Welcome to the Global Detention Project's roundup of current research, publications, and events. For any questions about our content, please contact admin [at] globaldetentionproject [dot] org

**OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS**

**The Detention of Migrant Workers in El Salvador and Morocco**

In submissions to the UN Committee on Migrant Workers, the GDP examines the implementation of Articles 16, 17, 22, and 23 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers by El Salvador and Morocco, noting concerns regarding the detention and deportation of migrant workers in both countries.

Together with the Moroccan Association for Human Rights, the GDP documents the way in which migrants and asylum seekers continue to face arbitrary arrest, forced displacement, detention, and deportation in...
Morocco, despite the country’s authorities claiming that they have adopted a “humanitarian approach” to migration and asylum affairs.

- Read the Morocco Submission
- Visit the Morocco Detention Data Page

The El Salvador submission highlights the worrying lack of transparency surrounding detention practices, noting also the country’s ad hoc detention of migrants and refugees in border areas during the Covid-19 crisis as well as concerns regarding conditions in quarantine facilities.

- Read the El Salvador Submission
- Visit the El Salvador Detention Data Page

NEWS + ACTIVITIES

New Student Volunteers Join the GDP

As part of on-going efforts to strengthen scholarship on immigration detention and expand the range of researchers collaborating on our online database—the Global Immigration Detention Observatory—the GDP recently welcomed several new student volunteers from the Zurich University of Applied Sciences’ Department of Business Law. The students, who are volunteering as part of the department’s International NGO Law and Policy Project (INLPP) under the supervision of Dr. Alexandra Dufresne, have participated in a series of online workshops provided by GDP director Michael Flynn and adviser Mariette Grange.

The EU Pact on Migration: A Heavy Emphasis on Returns

On 23 September, the European Commission presented its widely anticipated EU Pact on Migration. Although the pact was presented as an “opportunity to uphold human rights in migration governance,” many observers have warned that the pact will lead to more suffering, not less. Areas of concern include its emphasis on returns and border controls, expedited asylum procedures, and plans for enhanced collaboration with countries like Libya, where thousands are already arbitrarily detained. Attempting to strike a balance between solidarity and responsibility, the pact proposes the concept of “return sponsorship,” whereby states unwilling to accept new arrivals will instead be able to contribute by supporting the return of rejected asylum seekers. Many fear that this attempt to end state inaction may end up encouraging them to prioritise returns over relocation. The proposed pact will now be negotiated by the European Parliament and EU member states.
Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 862/2007

For over a decade, the GDP has relentlessly pushed states to provide better migration detention data, in particular in the European Union, where Eurostat maintains a wealth of statistics on a range of key immigration enforcement measures—except detention. Until now. In June, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted proposed reforms to the Migration Statistics Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007) governing the provision of data by EU states to Eurostat on migration and international protection. The amended regulation requires states to more frequently report statistics on a host of policies related to returns and asylum as well as related administrative and judicial procedures. Importantly, the amended regulation also calls on Eurostat to establish a “pilot study” to “test the feasibility of new data collections or disaggregations,” including with respect to:

- the number of persons having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such an application as a family member and who were in detention, disaggregated by duration of stay in detention and by the grounds for detention, or were subject to an administrative or judicial decision or act ordering their detention or an alternative to detention, disaggregated by type of alternative and by the month such decision or act was issued.

- the number of persons in return procedures subject to an administrative or judicial decision or act ordering their detention, further disaggregated by duration of stay in detention, or an alternative to detention, disaggregated by type of alternative, and by the month such a decision or act was issued.

Read:


See also:

- THE UNCOUNTED: The Detention of Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Europe (Global Detention Project and Access Info Europe)
- Children in Immigration Detention: Challenges of Measurement and Definition (Global Detention Project)
**Bahrain: Steps Taken to Avoid the Detention of Non-Nationals**

Responding to the GDP’s Covid-19 Survey, our partners at Migrant-Rights.org have reported that Bahrain’s authorities have taken several important steps to protect non-nationals during the pandemic. The country’s Ministry of Interior issued a circular ordering authorities not to arrest and detain migrants due to their irregular status until the end of the year. An additional circular states that non-nationals are not to be detained for minor or administrative offences. If you, too, have information pertaining to the treatment of non-nationals during the pandemic, please consider completing our Covid-19 survey HERE. (You can also sign up to receive our weekly monitoring updates here.)

**Deportation Union: Revamped Return Policies and Reckless Forced Removals**

In the first of a three-part webinar series organised by Statewatch and the Transnational Institute, former GDP researcher Izabella Majcher joined Tineke Strik MEP and legal anthropologist Jill Alpes to discuss the EU’s Return Directive. During the event, Majcher discussed research she conducted with Mariette Grange and Michael Flynn for the GDP’s recently published volume, *Immigration Detention in the European Union: In the Shadow of the “Crisis.”* More information about the book is available here.

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**GDP ON THE RECORD**


“*Are ICE Detention Centers Concentration Camps? Evidence Suggests So.*” K. O. Berkley, Medium (Dialogue and Discourse), September 2020.


“Rethinking Confinement Through Canada’s Alternatives to Detention Program,” C. Gidaris, Incarceration, September 2020.


