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OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS



COVID-19 Detention Platform: U.S. Summary Deportations of Children to Mexico, Growing Vulnerability of Refugees in South Africa, New Wave of Returns to Venezuela, and more ...

As Americans braced for the tumult of the U.S. presidential election, news broke of the Trump administration's summary deportations of unaccompanied Central American migrant children to Mexico, in apparent violation of international laws as well as bilateral agreements. As one observer bluntly noted, "U.S. authorities have sent children alone into Mexico's border cities, where kidnapping and human trafficking are major criminal concerns."

- [United States COVID-19 Detention Update](#)
- [GDP COVID-19 Platform](#)

Azerbaijan: Armed Conflict, Pandemic, and Immigration Detention

Azerbaijan lauds its immigration detention centres, which opened less than a decade ago. But there are few independent reports detailing detention conditions and monitoring bodies such as the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture have yet to fully investigate this issue, despite allegations of abuse at detention centres. While there have been efforts to assist internally displaced people, there are long-standing concerns surrounding the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, including accusations of *refoulement* and inadequate asylum procedures. After the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, authorities reported implementing some protective measures, including temporarily halting the placement of people in immigration detention.

- [Azerbaijan Profile Page](#)
- [Download Report](#)

Submissions to the UPR and CEDAW: Singapore, Niger, Paraguay, and Morocco

In submissions to the Universal Periodic Review and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the GDP highlights issues related to immigration detention in Singapore, Niger, Paraguay, and Morocco. Key points raised include Singapore's treatment of migrant workers during Covid lockdowns, conditions in Niger's and Paraguay's quarantine facilities, and forced relocations in Morocco.

- [UPR: Issues Related to Immigration Detention and the Rights of Migrant Workers – Singapore](#)
- [UPR: Issues Related to Immigration Enforcement – Paraguay](#)
- [UPR: Issues Related to Immigration Detention – Niger](#)
- [CEDAW: Issues Related to Immigration Detention – Morocco](#)

NEWS + ACTIVITIES



UK: Plans to Replicate Australia's Maligned Offshore Detention Regime Ignore a Long History of Failure and Suffering

In early October, leaks reported in The Guardian revealed that the UK government had considered plans to send asylum seekers to offshore “processing” facilities in locations such as Moldova, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, and even Ascension Island and St Helena, using “the Australia model in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.” Reflecting on the long history of these types of proposals, the GDP’s director writes: “Ultimately, what proposals like the UK’s novel ‘Pacific Solution’ reveal is the deeply seated nature of the wrong-headed idea that we can resolve the world’s many humanitarian and economic crises by removing from our view one of their more important harbingers—migrants and refugees. But as recent history has shown us, ‘out of sight’ *does not mean* ‘out of mind.’ While offshoring tactics may put the plight of desperate people outside our immediate awareness, there is no escaping the growing need of the world’s wealthy countries to address root problems in how we function as a global community.” [Read the full article.](#)

Joint Civil Society Letter for Treaty Body Reviews in the COVID-19 Context

The GDP has joined more than 520 NGOs to urge human rights Treaty Bodies and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to schedule State reviews no later than 221 and to communicate clearly to civil society in advance about their up-coming work. While noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has created enormous challenges, the letter expresses concerns regarding the increasing backlog of reviews as well as the resultant protection gap due to the fact that Treaty Bodies have not been reviewing states. [Read the letter.](#)

Places of Quarantine as Places of “Detention”

In his statement to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, Malcolm Evans, the outgoing chairperson of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), addressed the critical relationship between quarantine and deprivation of liberty. “One particular issue that has arisen in some countries is whether places of quarantine are places of ‘detention’ for the purposes of the OPCAT.” Evans said. “Let me take this opportunity to answer this clearly: they are, and access cannot be denied to them.” Throughout the pandemic, the GDP has received increasing numbers of reports detailing the detention of non-nationals as a quarantine measure. In [Bangladesh](#) for example, more than 300 Rohingya refugees have been confined in prison-like facilities on the remote island of Bhasan Char as a quarantine measure since April. [Read the Chairperson’s full statement.](#)

GDP ON THE RECORD

[“Algeria Abandons Thousands of Migrants in the Desert,”](#) S.P. Naceur, Qantara, 23 October 2020.

[“Can the COVID-19 Crisis be an Opportunity for Ending Migrant Detention?”](#) S. Jaquemet, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 1 October 2020.

[“Détenir pour contrôler la migration, un livre explique une pratique européenne croissante malgré la baisse continue des demandes d’asile depuis 2015,”](#) J. Caye, Le Temps, 5 October 2020.

[“Algeria Abandons Thousands of Migrants in the Desert,”](#) S.P. Naceur, *Qantara*, 23 October 2020.

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[“Détenir pour contrôler la migration, un livre explique une pratique européenne croissante malgré la baisse continue des demandes d’asile depuis 2015,”](#) J. Caye, *Le Temps*, 5 October 2020.

[“Protecting Migrants and Refugees in North Africa: Challenges and Opportunities for Reform,”](#) A. Knoll and C. Teevan, *European Centre for Development Policy Management*, October 2020.

[“Living Situations Among Undocumented Immigrants in Sweden: The Effects of Exclusion from Fundamental Housing Rights,”](#) M. Wirehag et al, *International Journal of Social Welfare*, October 2020.

[“The Impact of Covid-19 on Global Migration,”](#) N. Meer and L. Villegas, *GLIMER*, May 2020.

[“Migration in West and North Africa and Across the Mediterranean: Trends, Risks, Development and Governance,”](#) *International Organisation for Migration*, 2020.

[“‘We Shall Overcome’ – The Role of Polarization for Detainees and Police Officers in Austrian Detention Centres,”](#) K. Miko-Schefzig et al, *ECPR*, August 2020.

[“La “política de la hostilidad” en Argentina: detención, expulsión y rechazo en frontera,”](#) W. Domenech, *Estudios Fronterizos*, 8 October 2020.

[“Rethinking Sovereignty: The Implications of the Role of Private Security Companies in the Prevention and the Regulation of Unauthorized Flows,”](#) L.I. Oztig, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, September 2020.

[“Les réfugiés en Libye vivent dans une situation de non-droit,”](#) 6 Mois, October 2020.

[“Криміналізовано гостопримство: випадок Велике Кладуше,”](#) U. Čebroň et al, *Гласник Етнографског Института Сану*, September 2020.

[“Deutsche Rückkehrpolitik und Abschiebungen: Zehn Wege aus der Dauerkrise,”](#) V. Rietig and M.L. Günnewig, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik*, 2020.

