

7 July 2025

Human Rights Committee (CCPR)

Informal Briefing on Vietnam

Oral Submission by Abdelaziz Muhamat, Global Detention Project, concerning the Joint Submission by the Global Detention Project and Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in Vietnam. Despite Vietnam's commitments under the ICCPR, reports indicate that non-citizens face arbitrary detention, indefinite administrative confinement, and deportation without due process.

Vietnam has increasingly become a destination for labor migrants, particularly from China and Bangladesh. However, many migrants—especially those trafficked into forced labor—face severe exploitation. Reports suggest that victims of trafficking are often detained rather than protected, with authorities failing to implement systematic screening procedures to identify and assist them.

Additionally, Vietnam has been criticized for detaining foreign nationals indefinitely after they complete criminal sentences, often coercing them into paying unreasonable fines before release. Some detainees have languished in detention for over a decade, trapped in legal limbo with no clear path to resolution.

In light of these concerns, we urge the Committee to call on Vietnam to:

1. **End arbitrary detention and deportation of migrants** and ensure due process, including legal representation and individual case reviews.
2. **Cease indefinite detention of foreign nationals** who have completed criminal sentences, ensuring that detention is not used as a form of debtors' prison.
3. **Implement systematic screening procedures** to identify victims of trafficking and ensure they receive protection rather than punishment.
4. **Ensure humane detention conditions** that meet international standards, including access to adequate legal protection.
5. **Provide transparency on immigration detention practices**, including statistics on detainees and deportations.
6. **Ensure that detention is used only as a last resort**, prioritizing community-based alternatives in line with international norms.
7. **Ratify international conventions** that provide protections for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

In conclusion

Vietnam must take immediate steps to uphold the rights of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, ensuring that its immigration policies comply with international human rights standards.