipients. Edge AI makes systems more reliable because they can continue to do what needs to be done in cases where the connection is lost with the main system for small periods of time.

(c) Cloud-based or centralised analytics

Edge devices do simple processing while more complicated analytics are done by centralized servers or cloud platforms. Advanced AI models can be deployed that can gather data from a large number of sources and analyse it. Data from various cloud services can be combined. Imagine combining crime and traffic data to achieve certain conclusions. The cloud platforms can store and analyse data from surveillance in petabytes since they can be scaled up. Cloud services are making the learning curve for working with new data sets, distant control systems, and improving models much easier.

(d) Management and Storage of Data

It generates a vast amount of both structured and unstructured data every day, hence requiring effective solutions for managing data storage. Most of the modern cloud-storage-based surveillance systems support extended archiving, analytics, and local storage for fast, high-speed access. Key aspects of good data management will include metadata tagging, encryption, access controls, and adherence to legal retention requirements. Where investigators may need timely access to relevant video or data logs, effective indexing and retrieval systems must be instituted.

(e) Interfaces and APIs

APIs and user interfaces enable efficient communication among the external applications and system components. The interfaces shall include but are not limited to customized dashboard views for city officials, mobile apps for first responders, and third-party-sourced technologies. Such data could be provided in real time as streams, alerts, and historical insights in a readable format to drive swift and confident responses by decision-makers. Further, APIs allow sharing of data across departments for enhanced collaboration across agencies.

(f) Scalability and Interoperability of Systems

With the defined attributes, facilitating system scaling proves to be effective. Besides, interoperability with other platforms also enhances overall functionality hence improving the user experience. An interoperable system will work effectively and efficiently with numerous hardware and software components while embracing legacy infrastructure. Scalability allows the system to expand in its capability for numerous functions or sites without major redesigns. Embedding the support for plug-and-play functionality, utilizing modular architecture, and adhering to open standards will provide a basis upon which to achieve the goals set forth. One AI platform utilized in a city will future-proof the investments being made. New sensors, algorithms, and sources will integrate seamlessly within this platform.

4. Key Technologies Involved

A. Object Detection and Computer Vision (YOLO, SSD, etc.)

Object detection and computer vision methods like YOLO and SSD are considered the keystone in workflows of image analysis. AI-powered surveillance systems need computer vision, thus making computers perceive and understand the visual data received from cameras. Among the commonly used object detection algorithms for detecting people, vehicles, and everything in videos are YOLO and SSD. Models will execute real-time video frame analysis to detect events like unattended luggage, illegal parking, and unauthorized access. Recently developed models reached high accuracy that, in turn helped their deployment in real time applications for surveillance.

B. Behaviour Analysis and Facial Recognition

Facial recognition systems identify individuals by matching stored biometric data against real-time images. This feature is aimed at enhancing law enforcement efficiency besides strengthening access controls to help identify missing persons. All this functionality enhancement is credited to behaviour analysis. It keeps a tab on aggressive behaviour, sudden movements, and long actions. Now, predictions could be made, and accidents could be prevented from becoming major ones through insights like those mentioned above. Proper analysis at the level of system design and policy will be required to take care of the significant ethical issues about these technologies, relating to privacy, over-surveillance, and bias.

C. Processing at Low Latency with Edge Computing

It can be defined as the process of data processing in a decentralized manner, either at or near its source. In this regard, edge computing in an urban surveillance system facilitates the analysis of sensor data and camera feeds locally, hence improving the efficiency of incident detection and response times. It becomes crucial when it involves timely and rapid interventions, such as identifying vehicle collisions or spotting a firearm in public. Further, bandwidth efficiency improves as only relevant information or events are transferred, thus decreasing the load on centralized systems.

D. Cloud Aggregation and Training Platforms (AWS, Azure, GCP)

Most cloud platforms, including GCP, Microsoft Azure, and AWS, have infrastructures scaling for different application needs, data storage, and training of AI models. Different security features are provided on their respective platforms. Each allows real-time analytics through their services, such as AWS SageMaker or Azure Cognitive Services. Capabilities for extensive ingestion of data coming from various sources are further present. Automated pipelines integrated with DevOps tools further facilitate the processes of model deployment, monitoring, and continuous improvement in the cloud.

E. 5G/IoT for Instantaneous Communication

Further empowering this will be deploying 5G networks and IoT technology, which will make higher resolution and real-time surveillance possible. 5G technology features ultra-low latency and high bandwidth. This makes it enable instant data transfer between devices and allows HD video streaming. Examples of IoT devices are drones, connected vehicles, and environmental sensors, feeding additional data into the surveillance architecture. IoT teamed with 5G technology is capable of creating an urban network of things connected. This increased responsiveness then drives complex and comprehensive activities of surveillance.

F. AI Model Integration (Multi-Modal Fusion, Tracking, Anomaly Detection)

Multi-Modal Fusion, Tracking, Anomaly Detection Modern systems of surveillance are thus designed to embed several models of AI within the architecture. These models bring precision in monitoring with more contextual comprehension. Using multi-model fusion techniques, data from motion, temperature, audio, and video sensors is combined to build an elaborative representation of the environment. Tracking algorithms will trace people or vehicle movements across different video streams. The anomaly detection model identifies those patterns that do not conform with normal, typical behaviour, signalling possible problems even where pre-defined rules may be lacking. It shall enhance the capability of the platform to comprehend more complex urban situations and enable proactive strategies.

Table 1: Comparison of Traditional vs. AI-Based Surveillance Systems

Feature	Traditional Surveillance	AI-Based Unified Surveillance
Monitoring	Manual (human operators)	Automated and intelligent
Response Time	Delayed	Real-time or near real-time
Data Analysis	Minimal/Retrospective	Real-time, predictive analytics
Scalability	Limited	Highly scalable (cloud + edge)
Interoperability	Fragmented systems	Unified and integrated platform
Human Resource Requirement	High	Lower (AI assists or replaces routine tasks)
Cost Efficiency (Long-term)	Low	High due to automation
Accuracy and Consistency	Variable, subject to fatigue	Consistent, data-driven

Table 2: Key AI Technologies Used in City Surveillance

Technology	Function in Surveillance	Examples
Computer Vision	Object/person detection, scene understanding	YOLOv5, SSD, OpenCV
Facial Recognition	Identity verification and tracking	Face Net, Deep Face
Behavioral Analysis	Detect suspicious actions or abnormal movements	Open Pose, LSTM-based models
Edge Computing	On-device inference for low latency	NVIDIA Jetson, Intel Movidius
Cloud Platforms	Centralized analytics, model training, storage	AWS, Azure, Google Cloud
Anomaly Detection	Identify unusual activities or patterns	Autoencoders, Isolation Forest
Multi-Modal Fusion	Combine inputs from audio, video, thermal sources	TensorFlow/Kera's pipelines

5. Applications in Smart Cities

A. Traffic Surveillance and Control

Smart cities adopt unified AI surveillance to observe the flow of traffic and manage it. AI-driven surveillance systems monitor traffic flow, detect obstructions by analysing video feeds and sensor data, and adjust signal timings dynamically. Computer vision can automatically enforce laws by observing license plates, classifying vehicles, and detecting those running red lights or making illegal turns. Together with traffic lights and variable message signs, these can alter traffic flows dynamically to reduce waiting times and emissions. Individuals can use predictive analytics to spot traffic hotspots and find ways to avoid them. Such changes in mobility make life easier for the people within the cities.

B. The Detection and Prevention of Crime

AI surveillance systems are great for police work in that one could quickly identify people acting suspiciously or breaking the law. Applications can be made through the use of algorithms for face recognition, behavioural analytics, and pattern recognition to locate arrested individuals, keep tabs on dangerous locations, or discover suspicious activities that include loitering or aggressive gestures. By combining insights coming from different sources, police will instantly find out the whereabouts of suspects and hence respond with speedy effects. Predictive policing models help in the detection of hot spots that are most likely to see crimes once they are employed rightly. This allows investment in resources before they actually become needed.

C. Emergency Reaction (Fires, Accidents, etc.)

They are also handy in cases of fire, medical, or car emergencies. AI systems can detect the unusual flow of events happening at this moment, such as car crashes, smoke, or crowds breaking up all of a sudden. They can report such things to emergency services thereafter. When minutes count, edge computing helps you identify those things fast. First responders will have the latest information on what is going on at the site through that feature so they come as fast and effectively as possible. This hastens and improves response times when teamed with geolocation data and communication with emergency response networks.

D. Crowd Control (Protests, Events)

Now imagine having to keep in order a lot of people in protests, festivals, and other public events. AI-powered surveillance helps police observe crowds without being seen and makes sure no one gets hurt. It does counts around very crowded events or unusual crowd movements. Potential danger-like fights, stampedes, or

panic attacks-are identified using its advanced vision models. All this information pops onto central dashboards, which provide a method for real-time cooperation between police and event planners. You are also able to make adjustments in the manner you handle the crowd when necessary. It also allows you to reflect on an event in ways to better invest your time and money in future events.

E. Environmental Monitoring (Tracking of Waste, Pollution)

Modern surveillance systems contribute to the fields of security but also to sustainability by monitoring environmental indicators: IoT sensors can monitor waste collection networks, noise pollution, air quality, and water level amongst others. This data will then be used by AI models that will detect illegal trash dumping locations, high pollution areas, or flooded areas. Real-time dashboards trigger alerts to city departments and start automated cleaning processes, or notify citizens via mobile applications and help improve citizens' quality of life.

6. Implementation Challenges

A. Ethics of Data Privacy and Surveillance

AI-based surveillance systems raise ethical concerns over morals and privacy. People may have a problem unless you use the technology correctly, but at the same time, that can make things safer. Unless people are constantly recognized and watched, they will always feel like they are being watched. This is a good example of "Big Brother." We need to ensure that some ethical guidelines are put in place so that correctness in data usage is ensured, at the same time offering legal protections like those emanating from GDPR, and coming up with new technologies such as federated learning and differentiated privacy. Equally, people need to be in a position where they actually read the rules, attend public meetings, and monitor so as not to lose faith in the programs tracking them.

B. Compatibility with Legacy Systems

Most cities still use legacy security cameras incapable of working with the latest versions of AI. Some of these older systems could be extremely difficult to upgrade to the latest standards, since they cannot handle high-definition video, real-time analytics, or cloud connectivity. Open standards, middleware, or hybrid architectures that support both new and old components talking to each other will play a vital role in this aspect. Generally, adding functionality is difficult in an older infrastructure since it becomes undesirable to incur very costly expenses or interfere with ongoing monitoring activities.

C. High Costs of Infrastructure and Maintenance

Building an AI surveillance system in a city is an expensive affair, with major components including hardware like smart cameras and edge devices, software including AI algorithms and storage systems, and networking in the form of 5G or fibre optics. Upgrade and improvement of such infrastructure remain difficult for small towns with poor budgets. Shared infrastructure models and modular deployment techniques, along with public-private partnerships, can bring down the costs to some extent. Scalability remains one of the most critical factors.

D. AI Model Accuracy and Bias

The reliability of an AI surveillance system depends on the quality of the data on which such systems are trained; biased datasets produce results that will not be correct. For instance, facial recognition software may misidentify people or incorrectly classify behaviour based on race or gender. Where the predictions go wrong, people could threaten violence or lodge false accusations without anyone overhearing them. Developers should take steps with a view to reducing the chances of these issues arising by developing fair machine learning algorithms, testing AI models frequently, and training them using all kinds of different data sets. People also need to hold others responsible for the choices they take based on algorithms.

E. Limitations of Real-Time Data Processing

You watch them, and you can almost tell how hard the network and computers processing this in real time are working. For that, you need to have strong edge devices, fast connections, and good load balancing so that thousands of HD video feeds can be processed at a time. If there is a problem in sending or processing data, you may miss out on the detections or get replies later than expected. In the real world, things have to be planned on

time and done on time, which means the architecture of the system should be well thought of, smart prioritization of alerts good, and hybrid models of edge-cloud working seamlessly.

7. Case Studies / Existing Implementations

A. Examples from Shenzhen, Singapore, Dubai, and London

AI-powered surveillance has helped quite a number of cities across the world in making their governments better. You can use facial recognition combined with video analysis and predictive policing together in the "Safe City Test Bed" of Singapore. The "Oyoon" program in Dubai sets up smart surveillance using AI and tries to shave off 25% from crime rates. One of the most-watched cities in the world, London uses AI to make public transportation safer and find out people acting strangely. Shenzhen of China uses facial recognition and real-time car tracking to track down criminals and lawbreakers. All of these cities have their positive and negative features in terms of the execution of the plan.

B. Performance Metrics and Lessons Learnt

We learn a lot from these deployments. Most successful deployments start with a few test areas and scale to the rest of the city. There is, however, a need for collaboration between departments, good legislation, and keeping in touch with the public for sustainability. The speed of response, rate of crimes committed, and traffic violations committed are some of the ways people seem to pass judgment on one's performance. People also pass negative remarks on cities due to a lack of openness, inability to use data to their advantage, and lack of assistance from citizens. These figures serve as an indication of how delicate a balance there is in trusting the government to do the right thing with progress in technology.

8. Future Trends and Research Directions

A. Federated Learning and AI That Preserves Privacy

It does not need a server in between. However, in federated learning, only one device updates the model at any one time. This could be how systems of the future monitor people. In this way, the method protects private information of people while enhancing the models of AI at the same time. Research into differential privacy and homomorphic encryption helps in securing the private information of people while models are being trained and tested-even the AI benefits from this because it keeps people's private information secret.

B. Combining Digital Twins

Work Artificial Intelligence surveillance and digital twins-virtual models of real-life situations-can work together in such a way as to help you make better decisions and try new things. A digital twin of a city can be used to show live video from security cameras, test emergency plans before they go into operation, and reveal how the city would react to an event. The result is more proactive local governments, preparing cities for disasters and more quickly getting them up and running again.

C. Self-governing Drone Monitoring

Others have of late initiated the use of self-flying drones while looking over stuff, mainly in areas where camera access is either impossible or very difficult. Equipped with computer vision and infrared sensors, the drones will be able to keep tabs on big events, patrol public areas, and assist in search and rescue missions. The AI built-in will let them follow pre-programmed paths on their own, find problems and communicate with ground control systems to help things from the air.

D. Ethical Protections in Predictive Policing

AI surveillance is inching further and further towards predictive policing based on patterns of crime to make educated guesses about what is going to happen next. While it prevents crimes and ensures that resources are utilized efficiently, strict rules of behaviour need to be in place to guard against violations of citizens' rights and further social prejudices. We need open algorithms, judicial oversight, and community input to ensure these systems are safe for all and will not cause unintended harm.

E. Frameworks for Governance and Policy

Increased utilization of AI in surveillance demands clear rules and policies. Further, such a framework should bring out clear limits on the use of data, accountability, and fair treatment through AI applications. In addition, standardization within regions prevents abuse and coordinates different systems with ease. Moreover, good governance demands a legal framework, public engagement, and independent audits in furthering the rights of individuals and the promotion of innovative technologies.

9. Conclusion

A. Summary of the Function of Unified AI in Surveillance

The integrated AI systems bring a sea change to the way cities monitor, operate, and secure their neighbourhoods. Unlike general surveillance systems, the AI-driven platforms are integrated, proactive, and can make intelligent decisions in real time. Legacy systems on their part are fragmented, slow to react, and require heavy manned intervention. They gather data from myriad edge devices like cameras, IoT sensors, and drones. They also tap into robust analytics capable of operating in the cloud and on networks at the edge. City officials may use facial recognition, behaviour modelling, computer vision, and anomaly detection to understand and even predict what might go wrong. Unified AI surveillance teaches a lot about cities and helps to resolve more quickly all the problems related to safety, environmental threats, congestions in traffic, and emergencies. Basically, AI-based surveillance enhances public services and makes people safer, contributing thereby to making communities smarter and resilient.

B. Innovation and Responsible Use in Balance

There is a need to generate new ideas, and there is also a need to apply them judiciously. While there are many benefits of unified AI surveillance systems, they should be set up with a serious sense of responsibility and morals. Every time one speaks of monitoring, a word of caution on how new technologies impact the rights of people, especially their right to privacy and freedom of movement, should be shown. There is a probability of data misuse-in unauthorized sharing, racial profiling, and mass surveillance. That is why rules, which everybody follows, are so important. You need a clear system design, ethical AI practices, community oversight, and legal protections, such as data protection laws-including the GDPR-to reassure people and to make them trust you. AI models will also need training on numerous different datasets to make sure algorithms are unbiased and results are not unequal. Tech experts, government, and civil society collaboration has to ensure that benefits in the surveillance systems are for all and comply with democratic rules. To be responsible with your new ideas, you would also need to involve the public in the decision about the ways of using these surveillance technologies and show how these things function.

C. Concluding Remarks on Upcoming Urban Safety Facilities

The new methods for keeping cities safe in the future, cities will be safer as long as smart technologies and open government work together. Most likely, unified AI surveillance platforms will serve as the basis for the next generation of smart cities. These platforms keep you aware of constant, unpredictable changes in city life. People should regard them as a dramatic shift that extends far beyond technology itself. It's also one that will reshape rules, reshape how people communicate with one another, and reshape how products are created. Cities will have to invest in expandable infrastructure, open data standards, and ethical research on artificial intelligence to handle complex challenges like climate change, population growth, and new security threats. Globally, countries will be required to cooperate more intensively on complex issues around the governance of AI, privacy rights, and cyber-resilience with a view toward securing global standards for urban surveillance. Real added value contributed by AI to the future of surveillance will come not from power provided by technology but from how safety, efficiency, and human dignity can be balanced correctly in more complex situations of the twenty-first century.

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