



The Global Detention Project is a non-profit organisation based in Geneva that promotes the human rights of people who have been detained for reasons related to their non-citizen status. Our mission is:

- To **promote the human rights** of detained migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
- To **ensure transparency** in the treatment of immigration detainees
- To **reinforce advocacy** aimed at reforming detention systems
- To nurture policy-relevant scholarship on the causes and consequences of migration control policies

Contents

1. From the President and Executive Director	5
2. About the Global Detention Project	7
3. Highlights from 2018	9
3.1 Global Immigration Detention Observatory	9
3.2 Global Compact for Migration	10
3.3 Harm Reduction in Immigration Detention	11
3.4 Reporting on France's Code de la Honte	12
3.5 Focusing Attention on North Africa	13
3.6 Social Media: A Migrant Essential or a Criminal Marketplace?	14
3.7 Challenging Canada's Immigration Detention System	15
4. Objectives and Accomplisments	16
4.1 Advances in Country Reports and Data Development	16
4.2 The Internet as a Tool for Transparency and Awareness	17
A Resource for Detainees and Their Loved Ones	18
4.3 Reinforcing Advocacy	20
4.4 Encouraging Adherence to Fundamental Norms	22
4.5 Fostering Policy-Relevant Scholarship	23
5. Institutional Development	25
6. The GDP Team and Governance	26
7. Acknowledgements	29
TABLES	
Country Reports Produced in 2018	16
GDP Website Analytics by Year	17
Top Web Traffic Sources in 2018	17
Top Ten Most Visited Country Profiles in 2018	18
Ten Most Visited Detention Centres in 2018	20
GDP Submissions to Human Rights Mechanisms in 2018	22
Selected GDP Presentations in 2018	23
ANNEXES	
Annex I: Google Analytics - Yearly Web Traffic Statistics, 2018, 2017, 2016	31
Annex II: Google Analytics - Top Location of Users, 2018	34
Annex III: Google Analytics - Most Visited Detention Centres, 2017-2018	35
Annex IV: Financial Statement	36

1. From the President and Executive Director

Last summer, people across the globe reacted with outrage as U.S. immigration officials forcibly separated children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border and placed them in hastily set up camps and cages. Absent from much of the criticism, however, was any recognition of the fact that children are detained for immigration-related reasons in dozens of other counties across the globe, all of which—with the exception of the United States—have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2019.

While the Trump administration's family-separation policy was particularly cruel and has had devastating consequences for thousands of children, the fact that so many countries that have ratified the CRC continue to place children and families in immigration detention has become a flashpoint of global efforts to reform detention systems. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, which oversees implementation of the convention, argues that there can be no justification for locking up children in immigration proceedings because it "conflicts with the principle of the best interests of the child," one of the cornerstone principles of the global human rights framework, established in Article 3 of the CRC.

Importantly, many countries appear to be searching for "alternatives" to the immigration detention of children, and normative bodies like the Council of Europe have made this issue a priority. But most states resist relinquishing this practice, which the Global Detention Project has reported in various publications and submissions to human rights bodies during the course of 2018.

These policies often appear bizarre or banally callous because they employ misleading language that masks the threat they pose to children. For instance, in Canada children are "housed" as "guests" of their parents in immigration detention. In France, Poland, Spain, and numerous other countries children "accompany" their parents in detention centres. Such policies can make detained

children "invisible" to the law, preventing them from accessing basic legal protections that are offered to other detainees—including hardened criminals—while denying them adequate education, healthcare, and nurturing environments.

The insistence by states that immigration enforcement decisions take precedence over considerations of the well-being of children is also reflected in the much-anticipated Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), adopted last December. As we discuss later in this Annual Report, there is much that is laudable in the GCM, including its insistence that immigration detention only be used as a measure of last resort and its re-iteration of long-standing fundamental norms requiring that detention "follows due process, is non-arbitrary, based on law, necessity, proportionality and individual assessments."

Concerning children, the GCM encourages states to apply "alternatives to detention" while "working to end the practice of child detention." But the compact



Child detainees are held in Ursula Detention Centre, McAllen, Texas, 2018.

© Wikimedia Commons

does not reiterate the views of the Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning the "best interest" principle.

As the GDP and many others have pointed out, while the "alternatives" framework may have a rationale in the context of adults, its application to children can seem contradictory. If, as many authoritative rights agencies now claim, the immigration detention of children is fundamentally at odds with their best interests, then "alternatives" likewise should not apply since by definition they form part of detention procedures. In effect, encouraging states to consider "alternatives" for children may reinforce the original policy of detaining them. This is a quandary that we must not ignore.

How do you measure success when things seem to be getting worse? It is a question that human rights organisations often face.
One way to respond is by asking a counterfactual: What would the world look like if we were not there to push back?

This point was underscored by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in its 2018 alternatives to detention assessment toolkit: "It is improper to refer to [child] reception measures as alternatives to detention for children, because children should not be detained for immigration related purposes."

Herein lies the crux of the dilemma of immigration detention: As long as states insist that their sovereign rights trump the individual rights of non-citizens, any seeming "solution" to detention that does not explicitly and unambiguously define a path to diminishing the practice may ultimately lead to its persistence and growth.

We at the Global Detention Project do not pretend to have all the answers to this dilemma. But we hold in high esteem those who tirelessly—and self-critically—seek out ways to prevent abusive forms of detention and to challenge the allure of detention to security-minded authorities. This can often seem a thankless struggle. With each new "crisis," the small

gains that were previously made can be easily erased. What is more, some achievements (like improving the conditions of detention) can appear in hindsight plagued with unintended consequences (such as increased detention).

How do you measure success when things seem to be getting worse? It is a question that human rights organisations often face. One way to respond is by asking a counterfactual: What would the world look like if we were not there to push back? That is a legitimate question. But it lacks concrete detail, and thus may seem compelling to few.

In this Annual Report, we discuss many concrete examples of how the work of the GDP over the past year has had an impact. We discuss, for instance, the growing use of the GDP's online database the Global Immigration Detention Observatory, and the role it has played in calls for change. We highlight how UN human rights mechanisms have made calls to action reflecting our recommendations while media outlets across the globe have made use of our information to bring public attention to the plight of detainees. We feature cases where the GDP website has helped connect families with detainees. And we reflect on how our interactions with academics, NGOs, government officials, and international organisations have helped build new consensus on reforming detention institutions.

With support from our key institutional partners—the Oak Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, and the Human Security Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs—we look forward to building on these efforts while continuing our work to ensure that vulnerable migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are treated with respect and dignity.

Michael Flynn

Executive Director

Roberta Cecchetti

President

strate 15

2. About the Global Detention Project

As representatives from countries around the world prepared to meet in Marrakesh to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018, a first-of-its-kind global agreement for humanely managing migration, negotiations became overshadowed by the news that a handful of states—including, notably, the United States, Australia, and a host of European countries—would refuse to sign it.

The naysayers worried that the agreement would threaten their sovereignty and that its mention of the human rights of migrants would limit their ability to ramp up border security. "No to Marrakesh! - The UN's Sinister Blueprint for Globalist Migration Hell," clamoured the headline of one widely circulated oped in the United States.

Although the compact was approved by the vast majority of states, the widespread concerns spurred by the non-binding agreement reveals the hostility that migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees continue to face across the globe, even as many "crises" have faded. States continue to rely heavily on detention and

Detainees sleep in the Al-Anfoushy Youth Centre in Alexandria, Egypt. © Tom Rollins

deportation in their response to irregular migration, including using detention as a deterrent, despite a lack of evidence showing its effectiveness.

From the de facto detention centres in Hungary's transit zones and Malaysia's grim migration "depots" where hundreds have died of preventable diseases in recent years, to Libya's nightmarish EU-financed migrant prisons and Mexico's burgeoning network of estaciones migratorias, countless thousands are locked behind bars and placed in extreme vulnerability every day across our planet solely because of their immigration status. Consider this: As of 21 December 2018, Saudi Arabia had arrested 1,996,069 people during the year as part of its "Homeland Without Illegals Campaign." Who knows about this?

All too often, authorities fail to disclose information and statistics concerning their detention operations, and facilities are operated under deceptive forms and guises—they can be called "residential centres," "guesthouses," "hotspots," "shelters." This lack of transparency shields states from scrutiny and reforms. The need for detailed, systematic information about who is being deprived of their liberty, where they are locked up, and the conditions they face in detention are greater than ever. And the Global Detention Project's work holding governments to account and promoting effective, meaningful reforms remains pivotal.

It was the recognition of these needs more than a decade ago that spurred the founding of the Global Detention Project at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Motivated by the goal of measuring the worldwide spread of immigration detention, GDP researchers developed a first-of-its-kind methodology for documenting where people are deprived of their liberty for migration-related reasons.

This methodology has since expanded to include indicators on a range of other elements of detention systems, including conditions in detention, statistical trends, domestic and international law, and the institutions responsible for operating and providing services in detention. To date we have developed data on more than 100 countries and 2,200 detention centres. By developing a comparative analytical framework based on the analysis of detention systems for all non-citizens across all regions of the

DATA DEVELOPMENT TO DATE

2,200+ detention centres

100+ countries

3,000+ data entries
by GDP partners

world, the GDP thus provides a truly comprehensive and empirical global tool that is unlike any other available resource.

In the politicised and often divisive public debates about immigration detention, the GDP provides a data-rich and evidence-driven resource. But the GDP's efforts are not merely an exercise in information collection. Since leaving academia and becoming an independent non-profit research centre in 2014, we have pursued a variety of strategies aimed at using our data to encourage change and reform. These include: engaging with UN human rights bodies to document gaps in states' adherence to human rights treaties; partnering with local advocates to build awareness of detention practices and lend support to their calls for accountability; providing training in documentation methods; and nurturing policy-relevant scholarship and research by collaborating with external experts to better understand the forces spurring the growth of detention systems.



Märsta detention centre, Sweden. © Swedish Migration Board

3. Highlights from 2018

3.1 Global Immigration Detention Observatory

Since 2016, when we launched our online database—the Global Immigration Detention Observatory—a key focus of the GDP's work has been to develop a network of researchers and advocates across the globe trained to use the database to track developments in their countries. We formally launched this endeavour in 2017 when we established partnerships with an initial group of NGOs from countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. As we discuss in more detail below, by the end of 2018, this network had grown to include 11 organisations, which collectively entered more than 3,000 pieces of information into the database covering detention operations in 20 countries.

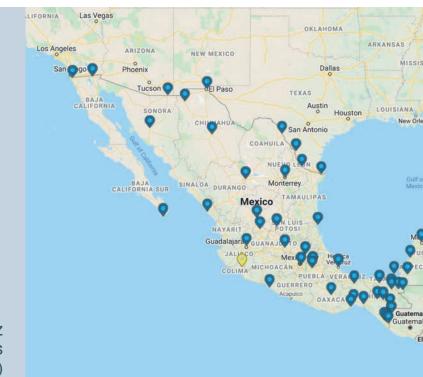
This has been an important success for the GDP as it heralds a critical evolution of our work going forward,

as foreseen in our "Strategic Plan 2016-2019." According to that plan, the development of a cadre of field researchers dedicated to reporting on detention operations can "serve as a force-multiplier, assisting the small GDP team in Geneva to track detention globally, while at the same time helping to encourage the formation of a specialised knowledge community on the issue of immigration detention that will ensure global transparency in the treatment of detainees."

Looking ahead, we have plans to gradually expand the number of database users to cover a wider scope of countries, to build new tools in the database that will enhance its usefulness to partners, and to reconfigure our website to more prominently feature the wealth of data and information that we are building with our partners. Also, importantly, if this initial phase of the Observatory may be viewed as a "proof of concept," then we must begin considering what it will mean to fully implement this operational model, in terms of both budget and personnel.

"We have worked closely with the GDP to document the dire situation migrants and asylum seekers face when they are arrested in Mexico and placed in immigration detention centres. Participating in this database project has given us the opportunity to do this in a structured and rigorous way, and to join a global network that is working to assist people in immigration detention worldwide. Ultimately, we hope that this kind of documentation initiative will lead societies to be better informed of abuses in immigration detention and to embrace policies that emphasise dignity and personal freedom."

SALVA LACRUZ FRAY MATÍAS DE CÓRDOVA HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER (MEXICO)



3.2 Global Compact for Migration

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted at an intergovernmental conference held in Marrakesh, Morocco, with more than 160 state signatories. It has been described as the first "intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner."

The GCM "comprises 23 objectives for better managing migration at local, national, regional and global levels," two of which are directly related to the issue of immigration detention:

- OBJECTIVE 13: Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
- OBJECTIVE 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

In Objective 13 states commit to ensuring "that any detention in the context of international migration follows due process, is non-arbitrary, based on law, necessity, proportionality and individual assessments, is carried out by authorized officials, and for the shortest possible period of time, irrespective of whether detention occurs at the moment of entry, in transit, or proceedings of return, and regardless of the type of place where the detention occurs. We further commit to prioritize noncustodial alternatives to detention that are in line with international law, and to take a human rights-based approach to any detention of migrants, using detention as a measure of last resort only."

Notably, however, while Objective 13 calls on states to work to end the detention of children, it does not reiterate views expressed by many human rights bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Migrant Workers, that the immigration detention of children violates their best interests.

Objective 21 is devoted to readmission and reintegration, placing emphasis on countries of origin rather than on states undertaking returns and deportations. The implementing actions reflect numerous important norms (in particular with respect to the rights of the child, the principle of the child's best interests, the right to family life, and procedural guarantees). However, the objective fails to adequately take into account norms that are fundamental in expulsion procedures, such as the principle of non-refoulement, the prohibition of collective expulsion, and the right to life and prohibition of ill-treatment during forcible return.

Objective 1 also has important implications for immigration detention policies in its call for collecting and utilising "accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies," in part to assist "effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of commitments" made in the compact.

While the GDP was not directly involved in many of the activities and meetings that occurred in the lead up to the adoption of the GCM, we participated in interactive dialogues in Geneva and provided a written submission to the UN Special Representative for International Migration. In these interventions, we made a point of highlighting that immigration detention does not take place in a legal vacuum. We deemed this to be particularly important because at times there appeared to be little recognition among some key stakeholders of the relevance of the existing human rights framework to migrants.



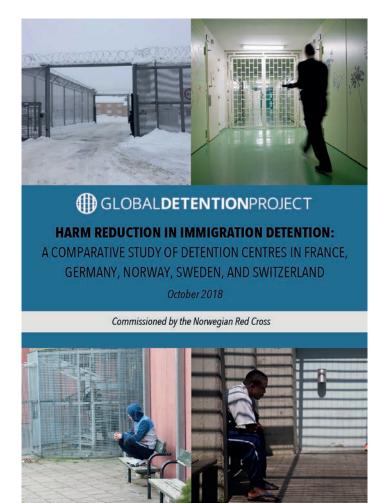
Anti-immigration protesters attend the "March Against Marrakech" rally in front of EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, 16 December 2018.

© picture alliance / Photoshoot

Among our recommendations was a call to ensure that the GCM emphasise the importance of safeguards against arbitrary detention, that detention decisions be based on law and meet criteria of necessity and proportionality, and that detention measures be used only as a last resort and for the shortest possible time. We flagged the need for procedural safeguards and the importance of monitoring by independent national and international bodies to ensure that conditions of detention abide by international norms. We underscored the authoritative work developed by UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies concluding that immigration detention should be an exceptional measure used as a last resort, and only after less coercive measures have been considered. We reported the emerging trend in UN and regional human right mechanisms to preclude the detention of children. Finally, we emphasised the need for clarity in data gathering to properly monitor states' activities, especially in light of the widespread use of euphemisms in laws and official discourses concerning immigration detention.

The final version of the compact reflects many of the suggestions that the GDP and others had promoted, including the call for UN member states to respect the relevant international human rights legal framework and the importance of developing accurate data collection to effectively monitor state activities.

Concerning Objective 1 and the GCM's call for better statistics and effective monitoring, it is worth noting that the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the self-dubbed "UN Migration Agency" that provided technical and organisational expertise during the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the Global Compact, is often not transparent about its role in detention-related programmes and operations. They also often do not include detention data in their reporting. For instance, in October 2018, just a few months before the adoption of the Global Compact, the IOM released its "Global Migration Indicators Report," which "summarizes key global migration trends based on the latest statistics, showcasing 21 indicators across 17 migration topics." Absent from the data is any mention of immigration detention (except for in a footnote), despite the prominent recognition given to detention during all phases of the deliberations leading up to the adoption of the Global Compact.



3.3 "Harm Reduction in Immigration Detention"

The Norwegian Red Cross contracted the GDP to investigate and compare conditions and operations at detention centres in several European countries to bolster calls for reforms at Norway's Trandum Detention Centre. Our research, which included site visits to facilities in Norway and Germany, addressed several key questions: In what ways has the Norwegian system met or exceeded internationally recognised standards? In what ways has it fallen short, especially when compared to the detention practices of peer countries? And what are the key reform priorities going forward that may help reduce the harmful impact of detention?

In our final report, titled "Harm Reduction in Immigration Detention: A Comparative Study of Detention Centres in France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland," we reported that the Trandum facility, when compared to peer facilities elsewhere in Europe, appeared to impose an overzealously punitive and

"The comparative report that we commissioned the GDP to undertake has been instrumental in Norwegian Red Cross advocacy work, promoting a more humane immigration detention policy in Norway. The report has been eagerly read by policy makers, researchers, and volunteers alike. I found the work of GDP staff to be of very high quality, reflecting their extensive experience in the field as well as their interdisciplinary and international perspective on a highly complex issue."

KARIN AFEEF NORWEGIAN RED CROSS

restrictive regime. The report highlighted numerous practices that could reduce harm in detention systems, including: placing immigration detainees in the custody of welfare—instead of security—institutions; reforming operating rules on everything from food preparation to electronic communications; and reforming carceral elements, like guard attire, facility layout, and prison-like rules at centres.

The report had an important impact on discussions about immigration detention in Norway. Launched at an October event at Red Cross headquarters in Oslo, the report's conclusions helped ignite a public debate after the organisation's Director General used it to issue a call urging the country's authorities to reform its immigration detention system and end police control of Trandum. He wrote: "We at the Red Cross believe it is high time that Trandum changes, and we therefore call for a debate regarding who is best suited to manage the Norwegian immigration network. ... We believe that the management of the centre should be taken over by the Directorate of Immigration, because there is a correlation between who oversees the facility, and how the rights of detainees are respected."

The report has subsequently helped lead to discussions with officials in other countries, including Switzerland, and informed on-going GDP collaborations with other NGOs and international organisations. It also proved

an important case for the GDP to test our evolving approach to highlighting problematic aspects of detention regimes, spurring us to avoid identifying "best practices" and instead to frame our critiques in the language of "harm reduction."

3.4 Reporting on France's Code de la Honte

Having closely monitored important changes in France's immigration detention laws during 2018, we published our most detailed report to date on the country in October, soon after the new legislation was adopted. The report highlighted the doubling of the maximum detention time limit to 90 days, newly shortened asylum application deadlines, and provisions for the re-detention of non-citizens shortly after release from a previous stay in detention—all of which, the report emphasised, add burdensome new restraints on migrants' rights. Commenting on the new legislation, dubbed *code de la honte* (or "code of shame") by activists, the French ombudsman said, "Contrary to the discourse that everything should be



done in favour of asylum seekers, they are in fact badly treated by this project." Moreover, according to the ombudsman, the accelerated asylum procedures will "impose impossible deadlines on asylum seekers ... which risks causing asylum seekers to lose their rights to appeal."

The fact that France (including its overseas territories) detains more people than any other EU country remains little known outside the country, and the GDP's France profile has thus helped fill a gap in available information in English concerning this country. Also worth noting in this respect is that during the research phase of our reporting on France we discovered that the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) had not visited places of immigration detention in France since 2010. In May, we wrote to the CPT asking why this was the case and encouraging it to visit French detention centres in their next visit. In November, the CPT carried out an ad hoc visit to France with the main objective being "to examine the treatment and conditions of detention of persons deprived of their liberty under immigration and asylum law."4

3.5 Focusing Attention on North Africa

During 2018, the GDP began updating its reports and data on North African countries, an initiative that will continue into 2019. Efforts by the EU to block irregular migration across the Mediterranean have spurred numerous developments across this region, some of which have exposed migrants and asylum seekers to severe discrimination, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, forced disappearance, and death.

In addition to publishing new detention profiles on countries in the region—Egypt and Libya—we submitted information and recommendations to UN treaty bodies, including on Niger to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and on Algeria to the Committee on Migrant Workers. These initiatives also led to dialogues with national officials including our partners at the Human Security Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, who described our profile on Libya as "an excellent source of information" and invited us to present our work on



Women and children who were being held in Libya's Triq Al Sika detention centre (Tripoli) wait to board a UNHCR evacuation flight to Niger, 19 June 2018. © UNHCR/Jehad Nga

the country in Bern (although we were unable to find timing for this before the end of the year).

While much of world's attention has focused on the severe abuses faced by migrants and asylum seekers in Libya, there have also been important EUspurred developments in Algeria and further south, in Niger, which we highlighted in our submissions to treaty bodies. Since 2017, thousands of people have been rounded up in Algeria as part of mass-arrest campaigns-including children, pregnant women, UN-registered asylum seekers, and refugees-and expelled to Niger and Mali. However, little up-todate public information exists regarding the facilities and conditions that non-citizens are held at in these countries, and whether they have access to safeguards. The GDP, in partnership with le Collectif Loujna Tounkaranké, underscored these concerns in a joint submission on Algeria to the Committee on Migrant Workers.

In its subsequent "Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Algeria," the committee picked up several of our recommendations concerning immigration-related detention, reminding the country to only detain migrant workers as a measure of last resort. In particular, it requested that officials address the secrecy shrouding detention by providing "detailed information, disaggregated by age, sex, nationality, and/or place of origin, on the number of migrant workers currently detained for immigration offences and the place, average duration, and conditions of their detention."

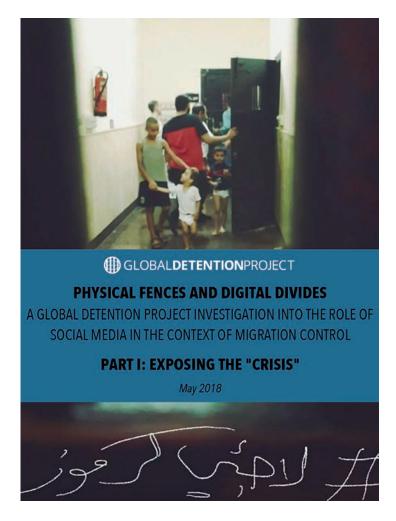
As Niger faces mounting international pressure, in particular from the EU, to better manage migration within its borders, there are growing concerns that the country will resort to detention measures in handling migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. In our submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the GDP urged restraint in the use of detention, and called on Nigerien authorities to address key questions regarding the country's immigration regime, particularly the placement of children in detention.

Many of the issues we highlighted were subsequently reiterated by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants in his end of mission statement to the country. "During my visit to Agadez and Niamey, most migrants, amongst them minors, stated having been victims of arbitrary arrests and/or corruption by the official authorities," he wrote. "While being in detention, which lasted often up to several days,

none of them, including children, received access to legal aid and/or legal representation." The Special Rapporteur also made specific recommendations to the EU and its member states for their programmes and policies to be in compliance with international human rights norms and standards.

3.6 Social Media: A Migrant Essential or a Criminal Marketplace?

Since the "refugee crisis" exploded across the international media and political landscapes, the role of social media has been repeatedly dissected, argued over, and—more often than not—misunderstood. Although officials and politicians often present new digital platforms as security threats that enable traffickers and illicit enterprises, these technologies have also played a critically important role in aiding refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in need. They help people connect to the outside world from inside detention centres, provide desperately needed information about sources of humanitarian assistance,



and enable the creation of digital communities that give migrants and their families agency to proactively search for solutions.

In 2018, with support from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, we began publishing a special series of reports titled "Physical Fences and Digital Divides," which seeks to improve our understanding of how individuals use social media during their migration journeys, with a special emphasis on their use in the context of detention and migration control in North Africa and the Mediterranean. Based in part on on-the-ground research undertaken in Sicily and Egypt, the report has examined the diverse ways that migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers use social media today, and the varying factors—including socio-economics, nationality, and smuggling modus operandi—that affect the use of such resources in migratory contexts.

The first two parts of the report were launched at an event in Geneva hosted at Quaker House. Participants included representatives from country missions as well as NGOs and international organisations, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Norwegian Refugee Council, the IOM, and ACT Alliance. Part III of the Special Report, "Re-imagining Digital Tech in an Age of Border Controls: Lessons and Recommendations," is set to be released in 2019.

3.7 Challenging Canada's Immigration Detention System

Although Canada has experienced increasing immigration pressures, including receiving in 2017 the highest number of asylum claims in its history, the country has not witnessed the same acrimonious public debate over immigration as seen elsewhere.

It has also adopted important reforms—including the introduction of a National Immigration Detention Framework aimed at improving detention conditions and reducing the use of prisons for immigration purposes. However, as our report, "Canada: Important Reforms, Ongoing Concerns" highlighted, key issues remain: one third of immigration detainees are held in prisons, including individuals with mental



Refugees charge their mobile phones in Idomeni refugee camp on the Greek-Macedonian border. © Picture Alliance / imageBROKER

health conditions; there is no maximum limit to the length of detention; children may be "housed" in detention facilities to prevent the separation of families; and the lack of independent national and international oversight bodies contributes to a culture of secrecy surrounding the system.

The release of our report coincided with a global conference on detention, "Challenging Migrant Detention: Human Rights, Advocacy and Mental Health," held at McGill University in Montreal, which included the participation of the GDP's Executive Director, who employed data and information from the GDP's Global Immigration Detention Observatory to show how Canada's detention regime contrasts with the U.S. and European systems. The conference also served as a launch for an open letter signed by more than 2,000 Canadian health care practitioners urging the Canadian government to end family detention. In the letter, which was addressed to the Public Safety Minister and Immigration Minister, doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and midwives pointed to the long-lasting health effects that immigration detention has on detainees: "In Canada, immigration detention of both adults and children, and family separation, have been a longstanding and grave concern. Canadian research and reports have repeatedly shown the severe mental health impacts of even short-term detention on both adults and children."

Multiple news outlets—including The Toronto Star, The Montreal Gazette, MSN, and iPolitics—used our research to draw attention to the lack of transparency surrounding the country's detention estate and to highlight on-going violations.

4. Objectives and Accomplishments

4.1 Advances in Country Reports and Data Development

Throughout 2018, GDP researchers continued to monitor detention laws, policies, and practices around the world. We produced 15 in-depth country reports that served as resources for researchers, advocates, journalists, detainees and their family members, amongst others. In addition, as reported in the previous section, as part of our work on the Global Immigration Detention Observatory, the GDP worked with more than a dozen external field researchers based in NGOs around the world to complete data profiles on some 20 countries. As of December 2018, nearly 3,000 discrete pieces of information had been entered by external researchers and subsequently vetted by GDP staff since early 2017, when the field researcher initiative was formally launched.

GDP reporting and research work involves several overlapping activities. These include completing rigorous, comprehensive reviews of publicly available documents; submitting information requests to relevant officials and human rights institutions; interviewing country analysts and NGO representatives; working with local partners who provide on-the-ground updates and local expertise; and, in some cases, conducting fact-finding visits to detention centres.

Country Reports Produced in 2018

Immigration Detention in Italy: The "Hotspot Approach"

Immigration Detention in **Greece:** Growing Human Rights Crisis Amidst Ramped Up Detention Operations

Immigration Detention in **Lebanon**: Deprivation of Liberty at the Frontiers of Global Conflict

Immigration Detention in **Norway**: Fewer Asylum Seekers but More Deportees

Immigration Detention in **Ireland**: Will Better Detention Mean More Detention?

Immigration Detention in **Luxembourg**: Systematic Deprivation of Liberty

Immigration Detention in **Denmark**: Where Officials Celebrate the Deprivation of Liberty of "Rejected Asylum Seekers"

Immigration Detention in **Canada**: Important Reforms, Ongoing Concerns

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

Immigration Detention in **Finland**: Limited Use of "Alternatives," Restrictive Detention Review, Divisive Political Debate

Immigration Detention in Libya: "A Human Rights Crisis"

Immigration Detention in **Egypt**: Military Tribunals, Human Rights Abuses, Abysmal Conditions, and EU Partner

Immigration Detention in **Poland**: Systematic Family Detention and Lack of Individualised Assessment

Immigration Detention in **France**: Longer, More Widespread, and Harder to Contest

Immigration Detention in the **Czech Republic**: "We Will Not Accept Even One More Refugee"



Egypt Immigration Detention

Egypt has long been a destination and transit country for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants from across the Middle East and Africa. Its Mediterranean coast has served as an important staging point for people attempting to reach Europe irregularly. Observers have repeatedly expressed concerns about Egypt's use of police stations and prisons for immigration detention purposes. Despite on-going government repression of civil society organisations and the dire conditions migrants face in detention, Egypt remains a key EU partner in Mediterranean migration control policies. Its repeated crackdowns on irregular flows along its borders have led to higher rates of detentions and deportations.

Quick Facts ©Immigration detainees (2017): Not Available (2015): 491,600 ©New asylum applications (2016): 30,672

4.2 The Internet as a Tool for Transparency and Awareness

Ensuring that our research reaches a wide audience is of central importance to the GDP's efforts to increase transparency and awareness of the impact and consequences of immigration detention. Our website is a critical tool in achieving this goal. In our Strategic Plan 2016-2019, we set a target of increasing our online readership annually by 10 percent. During 2018, traffic substantially outpaced this target. According to Google Analytics, the site logged 224,455 sessions, 184,297 users, and 348,201 page views, marking a significant increase over previous years and nearly doubling traffic since 2016. (For more on the GDP's website statistics, see Annexes I, II, and III.)

At present our work is published mostly in English, although we occasionally work with partners to complete submissions to UN bodies in French and Spanish. Despite this, those accessing our materials do so from around the world, and we continue to attract large numbers of readers from outside the English-language world. Our most widely read profiles also include many non-English-language countries including Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

GDP Website Analytics by Year

via Google Analytics

	2016	2017	2018
Website Sessions	122,000	157,000	224,455
Website Users	94,000	125,000	184,297
Website Page Views	230,000	266,000	348,201

This growth in readership is due in part to the development of our newsletter mailing list—strictly in line with the new EU General Data Protection Legislation—and the evolution of our social media presence. In 2018 our social media reach grew exponentially, helping us to inform a growing audience of our latest research, as well as key detention developments around the world, and to direct users to our reports. On Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, our content served as key informational and analytical resources, and throughout the year we observed a steady increase in users interacting with our content. On Twitter, our channel reached approximately

The GDP's Top Web Traffic Sources in 2018 via Google Analytics

Country	Percentage of Users
United States	42,293 (23.13%)
Canada	13,080 (7.17%)
Malaysia	13,021 (7.14%)
United Kingdom	9,171 (5.03%)
Australia	7,290 (4.00%)
Mexico	6,452 (3.54%)
Italy	5,410 (2.97%)
United Arab Emirates	5,377 (2.95%)
India	5,005 (2.74%)
France	4,224 (2.32%)

32,200 users a month; on Facebook, our following grew from 3,000 to 10,000 users during the year and the Facebook page had an average of some 18,000 readers each month.

User interaction was often tied to breaking news and events around the world. For instance, we observed a particularly large spike in interaction following the Trump administration's actions on the border with Mexico during the summer, including after the GDP's director was interviewed by the BBC comparing U.S. border policies to other countries. We also began last year to tie publicity campaigns with international days such as International Women's Day and World Children's Day. This gave us the opportunity to highlight our latest work-as well as recent relevant research from peer organisations—initiate conversations with our followers, and attract new, interested users to our channels and website. On World Refugee Day, our campaign saw 2,268 users visit our website, compared to 635 one week previously.



Laval Immigration Holding Centre, Canada. © Wikimedia Commons

Top Ten Most Visited Country Profiles in 2018

via Google Analytics

- 1. United States
- 2. Canada
- 3. Libya
- 4. Malaysia
- 5. Mexico
- 6. Saudi Arabia
- 7. United Arab Emirates
- 8. Italy
- 9. Trinidad and Tobago
- 10. Germany

This growing online readership, both on our website and via social media, has seen our materials develop increasing importance as resources for researchers and journalists. Journalists, for instance, have regularly used our work in their coverage of issues ranging from prison reform to refugee rights, and we have been referenced more than 170 times throughout the year by various press and specialised media publications (not including the many dozens of citations in academic publications). These included the BBC, the Guardian, Salon, CNBC, IRIN, The Local (Denmark), Bangkok Post (Thailand), Toronto Star (Canada), the Irish Examiner (Ireland), Muftah (Middle East), Vita (Italy), and Utrop (Norway), among many others.

"Immigration detention: how the UK compares with other countries"

"Algeria's migrant policies are hurting everyone, including Algeria"

"US "zero-tolerance" immigration poloicy still violates fundamental human rights"

"Denmark criticised for 'celebrating' plight of asylum seekers in damning report"

"Canada slammed for 'culture of secrecy' over immigration detention"

"Libia, ecco dove la guardia costiera libica rispedisce i profughi "soccorsi""

Selection of 2018 headlines

A Resource for Detainees and their Loved Ones

The GDP has received an increasing number of requests from people who are seeking assistance in locating or finding support for family members, friends, colleagues, or loved ones who have been detained or encountered other problems during migration journeys. Requests arrive by phone or email, as well as through our website, social media, and Skype accounts. Counting just website and email requests, during the period January 2017 to December 2018, we received more than 250 assistance requests concerning issues related to detention and other migration-related problems.

While in many cases it is difficult or impossible to verify who is making the request, in some cases it is clear. For instance, a few months after we published a report on immigration detention in Egypt in late 2018, we received an email from a person claiming to be the sister of an individual visible in a photograph we published of a detention centre from 2014. In one email to the GDP from early 2019, the person wrote:

"I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to inform you that you are the reason for assuring us that my brother ... is still alive. [He] has been lost since ... 2014 in Egypt ... while he was on an immigration ship to Italy. When I saw the photo ... my heart melted and I burst into tears."

Based on our knowledge of the photo and the photographer, who is a long-time contributor to the GDP, we were able to verify details provided by this letter writer. When we responded to this person, we made sure to explain the age of the photo and our inability to confirm any details about the people in it. However, we put her in contact with the photographer, provided her with information about various partners located in the Mediterranean region, and pointed her to online tools like the ICRC "Restoring Family Links" website.

The photographer was able to establish though his communication with this person that there was an outside chance her brother could still be in one of the detention facilities used by the military to hold political detainees since the post-2013 crackdown in the country and had reached out to lawyers in Egypt working with detainees at this facility. However, he thought it more likely that the brother was on a

boat that sank off Malta in 2014, with more than 500 missing or drowned. "I am on the Facebook group of the relatives of those missing and even a few days ago, people were posting requests for info about what happened to their loved-ones. It's pretty grim," he wrote in an email to us in March 2019. He added that he was concerned about trying to avoid "dabbling with a hopeful, bereaved relative of a missing person who never found a conclusive answer regarding what happened." For her part, the sister informed us that she had been in contact with ICRC Family Tracing office but had yet to receive any information that could help her resolve her search.

The emotional experience of interacting with this letter writer points to an important—albeit admittedly unplanned—impact of the GDP's effort to present all our data in a highly visible and readily available website: There is an ever increasing number of people who will seek us out because the GDP—with its dedicated webpages of more than 2,200 detention centres—is the only resource that exists online with information about these detention centres.

This realisation led us to begin assessing more carefully how people use our website and the reasons they contact us. One thing that immediately became clear was the large number of people who enter our site by way of a detention centre page. Of the more than 380,000 sessions on our website during the two-year period 2017-2018, more than 40 percent (or 155,000 sessions) began with initial entrances on pages of individual detention centres (see Annex III). The most frequently accessed detention centre—and

A room inside the Tartarstan Center for Temporary Detention of Foreign Nationals, Russia. © Nabchelny.ru

one of the most visited webpages during the period (with 10,383 page visits)—was the Alaweer Detention Centre for Men in the United Arab Emirates. The San Luis Regional Detention Centre in the United States was second among detention centres (with 4,925 visits) and the Lenggeng Immigration Depot in Malaysia was third (3,830 visits). This detention centre web traffic data is a remarkable finding, indicating that an important part of our overall traffic is comprised of people looking for detention centres. And many of these people, presumably, are either detainees or people looking for detainees, as indicated by the large numbers of requests we receive.

There is an ever increasing number of people who will seek us out because the GDP is the only resource that exists online with information about these detention centres.

Assistance requests vary from appeals for information on how to ensure the release of a detainee from a specific location and requests for help in locating individuals, to emails from detainees seeking advice on how to legally challenge their detention. An analysis of these requests found that geographically, 18 percent concerned detention in Central and North America, followed by Europe (15 percent), the Asia-Pacific Region (14 percent), Africa (10 percent), and the Middle East (two percent) (remaining requests were unspecified in terms of location).

As the Egyptian detainee case illustrates, while the GDP is not in a position to assist people directly in locating individuals or providing legal advice, we make an effort to direct people to potentially useful services, like the ICRC tracing tool, as well as the local offices of UNHCR and other international organisations. Also, thanks to our network of partners we can at times connect concerned individuals to local organisations, who in some cases have been able to provide valuable assistance.

In one notable case from early 2018, a person claiming to be the sister of a Nigerian detainee in Malaysia wrote to the GDP informing us that she was unable to find information regarding her brother since

Top Ten Most Visited Detention Centres in 2018

via Google Analytics

- 1. Alaweer Detention Centre for Men, UAE
- 2. Lenggeng Immigration Depot, Malaysia
- 3. San Luis Regional Centre, United States
- 4. Langkap Immigration Depot, Malaysia
- 5. Acayucan Estacion Migratoria, Mexico
- 6. Kuala Lumpur International Airport Immigration Depot, Malaysia
- 7. Folkston ICE Processing Centre, United States
- 8. Semenyih Immigration Depot, Malaysia
- 9. CBSA Laval Immigration Holding Centre, Canada
- 10. Al-Shumaisi Detention Centre, Saudi Arabia

he had been placed in a specific "deportation camp" several weeks earlier. We connected the person to a partner in Malaysia, the Suka Society, who in turn assisted her in determining where her brother was being detained and provided advice on how to help him return home. The family eventually managed to arrange his return. In a follow up email to the GDP later that year, the sister wrote:

"It was a tedious process but we got to speak with my brother and also sent him some money and provisions, before his release was concluded. Now, he is back home and taking medical treatment, and we can finally breathe. Thank you so much, for the help your organisation offered us when even my country officials deserted us. My parents have been crying tears of joy ever since."

An important take away from our experience responding to detention-related assistance requests is the pressing need for us to carefully modify our website to ensure that people can readily find needed resources. Also, given the large number of requests we get from people who become confused when they visit our site—thinking that we are a detaining authority of some kind and demanding that we release their family members—it has become abundantly clear that we must continue to critically re-assess how we perceive ourselves and our resources so that we better take into account the diverse and sometimes unpredictable uses of our data. We have already begun planning key changes to the website for 2019 that take into account these lessons.

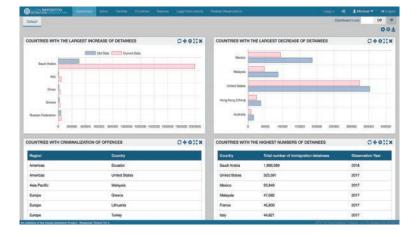
4.3 Reinforcing Advocacy

The GDP's strategic vision emphasises the importance of investigative research, carefully constructed data, and clearly defined indicators as essential components of advocacy on immigration detention. Thus, a growing priority of our work is developing the data development skills of advocacy organisations through their involvement in the Global Immigration Detention Observatory. By the end of 2018, the GDP had trained researchers from more than 10 organisations who have worked to enter data on more than 20 countries. To date, these external field researchers have entered more than 3,000 pieces of data into our database. Each piece of data is vetted by GDP staff before going live on the website.

"Working on the GDP database was an interesting experience. I hope to be able to continue this collaboration as there is so much to be added on a country like Russia, and fully documenting immigration detention practices there requires a considerable amount of time and dedication. But having such a resource can be an important asset to those advocating reforms in the treatment of migrants, stateless persons, and refugees."

ANASTASIA NEKOZAKOVA ADC MEMORIAL (RUSSIA)

The Global Immigration Detention Observatory





Ingelheim Detention Centre, Germany © F.A.Z.-Foto/Frank Röth

The data collection methods established as part of this field worker initiative have already featured prominently in several advocacy campaigns. For instance, the GDP's report for the Norwegian Red Cross, "Harm Reduction in Immigration Detention," used data modelling from the Global Immigration Detention Observatory to produce comparative charts of all the detention centres assessed in that report, on the basis of which we developed recommendations for the Red Cross. Likewise, our involvement in the "Red Line" project, led by the Hungarian Helsinki Society and supported by the European Programme for Integration and Migration,

includes training national partners to use the Global Immigration Detention Observatory to produce data reports on their national detention systems, which will be included in the final report of the project to be released in 2019.

A key objective in 2019 is to expand the number of organisations working on the database and raise adequate funds to develop longer term collaborations with them, which many of our partners commented was necessary to ensure comprehensive coverage of detention-related violations in their countries.

"Working on the GDP database was a new experience for me, putting our work promoting the rights of migrants and asylum seekers in a global context. It also challenged us to assess the extent of immigration detention more widely, applying a regional approach encompassing all of Central Asia. It will be important to continue working on this database as it covers an issue that changes rapidly and requires frequent updating."

AINA SHORMANBAYEVA INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INITIATIVE (KAZAKHSTAN)

ADC Memorial: Russia

Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matias: Mexico

Foundation for Access to Rights: Bulgaria

Greek Refugee Council: Greece

Human Constanta: Belarus

Hungarian Helsinki Society: Hungary

International Legal Initiative: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Italian Refugee Council: Italy

Lawyers for Human Rights: South Africa

Migrant-Rights-org: Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,

Oman, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait

[Unnamed NGO]: Egypt

4.4 Encouraging Adherence to Fundamental Norms

While international law does not prohibit immigration detention, it provides many relevant protections and obligations. Thus, a key element of our work is reporting to UN treaty monitoring bodies when states detain people in ways that violate their human rights treaty commitments. From highlighting Malaysia's inhumane detention conditions where detainees are regularly denied sufficient space to move or sleep, to calling attention to the discrimination and detention of migrants in Algeria and urging for greater transparency in the country's detention system, the GDP continued to report concerns and gaps in protection to human rights treaty bodies throughout 2018. These reports were often prepared in collaboration with partners, helping to both broaden the range of actors involved in highlighting potential gaps in state adherence to relevant obligations, and to encourage more active participation in treaty body monitoring.

Our submissions often appear to have a clear impact on treaty body deliberations as well as on the work of associated UN human rights mechanisms, as we pointed out above in our discussion of submissions on Niger and Algeria to the CRC and the CMW in 2018. Commenting on the value of these submissions, Kirsten Sandberg, the former chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, wrote in an email to the GDP:

"As a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, I followed the Global Detention Project's work for many years. Their submissions to the committee during our country reviews were based on solid knowledge about the countries they covered and proved very useful for our deliberations. For instance, for the committee's dialogue with Niger in 2018, the GDP provided a five-page submission containing targeted information on migration and refugee flows as well as the legal framework and its implementation, highlighting key questions and concerns regarding the treatment of children in immigration procedures. Such submissions provide valuable backgrounds for committee members that can assist us in asking relevant questions and making recommendations."



Migrants arrested during a raid in Subang Jaya (Malaysia) are led into a detention centre, 29 July 2018 © Zahim Mohd/NurPhoto

GDP Submissions to Human Rights Mechanisms in 2018

Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: **Saudi Arabia**

Joint Submission with le Collectif Loujna Tounkaranké to the UN Committee on Migrant Workers: **Algeria**

Submission to the Universal Periodic Review: Malaysia

Joint Submission with Migrant-Rights.Org to the Universal Periodic Review: **Saudi Arabia**

Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: **Niger**

Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: **Luxembourg**

Joint Submission with Migrant-Rights.Org to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: **Qatar**

Researchers were also invited to attend numerous events hosted by UN working groups and to present relevant research and to provide feedback on the development by both UN and regional bodies of reports and guidelines on issues related to immigration detention.

4.5 Fostering Policy-Relevant Scholarship

The GDP has been involved in innovative academic research since its earliest days as a research project at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. While no longer based in academia, we continue to advance scholarly work within the interdisciplinary academic landscape concerned with immigration detention through the publication of working papers, publications in academic journals, participation in academic conferences, and the mentoring of students.

An important development in this pillar of our work from 2018 was the finalisation of a contract with Springer to produce a book on the state of immigration detention in the EU, titled Immigration Detention in the European Union - In the Shadow of the "Crisis" and due out in 2019/2020. GDP researchers also published numerous book chapters and policy papers on a broad range of themes during the course of the year, ranging from an examination of the IOM's involvement in migration control "dirty work" and the growth of private actors in detention regimes, to an analysis of the EU hotspot approach and a discussion of the factors that have spurred the global growth of immigration detention. These were published in a variety of formats, including as chapters in edited volumes and as blog posts for research organisations.

"I'm reading a terrific project that undertakes a comprehensive comparative analysis of the detention of asylum-seekers. When I looked at the sources the author relied on, cites to the GDP's work were peppering the footnotes. This study could not have been done without the GDP's data. Just wanted to let you know how much I admire what you are doing and that it really is making a difference."

JULIET STUMPF LEWIS AND CLARK LAW SCHOOL



The GDP holds a briefing on social media, human rights, and migration at the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva, November 2018. © Global Detention Project

Selected GDP Presentations in 2018

"Between Resistance and Resilience: Challenges and Risks in Moving Beyond Detention Critique," at Beyond Critique, Border Criminologies 5th Anniversary Conference (Oxford University)

"The Effectiveness of the EU Return Policy at all Costs: The Coercive Use of Administrative Pre-Removal Detention," at Understanding Causes and Consequences of Criminalization of Migration, the Peace Institute and International Law Association of Slovenia (Ljubljana)

"Détention et autres entraves à la liberté de circulation," at Protecting the Rights of Migrants: International Norms Facing Contemporary Challenges, International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo)

"Introducing the Global Immigration Detention Observatory" at Challenging Migrant Detention: Human Rights, Advocacy, and Mental Health, McGill University (Montreal)

"The Pan-European Entry Ban Based on a SIS Alert: What Protection of Personal Data?" at Europe, Migrations and the Mediterranean: Human Mobilities and Intercultural Challenges, IMISCOE Annual Conference (Barcelona)

"A New Gulag Archipelago: Protecting the Rights of Refugees and Migrants Deprived of their Liberty in the Detention Belt Emerging Across the Global South" at Refugee Protection in a Hostile World, Annual Refugee Law Initiative Conference (London)

"Detention and Restriction of Movement of Asylum Seekers under EU Law: Deterrence, Incapacitation and Surveillance" at Mobility and Security in an Era of Globalisation: Crimmigration at the Crossroads?, IV CINETS Conference (London)

"Roundtable: Core Training on Refugees, IDPs, and Forced Migrants: Protection in Law & Practice," at PHAP Criminalisation of Migration & Detention of Migrants (Geneva)

The GDP also participated in several academic conferences and provided trainings on migrants' rights around the world, which provided us with opportunities to engage with on-going scholarly debates on immigration detention and table questions and concerns about emerging trends with fellow researchers and practitioners, including lawyers, national human rights institutions, and government representatives. These engagements also help broaden scholarly academic research on detention by exploring ways to employ the tools and methods from varied academic disciplines to critiquing the drivers behind burgeoning detention regimes.

Among the conferences we contributed to in 2018 were several that involved expanding networks of scholars and practitioners whose work is focused on the detention or criminalisation of migrants and refugees. These included conferences organised by the IMISCOE network, Oxford University's Border Criminologies, CINETS, the International Refugee Law Initiative, and a new initiative spearheaded by Canadian scholars based at McGill University aimed at launching a global network of academics and activists challenging the growth of immigration detention systems.



Senior Researcher Mariette Grange provides a training on the human rights legal framework for immigration detention at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law's summer school, Sanremo, Italy. © IIHL



GDP Executive Director Michael Flynn and Birkbeck University's Dr Monish Bhatia discuss strategies for abolishing immigration detention at Border Criminologies' 5th Anniversary Conference, April 2018.

© Border Criminologies

"The measures of confinement in the Italian and Greek hotspots are frequently at variance with human rights norms. In the case of Italy, asylum seekers are placed in de facto detention without any legal basis during identification and fingerprinting processes. In Greece, the measure is provided for in domestic legislation but is labelled "restriction of liberty," while in practice it amounts to a deprivation of liberty."

Izabella Majcher, "The EU Hotspot Approach: Blurred Lines Between Restriction on and Deprivation of Liberty (Part III)," Border Criminologies (April 2018)

"The full breadth of potential application of [the Migrant Workers Convention] safeguards during administrative detention of migrants remains to be tested as countries with the largest immigration detention estates evade scrutiny of their policies and practice through non-ratification of the Convention."

Mariette Grange, "The Migrant Workers Convention: A Legal Tool to Safeguard Migrants Against Arbitrary Detention," in Shining New Light on the UN Migrant Workers Convention (PULP 2018)

"From the United Kingdom's privatisation of the management of its entire immigration detention estate to Germany's decision to keep detention facilities in official hands and France's employment of private non-profit groups in its "centres de retention administrative," Europe reflects the gamut of policy responses to the growth of the immigration control industry. [We] detail the variety of levels and forms of privatisation adopted by several Member States of the European Union in this area of immigration policy, as well as the challenges that the outsourcing of immigration controls posits."

Michael Flynn, Matthew Flynn, and Eryn Wagnon, "Uneven Business:
Privatization of Immigration Detention in Europe," in Privatising
Punishment in Europe? (Routledge 2018)

5. Institutional Development

The year 2019 marks the final year of our current Strategic Plan. As we point out in this Annual Report, during the course of 2018 we saw aspects of this plan come into fruition, particularly our efforts to establish the Global Immigration Detention Observatory. Thus, as you read this report, we will already be busy considering ways to build on these accomplishments and assessing the elements of our strategy in the years ahead.

The current Strategic Plan emerged as a result of a two-pronged Oak Foundation-supported initiative that was launched shortly after the GDP left its academic home to become an independent non-profit research centre. This institutional development initiative included: (a) collaboration with an external consultant to examine, critique, and improve the GDP's strategic objectives and planning; and (b) a multi-phase resource mobilisation initiative working with fundraising professionals to establish a long-term fundraising strategy for the GDP.

The strategic planning phase of this initiative, undertaken with consultants from Agility3, concluded with the completion in early 2016 of the "GDP Strategic Plan 2016-2019." In addition to aiding the GDP in establishing its strategic priorities, which are discussed throughout this report, the strategic planning provided us with a number of important lessons, which emerged from the feedback we received from key GDP stakeholders and users who were interviewed for the planning initiative.

Our work with a resource mobilisation consultant associated with the Resource Alliance began in 2015. In early 2017, we completed our "Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Plan 2017-2019." During the course of 2017, the consultant provided monthly mentoring sessions for GDP staff, which included oversight of the implementation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Plan and advice developing new funding sources. The resource mobilisation consultant has been of particular assistance in providing guidance for strengthening our fundraising

processes by establishing a systematic approach to identifying, evaluating, researching, cultivating, asking, and stewarding donors.

These efforts helped lead to our establishment in 2017 of a new partnership with the Human Security Division of Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, whose support has enabled us to make strategic investments in deepening our expertise and expanding our staff. It is thanks to their support, for instance, that we were able to hire a Research Consultant whose work is now ensuring we have an "on the ground" presence, for example, spearheading research into the uses and abuses of social media in the migration context of North Africa, assessing whether social media can be harnessed to assist migrants who are facing detention and deportation.

We were also able to fill a crucial role identified in our Strategic Plan and hire a Communications Consultant to support editorial production, promote greater use of GDP information, and assist with fundraising. In particular, our Communications Consultant has started to develop our social media presence and publications style, to help ensure that content is market-friendly and that we continue to expand our reach.

We have also consolidated our board by taking on new members and have introduced regular meetings with members of the Executive Committee and Executive Director to review progress on key goals. In November 2018, we held our fourth annual General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings.



Police station used to hold detained migrants, Oulu, Finland. © Estormiz / Wikimedia Commons

6. The GDP Team and Governance

Staff

Michael Flynn, Executive Director

Michael Flynn holds a BA in Philosophy from DePaul University and a PhD in International Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Flynn previously worked as a project director at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C.; as a project coordinator at the Graduate Institute's Programme for the Study of Global Migration; and as an associate editor of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. His research has been supported by the Swiss Network for International Studies, the Geneva International Academic Network, the Pew International Journalism Program, and the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

Mariette Grange, Senior Researcher

Mariette Grange is a researcher and human rights practitioner. She co-established the Amnesty International office to the United Nations in Geneva and later provided leadership to Human Rights Watch during the institution-building years of the Human Rights Council. She worked on migrant and refugee operations at the World Council of Churches and the International Catholic Migration Commission and on emerging issues at the International Council on Human Rights Policy. She conducted research on UN treaty bodies and produced pilot training material for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Mariette acts as an advisor and trainer and participates in academic projects and inter-governmental processes. Mariette holds an MA in translation from the Institut Supérieur de Traduction et Interprétation, Brussels. Her MA thesis focused on anthropology and the caste system.

Izabella Majcher, Researcher

Izabella Majcher is a researcher in international human rights and refugee law, with expertise in the European Union's immigration and asylum policy. Her research at the GDP focuses on the international legal framework governing immigration detention and detention regimes in European Union and Latin American countries. Izabella is also a volunteer visitor to immigration detainees in Geneva, with the Ligue suisse des droits de l'Homme. She holds a PhD in international law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva. Her doctoral dissertation assesses the European Union's policies targeting undocumented migrants and their compatibility with international human rights law.

Katie Welsford, Communications Consultant

Katie Welsford has a background in not-for-profit communications and journalism and specialises in conflict and displacement. She previously worked for the AMAR International Charitable Foundation, overseeing all digital communications and campaigns which focused in particular upon the IDP crisis in Northern Iraq. Prior to this, Katie worked as the Coordinator for the human rights NGO, Reach All Women in War, and as a freelance journalist in the Middle East and Caucasus for publications including the Guardian, Daily Beast, and Le Monde Diplomatique.

Tom Rollins, Research Consultant

Tom Rollins is an independent researcher focused on Syria, Palestinian refugees from Syria, and displacement/migration around the Middle East and Mediterranean. Tom worked as a journalist in the MENA region for several years, with his reporting appearing in Al Jazeera English, IRIN News, and Mada Masr. He investigated immigration detention and irregular migration on Egypt's north coast between 2014-2015 and has documented the post-2011 displacement and vulnerabilities of Palestinian refugees from Syria.

Matthew Flynn, Contributing Researcher

Matthew Flynn is an Assistant Professor of International Studies and Sociology at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, and a Contributing Researcher to the Global Detention Project. Professor Flynn volunteers his time to assist the GDP in producing its Working Paper Series.



People housed at a reception centre in Malta after disembarking from the Aquarius humanitarian rescue ship, 15 August 2018 © REUTERS/Darrin Zammit Lupi

Executive Committee and Board Members

Roberta Cecchetti

President & Board Member

George Kourous (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) Vice President

& Board Member

Yves Klein (Monfrini Bitton Klein)

Secretary & Board Member

Pierre Simon (Processus Immobilier)

Treasurer & Board Member

Meghna Abraham (Amnesty International)

Board Member

Megan Gray Paterson-Brown (Webster University)

Seta Hadeshian (Middle East Council of Churches)

Alejandro Nadal (El Colegio de Mexico)

Robert Norris (Federation of American Scientists)

Michaela Told (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)

Academic Advisory Council

Mary Bosworth, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

François Crépeau, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Jeff Crisp, Refugees International, Washington D.C., United States of America

Niels Frenzen, USC Gould School of Law, University of Southern California, United States of America

Elspeth Guild, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Jussi Hanhimäki, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland

Donald Kerwin, Center for Migration Studies, New York, United States of America

Daniel Wilsher, City University, London, United Kingdom

Governance

As a non-profit association under Swiss law, the GDP has two main governance bodies: the General Assembly of association members, whose responsibilities include appointing the association's Executive Committee, which is responsible for managing the association, approving budgets, and authorising grants, among other activities. Executive Committee members participate on a purely volunteer basis and are only reimbursed for expenses and travel costs directly related to fulfilling their responsibilities on behalf of the association.

In addition, the Executive Committee has appointed a five-person Board that is intended to interact more closely with the Executive Director and provide assistance on short notice for a range of activities, including banking and finances, drafting contracts, addressing legal questions, and generally serving as

an easily accessible advisory body to the Executive Director. Board members include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Executive Committee. The Board is directly involved in financial oversight of the association and has direct access to all of its financial information. Copies of banking and financial records are sent directly by the association's bank to the Treasurer.

Lastly, the association has appointed a nonbinding Academic Advisory Council, which is made up of prominent academics and scholars working on issues central to the GDP's mandate. The academic council is intended to serve in a consultative capacity to the Executive Director in order to help ensure that the GDP's outputs meet the highest standards. Council members provide advice on research, proof drafts of reports, suggest areas to focus GDP efforts, and collaborate with staff on producing material published by the association.



Mexican police detain Central Americans en route to the United States, Oaxaca, Mexico, September 2018. © Emisoras Unidas

7. Acknowledgements

The GDP would like to give special thanks to the following financial partners, whose support made our work in 2018 possible: The Oak Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the Human Security Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and Loterie Romande.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance we received from the Tutator Foundation, which enabled us to modify our database to advance our external field researcher initiative.

Our work also benefited from the considerable assistance and input provided by students, research fellows, and interns who generously gave their time and energy to the GDP. Our work was significantly strengthened thanks to the skills and commitment of the following individuals: Constanza Ragazzi, Agnese

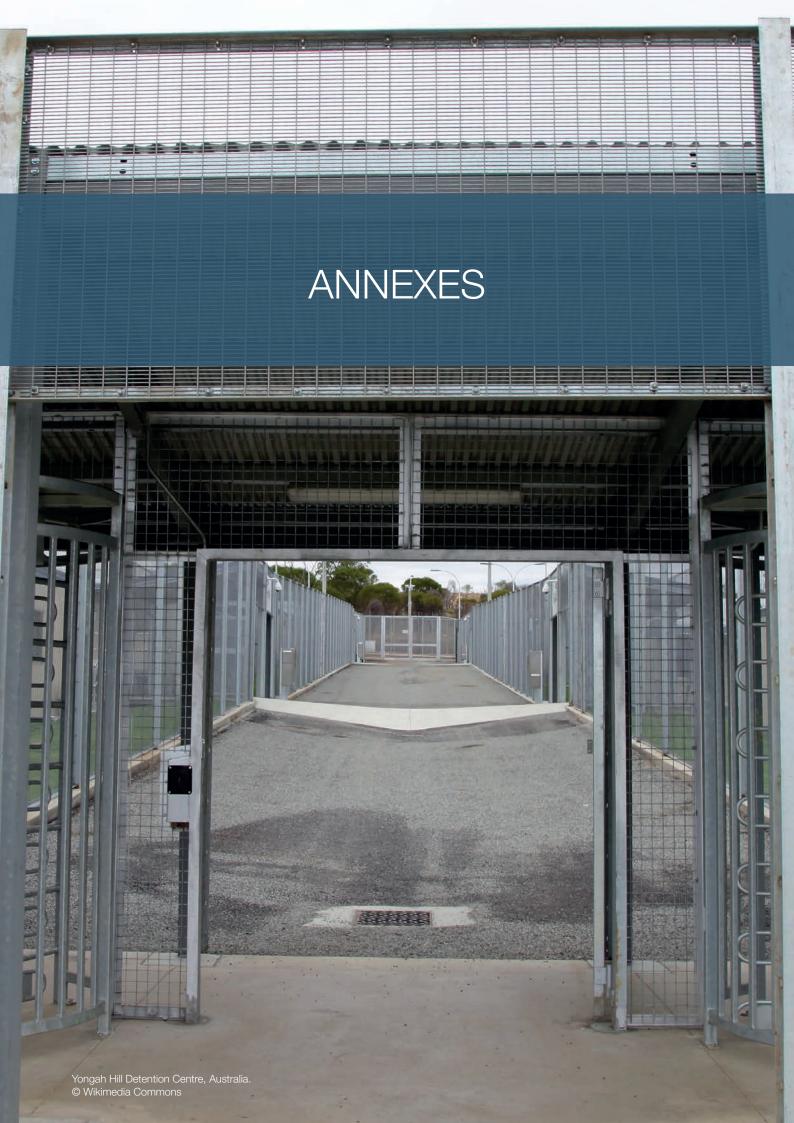
Zucca, Guillaume Ferrier Lamas, Meena Oberdick, and Sofia Kourous Vazquez.

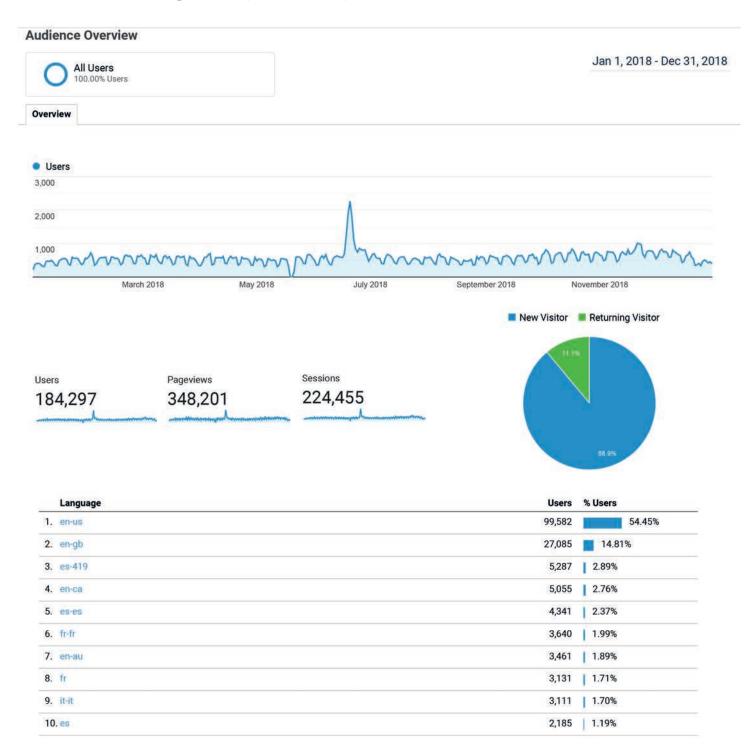
Finally, we would like to thank the numerous immigration and human rights experts and organisations around the world who collaborated with us during the year, including the Border Criminologies team at Oxford University, scholars at McGill University, detention experts at the UK's Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons, the Norwegian Red Cross, ADC Memorial, Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matias, Foundation for Access to Rights, the Greek Refugee Council, the Italian Red Cross, Human Constanta, the Hungarian Helsinki Society, the International Legal Initiative, Lawyers for Human Rights, Migrant-Rightsorg, as well as various individuals and organisations who prefer to remain anonymous to preserve their access to detainees and maintain their own security.









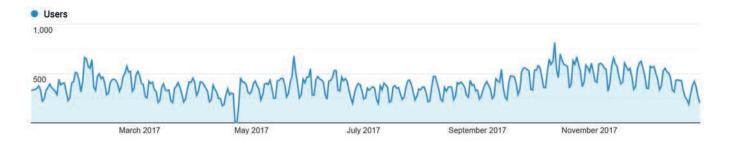


Audience Overview



Jan 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2017

Overview

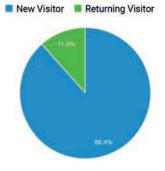


Users 124,640 Pageviews

265,942

Sessions

156,802



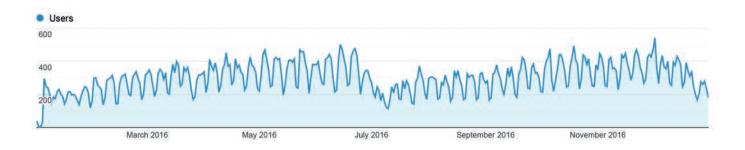
Language	Users % Users
1. en-us	67,280 53.82%
2. en-gb	21,674 17.34%
3. es	3,800 3.04%
4. es-419	3,343 2.67%
5. fr	2,952 2.36%
6. en-au	2,562 2.05%
7. en-ca	2,483 1.99%
8. it	1,515 1.21%
9. es-es	1,285 1.03%
10. en	1,283 1.03%

Audience Overview



Jan 1, 2016 - Dec 31, 2016

Overview



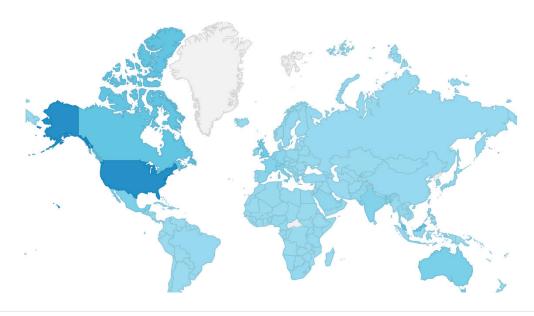
 Users
 Pageviews
 Sessions

 93,649
 230,717
 121,794



Language	Users % Users
1. en-us	46,862 54.43%
2. en-gb	13,736 15.95%
3. es	2,280 2.65%
4. en-au	2,250 2.61%
5. fr	1,907 2.21%
6. en-ca	1,564 1.82%
7. es-419	1,353 1.57%
8. en	1,233 1.43%
9. de	1,030 1.20%
10. es-es	998 1.16%

Annex II: Google Analytics: Top Locations of Users, 2018

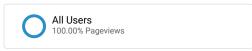


Countr			Acquisition			Behavior		Conversions	Goal 1: Views		
Count	ry	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages / Session	Avg. Session Duration	Views (Conversion		Views (Goal 1 Completions)	Views (Goal 1 Value)
		184,297 % of Total: 100.00% (184,297)	180,666 % of Total: 100.07% (180,543)	224,455 % of Total: 100.00% (224,455)	78.39% Avg for View: 78.39% (0.00%)	1.55 Avg for View: 1.55 (0.00%)	00:01:23 Avg for View: 00:01:23 (0.00%)	,	6.05% Avg for View: 6.05% (0.00%)	13,576 % of Total: 100.00% (13,576)	\$0.00 % of Total: 0.00% (\$0.00)
1.	United States	42,193 (23.13%)	41,804 (23.14%)	49,774 (22.18%)	79.36%	1.56	00:01:17		6.83%	3,402 (25.06%)	\$0.00
2.	Canada	13,080 (7.17%)	12,997 (7.19%)	15,945 (7.10%)	82.54%	1.37	00:00:56		3.90%	622 (4.58%)	\$0.00
3.	Malaysia	13,021 (7.14%)	12,847 (7.11%)	15,861 (7.07%)	78.89%	1.41	00:01:08		1.52%	241 (1.78%)	\$0.00
4.	United Kingdom	9,171 (5.03%)	9,137 (5.06%)	12,562 (5.60%)	74.82%	1.72	00:01:48		9.87%	1,240 (9.13%)	\$0.00
5.	Australia	7,290 (4.00%)	7,232 (4.00%)	8,863 (3.95%)	81.20%	1.49	00:01:21		5.66%	502 (3.70%)	\$0.00
6.	Mexico	6,452 (3.54%)	6,388 (3.54%)	7,454 (3.32%)	80.57%	1.42	00:01:13		2.44%	182 (1.34%)	\$0.00
7.	Italy	5,410 (2.97%)	5,361 (2.97%)	6,732 (3.00%)	78.12%	1.59	00:01:22		7.47%	503 (3.71%)	\$0.00
8.	United Arab Emirates	5,377 (2.95%)	5,343 (2.96%)	6,331 (2.82%)	82.26%	1.34	00:01:02		1.34%	85 (0.63%)	\$0.00
9.	India	5,005 (2.74%)	4,973 (2.75%)	6,092 (2.71%)	80.25%	1.48	00:01:17		3.17%	193 (1.42%)	\$0.00
10.	France	4,224 (2.32%)	4,169 (2.31%)	5,686 (2.53%)	71.86%	1.79	00:01:59		13.79%	784 (5.77%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)

Rows 1 - 10 of 219

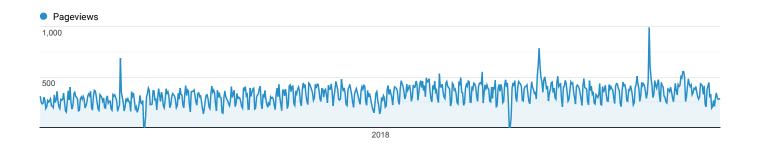
Annex III: Google Analytics: Most Visited Detention Centres, 2017-2018

Pages



Jan 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2018

Explorer



This data was filtered with the following filter expression: detention-centres

Pag	е	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Entrances	Bounce Rate	% Exit	Page Value
		240,293 % of Total: 39.13% (614,143)	196,522 % of Total: 38.78% (506,808)	00:02:48 Avg for View: 00:02:30 (12.11%)	167,735 % of Total: 44.02% (381,074)	78.04% Avg for View: 76.62% (1.86%)	69.20% Avg for View: 62.05% (11.52%)	\$0.00 % of Total: 0.00% (\$0.00)
1.	/countries/middle-east/united-arab-emirates/detention-centres/1895/dubai-central-jail-for-men-also-alaweer-detention-centre-for-men	10,383 (4.32%)	8,717 (4.44%)	00:03:32	8,376 (4.99%)	78.05%	76.78%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
2.	/detention-centres/list-view	8,581 (3.57%)	5,714 (2.91%)	00:01:14	1,082 (0.65%)	49.63%	21.08%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
3.	/countries/americas/united-states/detention-centres/1332/san-luis-regional-detention-center	4,925 (2.05%)	3,879 (1.97%)	00:03:03	3,858 (2.30%)	75.64%	73.50%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
4.	/detention-centres/map-view	4,093 (1.70%)	3,292 (1.68%)	00:02:34	1,303 (0.78%)	73.81%	46.81%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
5.	/countries/asia-pacific/malaysia/detention-centres/5/lenggeng-immigration-depot-depoh-imigresen-lenggeng	3,830 (1.59%)	2,839 (1.44%)	00:03:45	2,701 (1.61%)	71.83%	68.93%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
6.	/countries/asia-pacific/malaysia/detention-centres/7/langkap-immigration-depot-depoh-imigresen-langkap	3,765 (1.57%)	2,812 (1.43%)	00:03:19	2,691 (1.60%)	71.10%	69.46%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
7.	/countries/asia-pacific/malaysia/detention-centres/5/lenggeng-immigration-depot-depoh-imigresen-lenggeng	3,287 (1.37%)	2,470 (1.26%)	00:03:35	2,371 (1.41%)	73.39%	70.37%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
8.	/countries/americas/mexico/detention-centres/70/acayucan-estacion-migratoria	3,277 (1.36%)	2,423 (1.23%)	00:03:58	2,366 (1.41%)	72.74%	68.94%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
9.	/countries/asia-pacific/malaysia/detention-centres/970/kuala-lumpur-international-airport-klia-immigration-detention-depot	3,119 (1.30%)	2,532 (1.29%)	00:03:36	2,393 (1.43%)	77.48%	74.48%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
10.	/countries/americas/united-states/detention-centres/2066/folkston-ice-processin g-center	3,079 (1.28%)	2,544 (1.29%)	00:03:01	2,539 (1.51%)	80.86%	78.37%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
11.	/countries/asia-pacific/malaysia/detention-centres/6/semenyih-immigration-depot-depot-pendatang-tanpa-izin-semenyih	3,016 (1.26%)	2,378 (1.21%)	00:03:28	2,239 (1.33%)	74.91%	72.91%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
12.	/countries/americas/canada/detention-centres/124/cbsa-laval-immigration-holdin g-centre-centre-de-prevention-de-limmigration-de-laval	2,804 (1.17%)	2,363 (1.20%)	00:03:26	2,306 (1.37%)	81.09%	79.39%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
13.	/countries/middle-east/saudi-arabia/detention-centres/1878/alshumaisi-detention-centre-tahril-immigration-detention-center-or-tarhil-shumaysi	2,767 (1.15%)	2,219 (1.13%)	00:03:08	1,979 (1.18%)	73.83%	70.26%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
14.	/countries/europe/spain/detention-centres/183/centro-de-internamiento-de-extranj erosmurcia-sangonera-la-verde	2,661 (1.11%)	1,989 (1.01%)	00:03:28	1,957 (1.17%)	73.89%	71.85%	\$0.00 (0.00%)
15.	/countries/middle-east/united-arab-emirates/detention-centres/1897/dubai-outjail-f or-shortterm-or-temporary-male-prisoners	2,593 (1.08%)	2,124 (1.08%)	00:03:29	1,872 (1.12%)	75.76%	72.93%	\$0.00 (0.00%)

Annex IV: Financial Statement

This is an extract of the Global Detention Project's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2018. To request a copy of the full audit, please email admin@globaldetentionproject.org

Profit and loss

	2018 (CHF)	2017 (CHF)
Income		
Donations in money received	428,622.40	199,490.00
Donations in kind received	0.00	10,080.00
Other income	1,681.55	1,925.70
Deductions to committed donation	13,227.28	140,448.85
Income, total	443,531.23	351,944.55
Expenses		
Office and accommodation costs	10,621.55	10,589.25
Direct costs	85,077.76	29,525.37
Overhead	20,207.39	19,463.97
Staff costs	311,529.38	285,015.10
Amount to spend	16,000.00	5,427.50
Expenses, total	443,436.08	350,021.19
Net result of the year	95.15	1,923.36

Balance sheet

Assets

	2018 (CHF)	2017 (CHF)
Current Assets		
Bank account	26,496.43	41,227.02
Other claims	3,736.10	4,110.15
Accruals and deferrals	29,759.62	13,262.50
Current assets, total	59,992.15	58,599.67
Fixed Assets		
Financial assets	2,520.75	2,520.50
Fixed assets, total	2,520.75	2,520.50
Assets, total	62,512.90	61,120.17



Liabilities

	2018 (CHF)	2017 (CHF)
Short term outside funds		
Debts resulting from deliveries and performances	2,225.41	4,630.10
Accruals and deferrals	6,756.30	6,842.25
Other debts	1,015.50	0.00
Funds committed to projects	43,901.91	41,129.19
(donations committed to spend)		
Short term outside funds, total	53,899.12	52,601.54
Equity		
Result shown in balance sheet:		
Retain earnings	8,518.63	6,595.27
Result of the year	95.15	1,923.36
Equity, total	8,613.78	8,518.68
Liabilities, total	62,512.90	61,120.17

	2018 (CHF)	2017 (CHF)
Donations in money received	428,622.40	199,490.00
Oak Foundation	126,250.00	126,250.00
Open Society Foundation	119,875.45	0.00
Loterie Romande	16,000.00	0.00
DFAE	143,688.54	73,240.00
HCC	13,383.41	0.00
Norwegian Red Cross	9,425.00	0.00
Donations in kind received	0.00	10,080.00
Etat de Genève	0.00	10,080.00
Donations in money to spend	43,901.91	41,129.19
Oak Foundation	27,901.91	35,701.69
DFAE	0.00	5,427.50
Loterie Romande	16,000.00	0.00
Direct Costs	85,077.76	29,525.37
Support to the target population	9,665.71	10,550.18
Website	8,416.14	5,153.56
Travel and representation	10,233.41	9,009.13
Consultants	54,387.50	4,812.50
Costs related to interns	2,375.00	0.00
Overhead	20,207.39	19,463.97
Insurance	450.10	450.10
Office costs	8,899.86	8,795.66
IT costs	329.45	293.96
Professional fees	9,748.00	9,410.00
Financial costs	779.98	514.25

Endnotes

- See, for example: M. Haag, "Thousands of Immigrant Children Said They Were Sexually Abused in U.S. Detention Centres, Report Says," New York Times, 27 February 2019, https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/27/us/immigrant-children-sexual-abuse.html
- 2. Committee on the Rights of the Child and Committee on Migrant Workers, "Joint General Comment on State Obligations Regarding the Human Rights of Children in the Context of International Migration in Countries of Origin, Transit, Destination and Return (Paragraph 11)," 2017, https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a12942a2b.html
- 3. UNHCR, "Guiding Questions for the Assessment of Alternatives to Detention," https://www.unhcr.org/protection/detention/5b17d9c47/guiding-questions-assessment-alternatives-detention.html
- 4. European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, "Council of Europe anti-torture Committee visits France," 4 December 2018, https://bit.ly/2TuSX69



GLOBAL**DETENTION**PROJECT

Global Detention Project
3 rue de Varembé
1202 Geneva, Switzerland
admin@globaldetentionproject.org
www.globaldetentionproject.org