July 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the Global Detention Project's monthly roundup of recent publications and activities. For any questions about our content, please contact us at: admin@globaldetentionproject.org

OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS

**Immigration Detention in Sweden: Increasing Restrictions and Deportations, Growing Civil Society Resistance**

Sweden used to be lauded for its comparatively humane treatment of asylum seekers and undocumented migrants. However, since the onset of the “refugee crisis,” the country has introduced a series of restrictive immigration control measures and the domestic political environment has become increasingly hostile. Even as the numbers of refugee applicants have steadily fallen, the country has continued to increase its detention capacity, detaining more individuals and for longer periods. While detention conditions compare favourably to those of neighbouring states, there are growing concerns about deficiencies in the provision of health care services for detainees.
**Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: Niger**
Niger has long been a country of origin as well as of transit; recently, a steady flow of migrants evacuated from North Africa has also begun arriving in the country. As Niger faces mounting international pressure to better manage migration within its borders, there are growing concerns that the country will resort to detention measures in handling migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. In this submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the GDP urges restraint in the use of detention, and lists key questions regarding the country’s immigration regime—particularly regarding the placement of children in detention—that Nigerien authorities should be asked to address. Read the full submission here.

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**NEWS AND ACTIVITIES**

**The Dilemmas of the International Organisation for Migration**
In June, Antonio Vitorino was elected Director General of the IOM. Formerly a minister in the Portuguese government of the Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Guterres, Vitorino is only the second non-American director in the IOM’s history. Given the historical and political proximity between the IOM and the U.S. government, his election (and the decision to overlook the U.S. candidate, Ken Isaacs) is a notable development. In this article for “The Conversation” (France), GDP Researcher Mariette Grange and Antoine Pécout (Paris 13 University) examine the IOM’s relations with the U.S. and the organisation’s involvement in migration control “dirty work.” Read the full article (in French) here.
A New Gulag Archipelago

GDP Executive Director Michael Flynn and Researcher Izabella Majcher participated in the third Refugee Law Initiative Annual Conference at the University of London on 17-18 July. Majcher chaired a panel on “The Role of ‘Third Countries’ in Asylum Law,” and Flynn gave a presentation entitled “A New Gulag Archipelago: Protecting the Rights of Refugees and Migrants Deprived of Their Liberty in the Immigration Detention Belt Emerging across the Global South.” The presentation argued that while states’ evasion tactics and externalisation efforts represent formidable challenges in refugee protection, the current “crisis” also underscores the existence of unexpected—and often underused—opportunities in promoting the rights of detained migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, including notably at the Committee on Migrant Workers. More information about the event.

Europe, Migrations, and the Mediterranean: Human Mobilities and Intercultural Challenges

The 15th IMISCOE Annual Conference took place in Barcelona on 2-4 July 2018. Organised by the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, the conference brought together the European migration scholarship community to draw attention to geographical dimensions of migration and to provide a forum for methodological discussions linking Mediterranean and migration studies. GDP Researcher Izabella Majcher gave a presentation on data protection in the Schengen Information System (SIS). The presentation—titled “The Pan-European Entry Ban Based on a SIS Alert: What Protection of Personal Data?”—explored whether safeguards contained in the SIS II Regulation offer adequate protection of personal data. More information is available here.
GDP ON THE RECORD

NORTH AMERICA


"Trump’s Family Incarceration Policy Threatens Healthy Child Development," L. Schochet, Center for American Progress, 10 July 2018.


EUROPE


"Lo de Salvini ocurre en el Mediterráneo central no es capricho [What Happens in the Central Mediterranean is Not the Whim of Salvini]," Maestroviejo, 10 July 2018.

NORTH AFRICA


GENERAL

- Border Criminologies Video Project, 24 July 2018.
- "Let’s Take a Look at How 7 Other Places Are Handling Immigration Differently," M. Stein, Odyssey, 3 July 2018.