



### III Human rights of migrants and refugees affected by externalization

23. Externalization measures carry a high risk of human rights violations, because the primary aim of externalizing States is to shift responsibility for migrants and refugees to other States. At the same time, third States often lack the capacity or the political will to ensure the protection and well-being of migrants and refugees subjected to externalization. Violations of migrants' and refugees' human rights, in particular migrants and refugees subjected to externalization measures, are sometimes overlooked or tolerated by the externalizing States. The overall lack of transparency and independent oversight further compounds the risk of abuse. Externalization measures often create or exacerbate situations of vulnerability for migrants. In the Special Rapporteur identifies the human rights most at risk of externalization measures.

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

*Building Momentum to Roll Back Immigration Detention*

## The Global Detention Project

The Global Detention Project (GDP) is committed to ending arbitrary and harmful migration-related detention practices around the world, and to ensuring respect for the fundamental human rights of all migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. To achieve this, we seek to:

- Increase public knowledge and awareness of immigration detention policies.
- Expand coverage of immigration detention by human rights monitoring bodies and other international agencies.
- Expand partnerships with local and international civil society organisations working to end arbitrary and harmful immigration detention practices.
- Strategically target research and advocacy so that it effectively challenges arbitrary and harmful detention laws and policies.

**Front Cover Images: (Top to Bottom)** Inside “Alligator Alcatraz,” Florida, United States (Alamy); Protestors outside the Italian-run Gjader Detention Centre in Albania, November 2025 (Alamy); Malaysian Immigration Department personnel march during the 67th National Day celebrations parade (Alamy); Global Detention Project map of detention facilities; a migrant is deported from the United States (Alamy); Busmantsi Detention Centre, Bulgaria (Balkan Insight); an extract of the UN Special Rapporteur on Migrants’ report on externalisation, published in August 2025.

Global Detention Project  
1-3 rue de Varembe,  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland

T: +41 (0) 22 548 1401  
W: [www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org)

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last September, we began receiving messages from people claiming to be detained at the Welisara Detention Centre in Sri Lanka. The detainees came from nearly a dozen countries across Asia and Africa, including Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia, and China. Most had been arrested because of their irregular statuses, and then sent to Welisara, where their cases stagnated and they began losing hope, trapped in frightful conditions for months.

*"The camp itself is just one room with dorm beds and a small yard. It is overcrowded and ... many people sleep on [mattresses] in a yard,"* wrote one detainee. And another: *"The food is poor. And I have health problems, but I cannot get medical help or go to the hospital here. Another Pakistani man died here before."*

Eventually, one of the detainees searched for the name of Welisara on a mobile phone and found the Global Detention Project's website. They began writing to us. A detainee from China said that he merely wanted help returning home. Another claimed to be a persecuted Christian from Pakistan, and he was deeply worried about being sent

home. Another was from Ethiopia, who expressed his growing desperation over the lack of progress on his case and his inability to provide for his family.

*"It is already been almost a year since we became prisoners in Sri Lanka,"* wrote the Ethiopian detainee, who sent us copies of his identity documents. *"And we believe that it is a matter of Sri Lankan authorities having no will to do anything about our case that we are still here. ... We have families in our homes that depends on us, but here we cannot earn and provide for them. And we have no idea when we can go from here."*

Convinced of their need, we reached out to our network of partners in the region, including the **Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network**, who quickly intervened, facilitating contact with a law firm willing to help. Sometime later, the detainee from China informed us that they had received help and that some detainees had managed to return home. He wrote:

*"Although this experience has been challenging and unjust, it has made me truly aware of the power and*

*hope represented by international human rights organizations and principled legal professionals. I will always remember and cherish the assistance and support provided by your organization."*

The case of Welisara is an important lesson for us: Although we focus much of our work on encouraging policy reforms and impacting the work of human rights monitoring bodies, our data and documentation are also vitally important to individuals. In fact, not a day passes without us receiving phone calls, emails, and social media messages from people either claiming to be in a detention centre or seeking help for someone who is.

The reason for this stream of requests is an unexpected—though, in hindsight, foreseeable—outcome of our methodology: By documenting where and in what conditions migrants and refugees are detained across the globe and converting that documentation into dedicated webpages for each detention centre (which, as of March 2026, numbered **2,831 individual detention centre pages**), we have created what is often one of the few (or only) online resources about these sites. Thus, when those detainees searched for the Welisara Detention Centre, they inevitably found the GDP.

This unanticipated impact provides opportunities for advocacy but also places on us an important responsibility: In drawing the attention of people in need to our website, we must consider how to facilitate access to resources for them. The sheer volume of requests we receive makes it incredibly challenging for our small team to individually respond to all of them. However, it is incumbent upon us to explore other solutions, including exploiting the fast-evolving digital tools that can automate access to resources for people in need as well as improving how we present our information and data.

To be sure, these are not altogether new lessons or insights. As you'll read in this Annual Report, the many activities and achievements of the past year reflect our continual efforts to be conscientious about where our work is making a difference and how we can do better.

Take, for instance, the launching of our new staff position last year, "Refugee Advocacy Coordinator," which is filled by a formerly detained refugee who serves as the GDP's primary representative at international fora, is involved in research, and recruits and trains other refugees to join our work. We created this post because of our experience observing the impact that people with lived experience have when they advocate for change, as well as our conviction that people

who have suffered in immigration detention should have the opportunity to challenge harmful practices (see page 24).

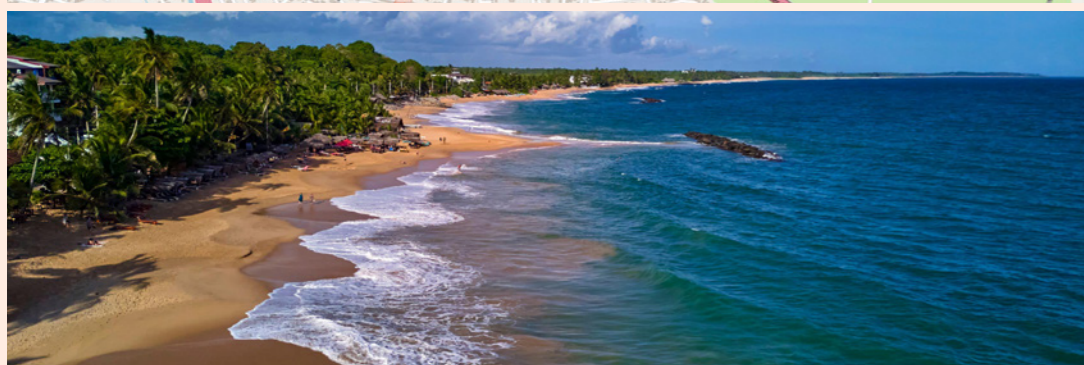
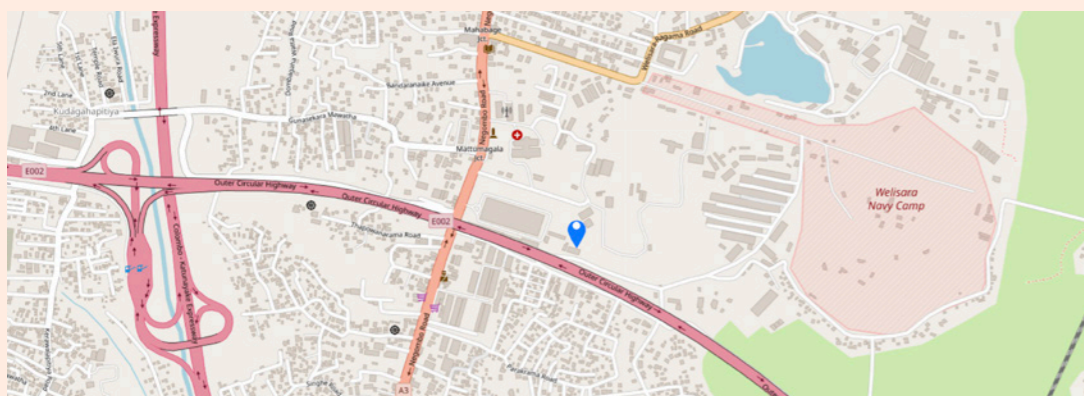
Also last year we had our largest annual output in submissions to human rights monitoring bodies: 23 submissions, targeting 10 different mechanisms, working in collaboration with 10 partners. These numbers are a reflection of our maturing understanding of the relevance of our data and documentation across the entire human rights system, and not just those that specialise in detention or migrants' rights (see page 16).

You'll also read in this report about the growing impact of our work on a range of international monitoring institutions as well as local human rights advocates. On page 17, you'll hear from a Belarussian refugee and activist who wrote to tell us how our documentation has helped fuel her efforts to advocate for other refugees at the European Court of Human Rights. On pages 20-23 you'll read about the many different human rights bodies that have incorporated our recommendations in their communications to states. And on pages 26-27, you'll learn about the impressive growth in traffic to our website and the growing use of our data and reports by journalists across the globe.

While it is important to take stock of our achievements, this is no time to rest on our laurels. As a reader of our Annual Report, you are doubtless aware of the growing isolation and scapegoating of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers across the globe today. Another important lesson from our work is that the voiceless and the most vulnerable are the easiest targets for unscrupulous political actors. Our job is to ensure that states are relentlessly reminded of their human rights obligations, to improve how our work serves advocates and aids those in need, and to create opportunities for those who have suffered harmful and arbitrary enforcement practices.

These tasks can seem daunting, but we are encouraged and empowered by our many supporters and partners like you. We are particularly grateful to the many institutions that have made our work possible over the past year, including the **City and State of Geneva**, the **Oak Foundation**, and **Loterie Romande**.

**Michael Flynn**  
Executive Director



◀ Clockwise: Map showing the location of Welisara Detention Centre (GDP); Aerial view of Welisara Detention Centre (Google Earth); Sri Lankan beach (Alamy)

# ABOUT THE GLOBAL DETENTION PROJECT



▲ Detail from the GDP's world map of immigration detention centres

**Every day, hundreds of thousands of people are detained because they fled their countries, were trafficked overseas, or sought better lives abroad.**

Typically not charged with criminal offenses, these migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are often locked up for prolonged or even indefinite periods, frequently without access to legal counsel or the means to communicate with the outside world, and routinely exposed to inhuman and degrading treatment. Deaths are common: in the United States alone, 31 foreigners are reported to have died while in detention in 2025.

As the use of immigration detention grows worldwide, the role of the Global Detention Project (GDP) is more important than ever. By systematically documenting detention policies and practices around the world, we bring transparency to practices that governments often seek to shield from scrutiny. This evidence supports journalists, lawyers, NGOs, and international human rights bodies in monitoring trends, advocating for policy reform, and holding governments accountable. In doing so, we ensure that detention practices are not hidden from view, and that the rights of those detained are recognised and defended.

Headquartered in Geneva at the heart of the international human rights system, **the GDP is committed to ending arbitrary and harmful migration-related detention practices around the world, and to ensure respect for the fundamental human rights of all migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.**

## World-Leading Database

Our database is the world's leading source of immigration detention-related data. It includes information on nearly 3,000 detention centres worldwide used to hold migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, as well as comprehensive details on immigration detention laws, policies, and practices in nearly every country in the world. The breadth and depth of our data provides a powerful evidence base for research, advocacy, and accountability efforts. In 2025 alone, we and our partners logged more than 10,000 new data observations.

## Connecting Evidence to International Mechanisms

Our position at the heart of the international human rights system allows us to actively engage with UN treaty bodies, special procedures, and other rights mechanisms. By leveraging our extensive data on migration-related detention, we inform reviews, shape recommendations, and support accountability efforts that drive change at both international and national levels.

## A Growing Partner Network Driving Change

At the heart of the GDP is the "Global Immigration Detention Observatory." This is a collaborative initiative with partner organisations, researchers, and human rights practitioners in every corner of the world, whose central objective is to promote immigration detention reforms through research, data development, analysis, and reporting. The project seeks to ensure that local detention conditions receive global attention, while helping inform advocacy initiatives at the international level with on-the-ground realities and needs.

## OUR KEY AREAS OF WORK

### Investigating Immigration Detention Practices

We investigate where and in what conditions refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers are detained. We document this information on our website so that anyone can access our findings – helping to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the treatment of detainees.

### Advocating for Reform

We seek to ensure that abusive detention practices and trends receive international attention; that national policies and laws respect international human rights principles; that global initiatives and agendas respond to on-the-ground needs; and that international human rights mechanisms have domestic impact.

### Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Immigration detention causes enduring harm, particularly for at-risk groups like children, the elderly, pregnant and nursing women, trafficking victims, and stateless persons. Working in collaboration with partners, we strategically target advocacy opportunities at the international level that can have impact on how states treat the most vulnerable migrants at the local level.

### Supporting Local Voices

We work with local NGOs around the world to develop evidence and strengthen their campaigns to improve the treatment of vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers. Our training workshops with NGO partners, partner-led advocacy initiatives in Geneva, and public webinars help us to jointly harness the UN human rights system to challenge abusive and arbitrary migration-related detention in their countries.



▲ A deportation of non-nationals from the United States by U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, in coordination with the U.S Customs and Border Protection, February 2025 (Geopix/Alamy)

# THE GDP'S GLOBAL REACH

In 2025, our partners contributed thousands of entries to the **Global Immigration Detention Database**. We supported them with online workshops to improve database use and data-driven advocacy, including in December, when—coinciding with the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva—we hosted a networking event for partners from **Asia-Pacific**, **East Africa**, and **MENA** to share insights and reflect on the year (see p.18).

We welcomed several new partners to the Global Immigration Detention Observatory in 2025 from Asia (**Thailand** and **Malaysia**) and the MENA region (**Jordan** and **Lebanon**). The GDP's Executive Director visited Tamkeen Association for Legal Aid and Human Rights in Amman and the Lebanese Center for Human Rights in Beirut to help launch our collaborations, providing preliminary project orientations, learning more about the work of our partners, and exploring upcoming opportunities for collaboration (see p.14).

We have documented more than 2,800 detention centres worldwide, including 118 newly identified in 2025. Among them is the **Everglades Detention Facility ("Alligator Alcatraz")**, which opened in **Florida (United States)** in July as part of the Trump Administration's expanded detention drive, with the U.S. president declaring: "we're surrounded by miles of treacherous swampland and the only way out is, really, deportation"—a stark illustration of the U.S.' increasingly punitive and carceral detention practices.

In April, GDP researchers documented reports of a U.S. airstrike on Sa'dah City Remand Prison in northern **Yemen**, which inflicted catastrophic harm to the migrants trapped inside. We highlighted the incident on our blog, the Immigration Detention Monitor, drawing attention to the heightened risks faced by detainees in conflict zones. Referencing similar cases in Libya (2019) and Ukraine (2022), we underscored gaps in humanitarian protections and called for the immediate release of detainees in or near active combat areas (see p.13)

## 2025 AT A GLANCE



- 603,000 website pageviews (an average of 1,700 a day)
- 10,395 new data entries
- 2,803 detention centres documented to date
- 247 media, advocacy, and academic citations
- 118 new detention centres identified
- 30 blogs
- 24 international partners
- 23 submissions to human rights mechanisms
- 17 countries where GDP evidence informed UN reviews

In late 2024, we issued an urgent appeal to numerous rights mechanisms regarding **Egypt's** mass, arbitrary detentions of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers. Since then, UN Special Procedures have continued to monitor the situation—issuing two communications to Egyptian authorities. It's latest, in October 2025, echoed many of our original recommendations, demonstrating the long-lasting influence of our advocacy initiatives.

Working with our partner in Central Asia, the International Legal Initiative, we raised concerns with the UN Human Rights Committee about **Kazakhstan's** discriminatory immigration policies, arbitrary detention measures, and cases of ill-treatment. Many issues we highlighted appeared in the Committee's recommendations ("Concluding Observations"), marking a rare moment of international scrutiny (see p.17).

Together with the North-South Initiative and the Myanmar Ethics Organization, we urged the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to demand an end to the immigration detention of children in **Malaysia**—in line with the Committee's joint General Comment with the Committee on Migrant Workers. Shortly after, the Committee called on Malaysia to amend its legislation to protect all children from detention.

The GDP was at the forefront of international news in January, when our staff and research assisted dozens of media outlets reporting on the Trump Administration's order for migrants to be detained at the U.S. military base in **Cuba (Guantánamo Migrant Operations Centre)** (see p.20)

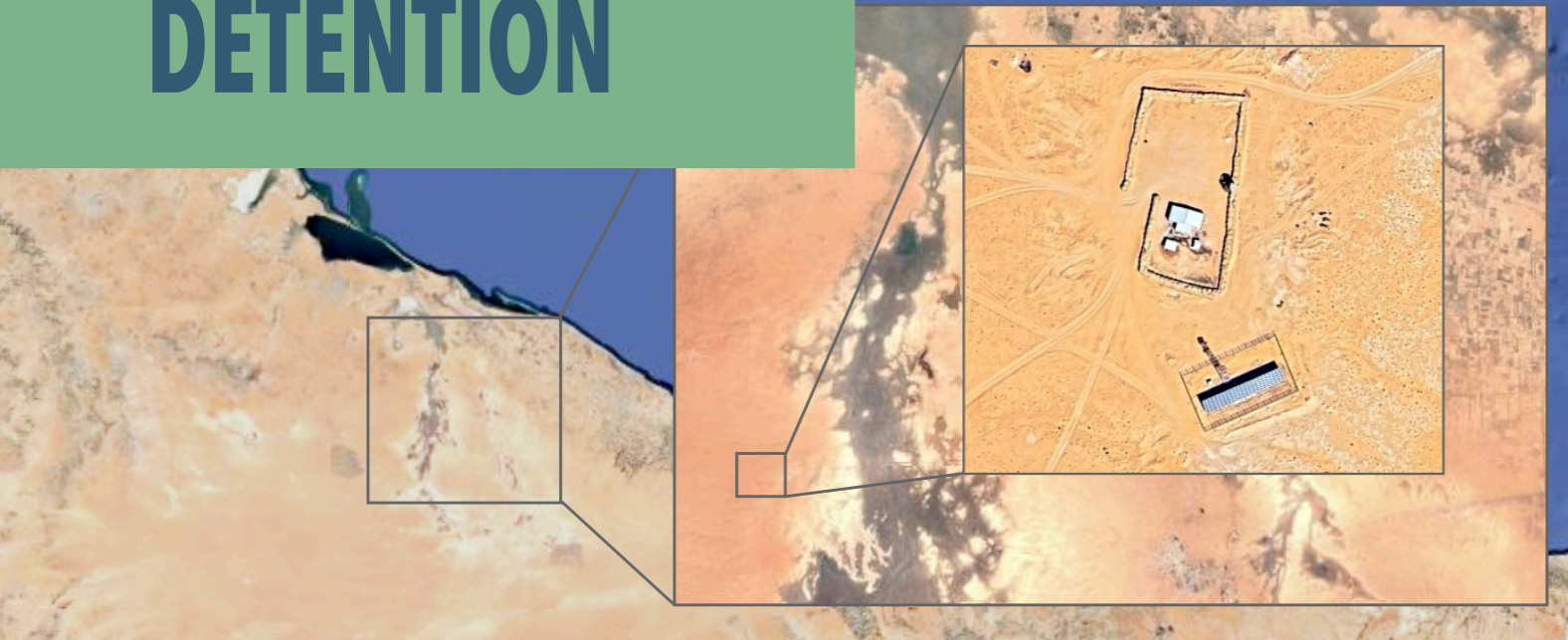
In July, we raised concerns about **Uganda's** agreement with the United States to receive third-country nationals with pending asylum claims. Given Uganda's record of mistreating deportees—described as "shambolic" in cases involving Sudanese and Eritrean nationals from Israel (2015–2018)—and its plans to expand immigration detention, we urged the **Committee on Migrant Workers** to question the government. The Committee heeded our concerns, asking Uganda to clarify how it will protect migrants' right to liberty and safeguard deportees from the U.S.

When the Committee on Migrant Workers invited our input on aligning the Migrant Workers' Convention with the Global Compact for Migration, we and our partners in the **Gulf** highlighted the need to ensure the prohibition of child detention and the decriminalisation of immigration status violations. Our recommendations were subsequently adopted and included in the Committee's **General Comment No.6**, released in January.

In 2025, we launched our new **"Lived Experience Fellowship"** as part of our commitment to emphasise the voices of people with lived experience of detention or forced displacement in our research and advocacy work. In addition to consolidating the new staff post of Refugee Advocacy Coordinator, we were delighted to welcome an initial cohort of three refugee fellows based in **Switzerland**, **Malaysia**, and **Lebanon** (see p.24).

# DOCUMENTING DETENTION

▼ A series of aerial images showing the location of "The Cage," an ad hoc detention site in the Tunisian desert near the Libyan border (Google Earth)



The global spread of immigration detention shows no sign of slowing, with governments increasingly relying upon confinement as a routine tool of migration control—often with limited transparency and accountability. Over the past year, this expansion has been supercharged by the aggressive externalisation campaigns waged by officials from Washington to Brussels and beyond (see page 14).

The Global Detention Project works with partners around the world to document this harmful phenomenon, detailing who is detained, where they are held, the conditions they face, and whether their rights are upheld.

Through our online database—the world’s leading source of immigration detention-related data—we work with partners to build evidence that can empower calls for reforms and reveal critical targets for advocacy campaigns. This data is utilised by a wide network including journalists, lawyers, researchers, NGOs, and international rights bodies to track trends, document abuses, and support litigation and advocacy efforts. It also provides detainees and their families with vital information, helping them navigate legal and humanitarian processes.

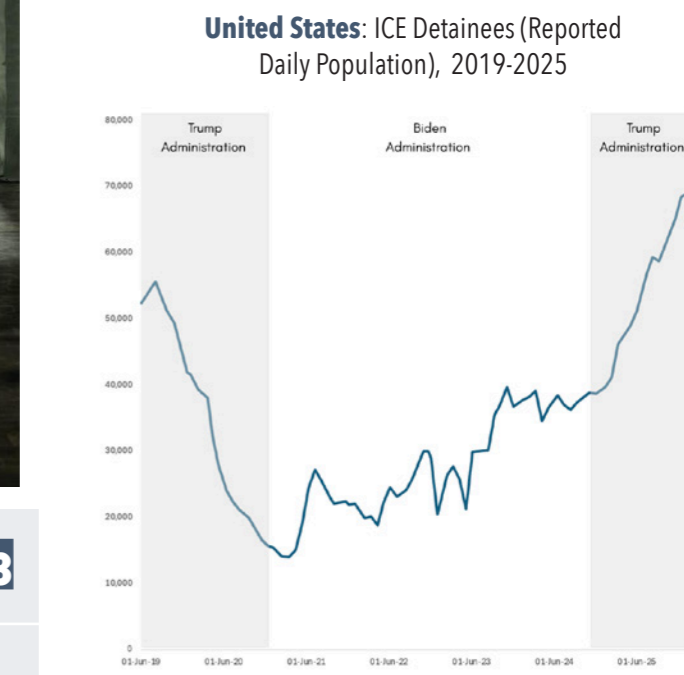
During 2025 we added thousands of new observations to our database. Amongst these, we documented daily detainee numbers across individual facilities, reported

deaths in custody, logged detention condition reports, tracked new national legislation governing detention practices, and recorded detention-related observations and recommendations raised by international rights mechanisms. In doing so, we noted important observations—such as the substantial increase in immigration-related arrests in Malaysia, sky-rocketing daily detention figures in the United States, changes to Poland’s legislation to permit the detention of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and Mauritania’s growing detention estate.

In total, we logged more than **10,300** new data entries, covering **200 countries** and **840 detention centres**—amongst them **118 newly identified facilities**. To date, we have documented **2,803 detention facilities**—amongst them hundreds of informal, ad hoc facilities shielded from public scrutiny by authorities seeking to avoid oversight and accountability.

Central to our data documentation is our network of Immigration Detention Observatory partners (see p.18), who are actively engaged in their own countries and regions in monitoring and promoting the rights of refugees and migrants. To support our collaborations, we deliver **regular training sessions—including 8 in 2025**—providing partners with detailed explorations of the database’s tools, as well as briefings on opportunities for harnessing the UN human rights system to challenge arbitrary and harmful detention practices.

▼ U.S President Trump tours the Everglades Detention Facility, dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz," in Florida, 1 July 2025 (Blueee/Alamy)



	2025	2024	2023
<b>New data entries in the database</b>	10,395	9,883	5,613
<b>New data entries by GDP partners</b>	3,074	5,796	4,861
<b>Countries updated</b>	200	202	198
<b>Detention centres updated</b>	840	821	728
<b>New detention centres</b>	118	92	285
<b>Total number of detention centres documented to date</b>	2,803	2,685	2,593

**"I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank your organization. It is your unwavering commitment to human rights and opposition to arbitrary detention that provided crucial guidance and support during my most vulnerable moments."**

*Former detainee, released from Welisara Detention Centre (Sri Lanka) in 2025 with assistance from the Global Detention Project and local partners in Asia*

# IMPACT STORY: EXPOSING DETENTION PRACTICES

Reports of large-scale immigration enforcement campaigns—often involving mass arrests and detentions—have become increasingly frequent. In 2025, we documented these operations in **Mauritania, India, the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Egypt, Algeria, and Russia**, among others. While authorities often publicise these campaigns, critical details—like the numbers detained, locations of detention, the conditions in which people are held, and the duration of confinement—often remain hidden due to persistent gaps in official reporting. This lack of transparency has profound consequences: it restricts public scrutiny, shields authorities from oversight, and erodes accountability.

Our work addresses these gaps. We collect evidence from a wide range of sources including on-the-ground activists and researchers, local civil society organisations, regional networks, local media, and social media, to develop clearer understandings of detainees' treatment. Through our submissions to international human rights mechanisms (see: Making an Impact, Locally and Globally, p.16), we consistently encourage treaty bodies to urge States parties to disclose disaggregated detention data and provide comprehensive lists of all migrant detention facilities—calls that are frequently reiterated by these bodies themselves.



▲ Malaysian Immigration Department personnel march during the 67th National Day celebration parade in Kuala Lumpur, August 2024 (SOPA/Alamy)

**“States Parties should collect disaggregated data on instances of death, disappearance, arbitrary detention and expulsion of migrants, and other incidents occurring on dangerous migration routes. These data should be systematically analysed to inform measures, including policy reform, to prevent such situations, protect migrants and facilitate access to effective justice and redress mechanisms.”**

*Joint General Recommendation No. 38 (2025) of CERD and General Comment No. 7 (2025) of CMW, December 2025*

▼ A Haitian migrant waits for his pregnant wife who went into labour, at the Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia Maternity Hospital, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 2021 (Associated Press/ Alamy)



## IN FOCUS: THE IMMIGRATION DETENTION MONITOR

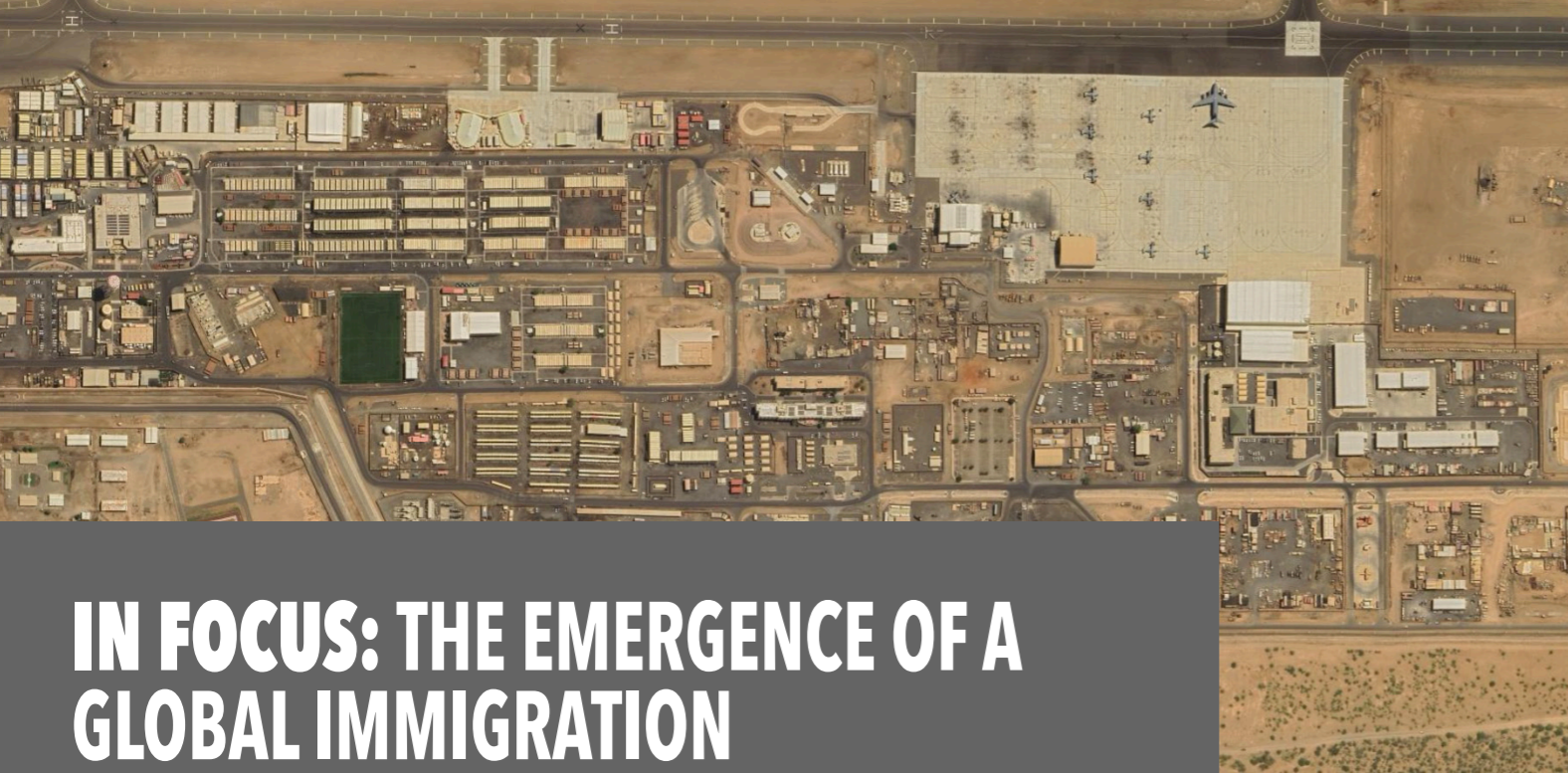
A cornerstone of our work is our blog—the Immigration Detention Monitor. Covering immigration detention-related news and reports from around the world, it tracks and reports on emerging and urgent human rights concerns, legal developments, policy shifts, and detention-related news from international rights fora, often covering issues that receive little or no mainstream international coverage.

In 2025, we published **30 articles covering 28 countries**, and the blog remained the fourth most visited page of our website. Posts explored a wide range of issues, including scrutiny of **Egypt's** claims of “voluntary”

returns to Sudan amid intensified detention and deportation operations; analysis of a **European Court of Justice ruling** and its implications for externalisation schemes; examination of **Russia's** escalating immigration enforcement to pressure migrants into joining the frontlines in Ukraine; and documentation of migrant control operations within maternity wards in the **Dominican Republic**.

**“The impact of the administration's latest efforts to expel migrants is already being felt. Stories have emerged of women (and their newborn babies) being arrested and detained just after birth.”**

*Bridget Wooding (OBMICA), guest post on the Dominican Republic for the Immigration Detention Monitor*



# IN FOCUS: THE EMERGENCE OF A GLOBAL IMMIGRATION DETENTION GULAG ARCHIPELAGO

2025 was a ground-breaking year in efforts by wealthy migrant destination countries to spread—externalise—their enforcement efforts beyond their borders, led most notably (and notoriously) by the administration of President Donald Trump in the United States. We thus had our work cut out for us in trying to document the growing number of bilateral agreements aimed at shifting responsibility for migration and asylum procedures to third countries. We reported on U.S. removal schemes involving nearly a dozen countries—including **Panama, El Salvador, Ghana, Djibouti, Libya, Eswatini, Uganda, Kosovo,** and **Uzbekistan**—as well as deepening European deals across North Africa and the Sahel, and EU proposals to establish “return hubs.”

Across all of these schemes, detention has served as a central enforcement tool. Migrants and asylum seekers have been routinely subjected to arbitrary and abusive confinement, denied basic rights, and in some cases exposed to forced removal and refoulement.

In **Ghana**, we documented the placement of 11 men in **Dema Camp**, an open-air detention facility surrounded by armed military guards, where detainees reported exposure to snakes and scorpions, lack of power, and unsanitary water. In **Eswatini**, deportees were reportedly placed in solitary confinement at the **Matsapha Correctional Complex** without access to legal counsel. In **Djibouti**, eight men were detained in a converted shipping container on a U.S. military base, raising serious concerns about safety and due process.

**“Conditions are horrible at Dema Camp. Since the morning of September 12, there has been no reliable power, internet, or running water. Ghana is not safe for any of us. ... I have been wearing the same clothes that I left the United States in over a week ago. We are constantly surrounded by military guards. ... We are all afraid for our lives.”**

*Sworn declaration from a deportee sent to Ghana, submitted to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, September 2025*

Critically, as we noted in a December submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, not only are these schemes detention-dependent—they are also leading to growing immigration detention systems around the world. In **Uganda**, shortly after authorities signed a deal with the United States in July, the country's

(Top) Venezuelans removed from the United States are held in El Salvador's notorious Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT), March 2025 (UPI/Alamy); (Below) Matsapha Correctional Complex in Mbabane, Eswatini (Associated Press/Alamy)

◀ Aerial view of Camp Lemonnier, a U.S. military base in Djibouti where eight men were detained following their removal from the United States in May 2025 (Google Earth)

cabinet approved a new National Migration Strategy that calls for the creation of new detention sites. Although the strategy does not explicitly reference the deal, its timing raises questions about whether externalisation pressures may be driving a move towards more restrictive migration controls. Elsewhere, in **Mauritania** and **Senegal**, deepening European cooperation has been accompanied by growing numbers of detention facilities. As we noted in our submission:

**“There is a seeming inevitability to the expansion of detention if countries continue to pursue externalisation programmes, as they will place growing numbers of unwanted migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the hands of countries who, left with mounting unresolvable immigration cases, will turn to detention as a tool of first resort when accepting deportees from wealthier countries.”**

**“The GDP highlights concerns about the weakness of safeguards in third countries like Kosovo and the risk that asylum seekers may be deported to countries where their lives are in danger ... in addition to the limited institutional capacity in these countries, the lack of transparency, and the growing concern that States are outsourcing detention and expulsion instead of bolstering their own asylum systems.”**

*El Salto Diario, December 2025.*

### What is Externalisation?

Externalisation refers to efforts by states to extend migration and asylum enforcement beyond their borders. This includes measures that prevent migrants and refugees from reaching a state's territory, outsourcing asylum procedures to third countries, and expelling individuals to states that are not their country of nationality. Although externalisation is not a new phenomenon, it has intensified significantly in recent years, with a growing number of states formalising agreements that shift migration control beyond their borders.





# MAKING AN IMPACT, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

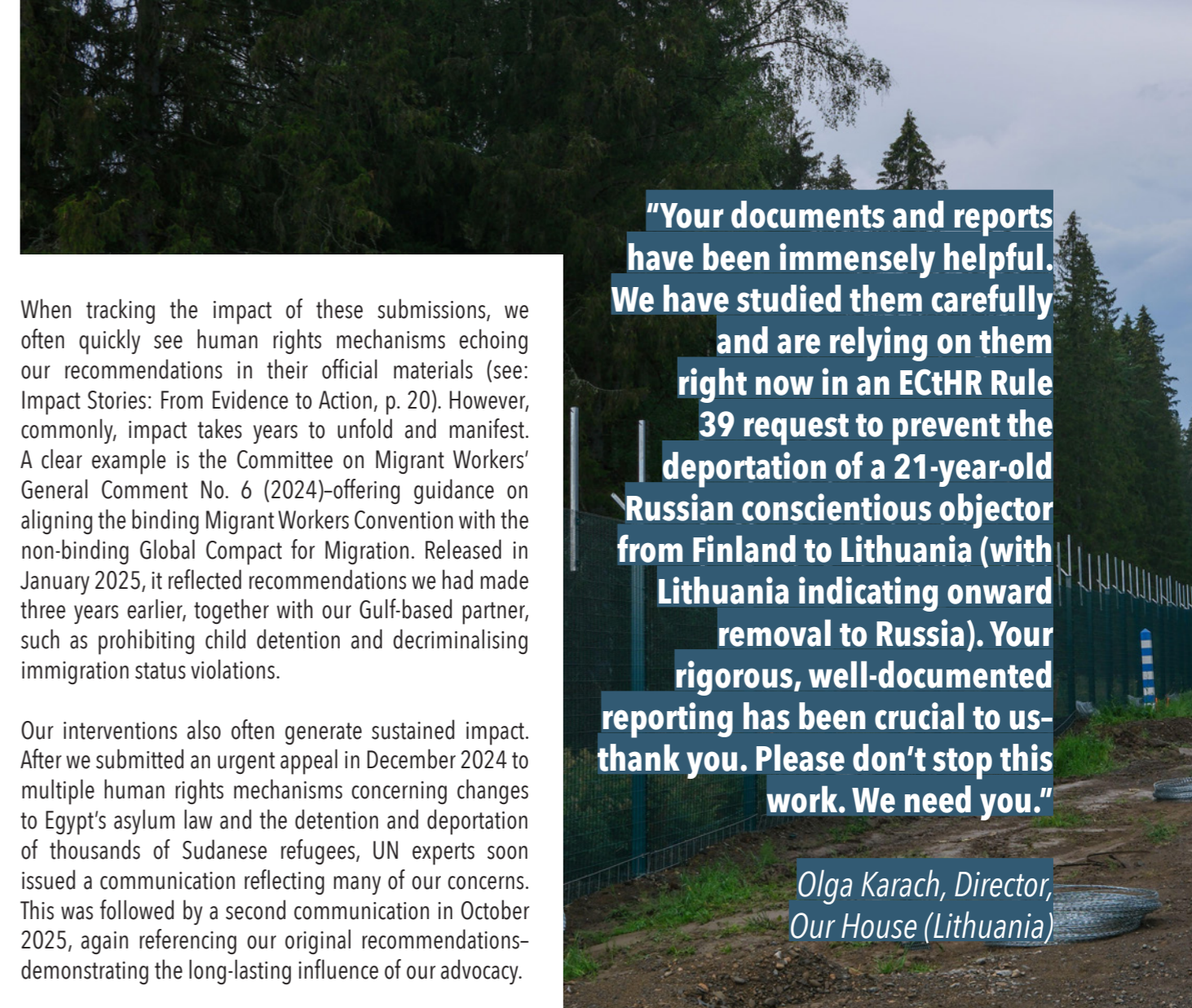
▲ Cambodian migrant workers wait to cross back into Cambodia from Thailand, July 2025 (Zuma Press/Alamy)

Together with our partners, the GDP seeks to impact recommendations issued by international and regional human rights bodies to states, as well as to ensure that immigration detention is on the agenda during country reviews. In this way, we seek to harness the authoritative voices of monitoring institutions to pressure states to comply with their human rights obligations, and to bolster partners' efforts to secure accountability and rights protection at the national level.

We submitted 23 reports concerning 18 countries in 2025. These submissions targeted 10 rights mechanisms including the UN Human Rights Committee, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Universal Periodic Review, and the European Court of Human Rights. Where possible, we followed up with oral interventions at in-person meetings, reinforcing our findings and recommendations and engaging directly with treaty bodies and experts. Amongst the issues we addressed were the Bahamas' disproportionate targeting of certain nationalities for detention and deportation;

women immigration detainees' experiences of violence and abuse in Indian detention centres; and transparency concerns surrounding detention operations in Oman. Often, we were the only organisation to bring attention to such issues, ensuring that detention practices were examined by review mechanisms.

**Where possible, we followed up with oral interventions at in-person meetings, reinforcing our findings and recommendations and engaging directly with treaty bodies and experts.**



**"Your documents and reports have been immensely helpful. We have studied them carefully and are relying on them right now in an ECtHR Rule 39 request to prevent the deportation of a 21-year-old Russian conscientious objector from Finland to Lithuania (with Lithuania indicating onward removal to Russia). Your rigorous, well-documented reporting has been crucial to us—thank you. Please don't stop this work. We need you."**

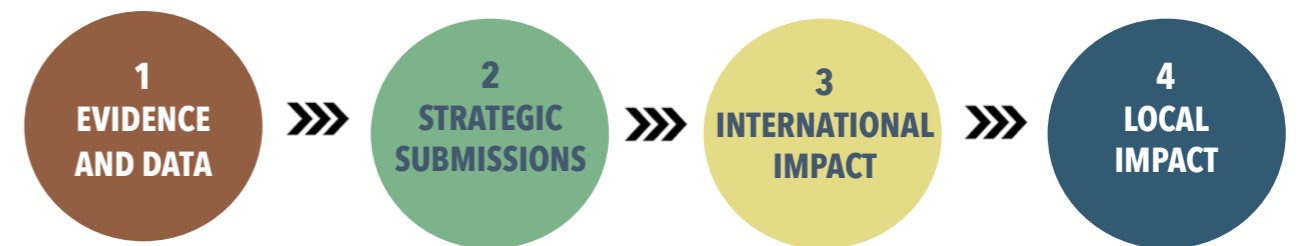
*Olga Karach, Director, Our House (Lithuania)*

▲ The Finland-Russia Border, 2025 (Haydn Denman/Alamy)

When tracking the impact of these submissions, we often quickly see human rights mechanisms echoing our recommendations in their official materials (see: Impact Stories: From Evidence to Action, p. 20). However, commonly, impact takes years to unfold and manifest. A clear example is the Committee on Migrant Workers' General Comment No. 6 (2024)—offering guidance on aligning the binding Migrant Workers Convention with the non-binding Global Compact for Migration. Released in January 2025, it reflected recommendations we had made three years earlier, together with our Gulf-based partner, such as prohibiting child detention and decriminalising immigration status violations.

Our interventions also often generate sustained impact. After we submitted an urgent appeal in December 2024 to multiple human rights mechanisms concerning changes to Egypt's asylum law and the detention and deportation of thousands of Sudanese refugees, UN experts soon issued a communication reflecting many of our concerns. This was followed by a second communication in October 2025, again referencing our original recommendations—demonstrating the long-lasting influence of our advocacy.

## Impact Pathway:



- Collection and documentation of credible information by GDP researchers and international partners.
- Systematic monitoring of rights violations and trends.
- Preparation of targeted submissions to international and regional rights bodies.
- Violations and urgent concerns are highlighted.
- Recommendations for States parties to ensure compliance with rights obligations.
- Rights bodies issue concluding observations and recommendations to States parties.
- Strengthens global pressure for States to uphold international rights obligations.
- Raises global attention regarding detention issues.
- Media coverage increases public awareness of rights violations.
- Local advocacy efforts empowered in calling for reform.
- States respond with policy, legislation, and/or practice changes.

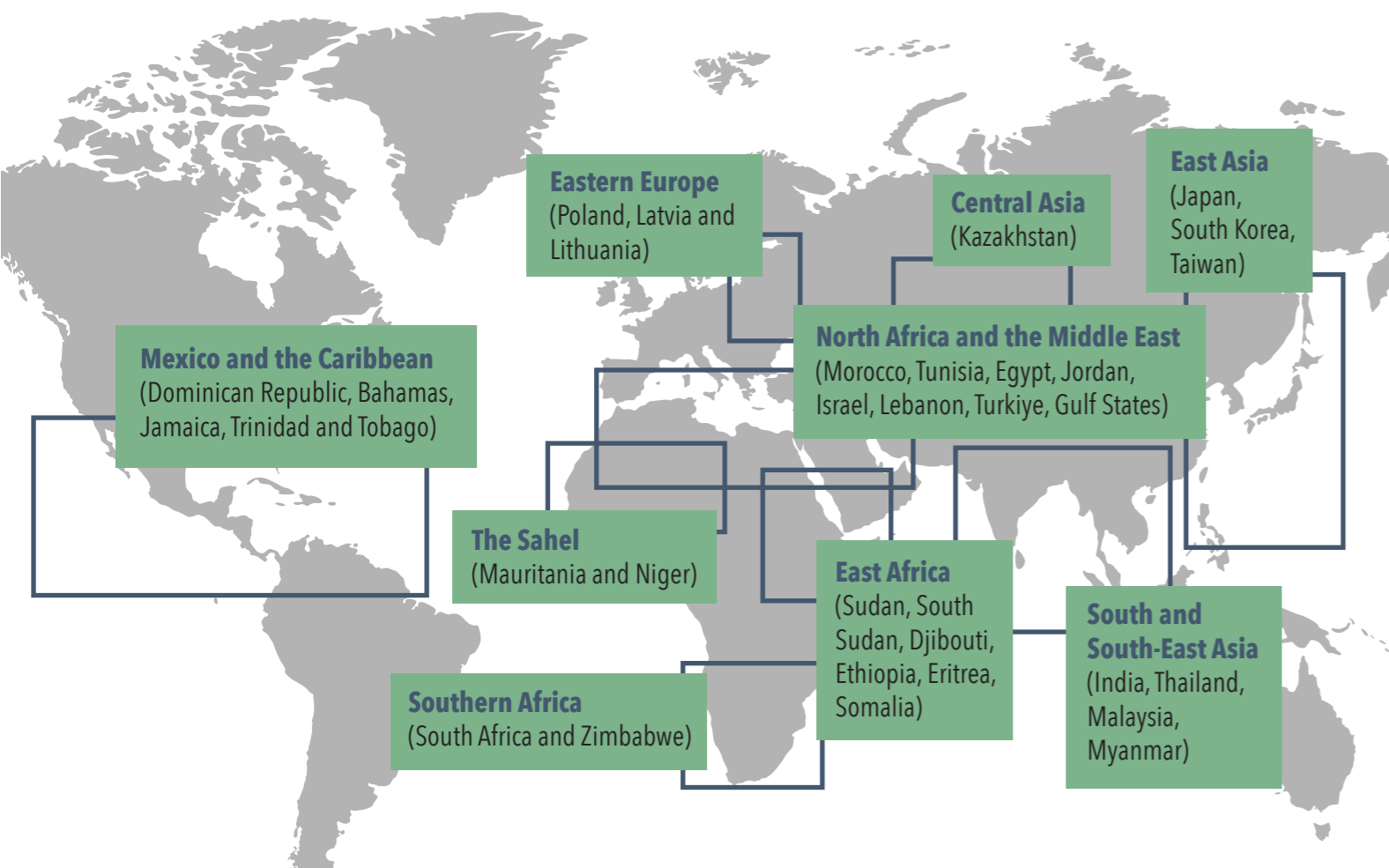
# WORKING WITH PARTNERS

We work with a large network of civil society organisations, amongst them Observatory partners—including silent partners, who work closely with us to bring abuses to international attention but who, due to security concerns, cannot engage publicly; and surrogate partners, who regularly step in to support silent partners' advocacy efforts—as well as contributing organisations, with whom we collaborate on individual research and advocacy projects.

While most of our partner engagement takes place online, in 2025 we were able to visit several partners for in-person meetings, strengthening relationships and deepening understandings of their work. In the autumn, the GDP's

Executive Director visited the MENA region, one of our core focus areas, where he met with several partners to learn more about their ongoing initiatives, provide preliminary project orientations, and explore upcoming opportunities for collaboration—including our new Lived Experience Fellowship (see In Focus: Meaningful Refugee and Migrant Participation, p.24).

During the Global Refugee Forum in December, we also welcomed partners from East Africa, MENA, and Asia-Pacific, alongside colleagues working in Geneva, for a special networking evening to connect, share insights, and celebrate the collaborative impact of our partner network.



Selected Partners:



# THE ROLE OF TREATY BODIES AS A BACKBONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

The work of the UN treaty bodies in monitoring States parties' implementation of international human rights treaties is crucial, and together they form an important backbone of the international human rights system. Yet, today the treaty body system is facing a severe financial crisis that threatens its very functioning. Many meetings have been cancelled and crucial state reviews postponed. This is why, in 2025, the GDP joined civil society organisations calling on UN Member States to "reaffirm their commitment to the human rights system through political and financial support and ensure that the UN80 process is used to strengthen the human rights pillar of the UN, not to weaken it."



▲ Palais Wilson in Geneva serves as the headquarters of OHCHR and is a central venue for UN Treaty Body sessions (Palais Wilson)

**"States should cease detaining children, families and other migrants in vulnerable conditions, as well as victims of trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons."** - Committee on Migrant Workers General, Comment No. 6, Paragraph 74.

**"Detention for immigration purposes should be a measure of last resort, only permissible for adults for the shortest period of time and when no less restrictive measure is available. The detention of any child for reasons related to their immigration status or the immigration status of their parents or legal guardians can never be considered in the best interest of the child and always constitutes a violation of the rights of the child, in accordance with the applicable international human rights standards."** - UN human rights experts, communication to Egypt, October 2025

**"Irregular migration should not be subject to criminal penalties."** - Committee on Migrant Workers, General Comment No.6, Paragraph 50

## Do international human rights treaties provide protections for people in immigration detention?

Yes. A range of international and regional human rights instruments—including human rights treaties concerning children, migrant workers, trafficking and torture victims, among others—set out binding obligations governing the detention of non-citizens. States that are party to these treaties are required to comply with their provisions, and human rights monitoring bodies oversee implementation, identify violations, and issue recommendations aimed at bringing detention practices in line with international standards.

# IMPACT STORIES: FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

## Albania: Urging UN Torture Committee Scrutiny of Italy–Albania Detention Deal

In 2023, Italy and Albania signed a controversial migration cooperation deal, in which Albania agreed to host Italian-run detention and processing centres for migrants and asylum seekers.



▲ Human rights activists protest outside the Italian-run Gjader Detention Centre in Albania, November 2025 (Imago/Alamy)

**1. Evidence and Data:** Albania operates a dedicated immigration detention facility, the Karreç Detention Centre, where reports cite chronic staff shortages, poor hygiene, and severe restrictions on detainees' communication with the outside world. Observers have also documented the ad hoc use of border centres and a police station in Durrës. Of particular concern, Albania hosts two detention facilities managed by Italian authorities raising questions regarding accountability and responsibility for the treatment of detainees. In addition, Albania's legal framework fails to provide adequate safeguards to protect vulnerable groups, including asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors, from detention.

**2. Strategic Submission:** As the only organisation to bring these concerns to the attention of the Committee against Torture (CAT), the GDP urged the Committee to call on the State party to revise its laws, policies, and practices—including legislative amendments, measures to improve detention conditions, and a clear reaffirmation that Albania—together with Italy—bears shared responsibility for any violations committed against detainees held in outsourced or jointly managed detention facilities.

**“Work to ensure that the implementation of the 2023 protocol between the Governments of Albania and Italy on migrant detention facilities fully complies with the Convention, noting that the State Party’s obligations continue to apply regardless of the centres’ management or jurisdiction, due to the fact that these facilities are located on its sovereign territory”**

*Committee against Torture, Concluding Observations, December 2025*

**3. & 4. International and Local Impacts:** Following our intervention, the Committee issued clear recommendations affirming that children should not be detained for immigration purposes and calling for urgent improvements to detention conditions and safeguards in line with the Convention. Crucially, the Committee clarified that Albania remains responsible for all detention facilities on its territory, including those managed by Italy. This finding was covered in Albanian media, drawing increased public attention to outsourced detention arrangements.

(Top) Port de Peche, Nouakchott, Mauritania (Megapress Images/Alamy);  
(Bottom) Aerial view of a rural village in Mauritania, 2024 (Amazing Aerial/Alamy)

## Mauritania: Mass Detention Under International Scrutiny

In 2024, the EU and Mauritania signed a Migration Partnership Agreement. Since then, observers have documented a surge in migration control efforts, with thousands arrested, detained, and deported.

**1. Evidence and Data:** In recent years, Mauritania—a key waypoint on the North-West Africa migration route—has faced growing European pressure to curb movement. In 2025, authorities arbitrarily arrested, detained, and expelled thousands, disproportionately targeting Sub-Saharan. Observers reported to us that authorities were using a number of detention facilities, in which conditions were frequently described as “inhumane” and where migrants and asylum seekers—including those with valid UNHCR documentation—were held without judicial review and expelled without the chance to appeal.

**“[The Special Rapporteur] reminds the Government that targeted round-ups against the migrant community are in violation of Mauritania’s international obligations. He will continue to monitor the situation and calls the authorities to immediately halt such harassment against migrants and people in need of international protection such as asylum seekers and refugees.”**

*Special Rapporteur on Migrants, September 2025*

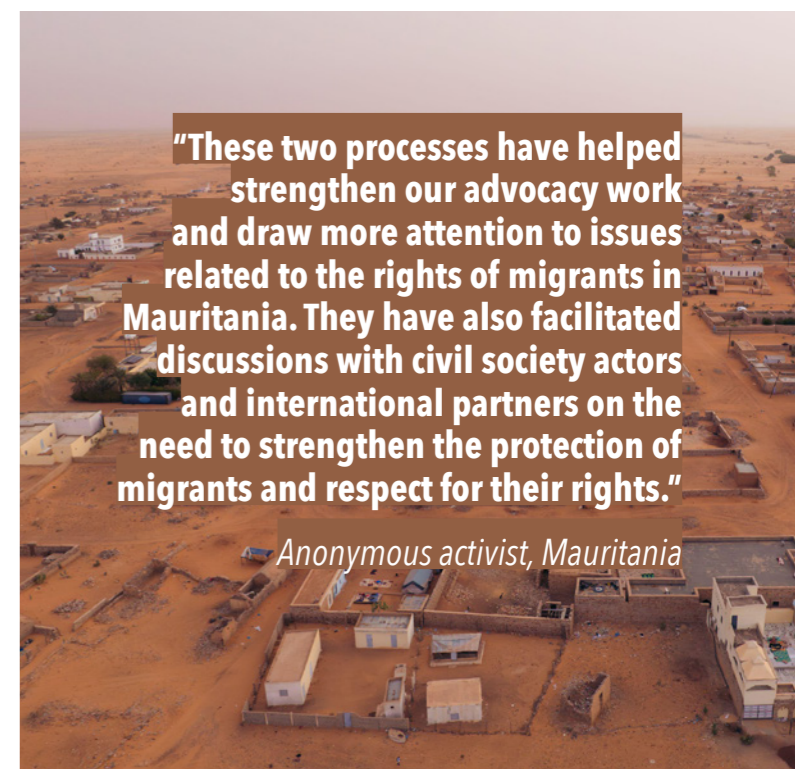
**3. & 4. International and Local Impacts:** Many of the Special Rapporteur’s core findings closely aligned with our key concerns. Noting that “Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers continue to face systemic violations,” he highlighted their detention in overcrowded facilities, “with inadequate food, minimal medical care, and severe language barriers,” and urged authorities to “strengthen judicial oversight of detention and guarantee humane conditions in all centres.” The Migrant Worker Committee expressed similar concerns and urged the State party to decriminalise irregular entry and stay, immediately cease the mass and indiscriminate arrests of migrants, improve detention conditions, and prohibit the detention of children.



**2. Strategic Submission:** Ahead of his visit to Mauritania, we shared a detailed briefing with the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, documenting persistent violations of migrants’ and refugees’ rights and urging him to press authorities to only use detention as a measure of last resort, ensure respect for due process, guarantee appropriate detention conditions, and de-criminalise irregular migration. Similar recommendations were also shared with the UN Migrant Worker Committee ahead of its December 2025 review of the country.

**“These two processes have helped strengthen our advocacy work and draw more attention to issues related to the rights of migrants in Mauritania. They have also facilitated discussions with civil society actors and international partners on the need to strengthen the protection of migrants and respect for their rights.”**

*Anonymous activist, Mauritania*



## Kazakhstan: Advancing Rights Protection Through the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR)

*In 2024, migrants and asylum seekers in Kazakhstan faced widespread raids in which hundreds were detained and deported. Authorities have also targeted these groups for detention to quell social unrest, such as during the 2022 "Qandy Qantar" protests.*

**1. Evidence and Data:** Migrants and asylum seekers in Kazakhstan–Tajik, Uzbek, and Kyrgyz nationals–have faced discriminatory immigration enforcement, arbitrary detention, and ill-treatment, including documented cases of torture, particularly in the wake of the 2022 "Qandy Qantar" protests. These risks are compounded by weak asylum safeguards (including the lack of a formal procedure to facilitate applications at the border, leaving arrivals at risk of detention and refoulement), failures to provide compensation to victims of torture, and lack of respect for the principle of non-refoulement. The country's Penal Code also criminalises irregular entry and our partner, the International Legal Initiative (ILI), has noted a significant number of persons fleeing torture in China's Xinjiang province being held for violating this legislation.

▼ Flag of Kazakhstan, seen outside Astana (Alamy)

**"[Kazakhstan] should consider amending its Law on Refugees to ensure that asylum procedures are fully aligned with international standards and that no person is expelled, extradited or otherwise returned to a country where they would face a risk of persecution, in line with the principle of non-refoulement."**

*UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding Observations (CCPR/C/KAZ/CO/3), September 2025*

**"In March 2024, authorities conducted widespread raids, which led to the detention and deportation of hundreds of migrant workers. According to local media, 1,240 migrants were deported following this operation—with each person banned from re-entering for five years. There is very little information however, regarding where, in what conditions, and for how long migrants were detained, and the GDP and ILI share concerns that detainees were treated with a lack of due process."**

*GDP and ILI, Submission to the CCPR*

**2. Strategic Submission:** Working with the ILI, we documented these patterns of abuse, including the detention of 100 foreigners in a facility outside Almaty—treatment of whom amounted to torture. This was submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee, and together with the ILI, we were the only organisation to publicly address these issues during the Committee's review. Amongst our recommendations, we called for an immediate halt to all practices amounting to torture, inhuman, and degrading treatment in detention centres, and for authorities to establish an asylum referral procedure at border entry points.

**3. & 4. International and Local Impacts:** In its 2025 Concluding Observations, the UN Human Rights Committee echoed key concerns from the GDP and ILI submission—marking the first time since 2014 that a UN treaty body has addressed Kazakhstan's detention of foreign nationals. It urged the government to provide full reparation to torture victims, strengthen asylum safeguards, and guarantee unhindered access to refugee status determination at all border points. These recommendations, including those related to abuses during the Qandy Qantar protests, were later reported by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kazakh Service and used by local advocates to support compensation claims for Uzbek and Kyrgyz torture survivors.

*If passed, the Basic Law: Entry, Immigration, and Status in Israel would allow for unlimited administrative detention, without the possibility to seek remedy from the judicial system.*

## Israel: UN Torture Committee Highlights Harmful Treatment of Detained Migrants and Refugees



▲ Givon Prison (Israeli Prison Service)

**1. Evidence and Data:** For years, Israel has employed detention as a key tool to control unwanted immigration, and authorities have regularly used it to "persuade" foreigners to leave the country, or to act as a deterrent against would-be asylum seekers and migrants. In 2025, several pieces of legislation were introduced and proposed which, if passed and implemented, will dramatically impact the rights of non-nationals, including allowing for unlimited administrative detention, and enabling the detention and deportation of Eritreans (protected under the principle of non-refoulement) based on alleged regime support.

**2. Strategic Submission:** Together with our partner in Israel, Hotline for Refugees and Migrants (HRM), we presented our concerns to the Committee against Torture—in writing and in person—noting recent legislative developments. We also raised concerns regarding the country's failure to release detainees during the Israel-Iran war, poor detention conditions, excessive detention periods, the detention of vulnerable groups including children and asylum seekers, and the failure to protect migrant workers on and after October 7.

**3. & 4. International and Local Impacts:** While the Committee against Torture's review was largely focused on human rights violations in Gaza and the West Bank, it also devoted significant attention to the country's treatment of refugees and migrants, underscoring many of our concerns regarding detention conditions and the effects of legislative amendments on detention policies. As HRM noted, "Out of the Committee's 18-page concluding observations, an entire page was devoted to Israel's violations of the Convention in relation to refugees and migrants." We regret, however, that several critical concerns were not addressed, including the failure to release and protect detainees during the Israel-Iran war. (The acute vulnerability of detainees in situations of conflict is something the GDP has previously highlighted, such as the case of Ukraine in 2022.)

**"Ensure that detention for the purposes of deportation is applied only as a last resort, when assessed to be strictly necessary and proportionate in the light of an individual's circumstances, and for the shortest possible period. Children and families with children should not be detained solely for their immigration status."**

*Committee against Torture, Concluding Observations, December 2025*

# MEANINGFUL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT PARTICIPATION

**Abdulaziz Muhamat,**  
GDP Refugee Advocacy Coordinator:

"The GDP has long supported efforts to ensure the meaningful participation of refugees and migrants in advocacy, policy development, and decision-making spaces—rather than symbolic participation. As someone who has spent many years in immigration detention, I know too well how often research and advocacy about refugees' lives is conducted without refugees themselves shaping it. This is why we often partner with refugee and migrant-led civil society organisations, and why I regularly attend meetings where I can share my own experiences of, and reflections upon, detention. In 2025, I had particularly fruitful conversations at events such as the Global Refugee Forum and a UNHCR Refugees in Dialogue event. We were also pleased to support the launch of the Independent Declaration on the Right of Persons Experiencing Forced Displacement to Participate in Decisions that Affect Them—affirming the right of refugees and others facing forced displacement or statelessness to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

"Importantly, it is also why, in 2025, we launched the GDP's **Lived Experience Fellowship**—providing the opportunity for former detainees, refugees, and migrants to bring their expertise by experience to bear in documentation work and global advocacy. In December, we welcomed our first three fellows—in Malaysia, Lebanon, and Switzerland. We look forward to working with them through 2026."

**"The evidence documented by experts and attested to by former detainees like myself concerning the psychological impact of immigration detention leaves little room for doubt: immigration detention, and particularly prolonged immigration detention, causes severe and long-lasting mental anguish, including excruciating bouts of anxiety, depression, and PTSD."**

*Abdulaziz Muhamat, GDP Refugee Advocacy Coordinator, speaking at the UNHCR and ICVA Regional Consultation with NGOs in Europe, September 2025*



## **"Article 1 - The right to participate**

1. All persons with experience of forced displacement or statelessness have the right to participate in decisions that directly or indirectly affect their protection and human rights.
2. The rights listed in this Declaration apply to:
  - a. refugees,
  - b. asylum seekers,
  - c. internally displaced persons,
  - d. trafficked persons,
  - e. other persons with experience of forced displacement, and
  - f. stateless persons."

*Independent Declaration on the Right of Persons Experiencing Forced Displacement to Participate in Decisions that Affect Them, December 2025*

# VISIBILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Central to our mission challenging harmful immigration detention practices are our efforts to raise public awareness of the devastating circumstances facing migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and highlighting the urgent need to protect their fundamental rights. We thus strive to ensure that our research and documentation reach as many people as possible—through our website, newsletter, social media, media engagement, and active participation at key events and forums.

Our website, a world leading resource on immigration detention laws and practices, is accessed by thousands of users every day. Our data is open-source, meaning that anyone can access all of our documentation, as well as our reports, projects, and activities. In 2025, we recorded more than **603,000 pageviews** (on average, more than **1,700 a day**) with traffic sustained throughout the year. Our monthly newsletter, meanwhile, now reaches some **3,300 subscribers**, while our social media platforms collectively reach more than **13,000 followers**.

**Eighty two percent** of users came to our website from search engines, indicating that our website continues to serve as a key reference source. More than **98,000** entered via our United States country page—reflecting heightened public interest in U.S immigration detention amid intensified ICE enforcement and policy shifts under the Trump administration.

Because of our recognised expertise, we are regularly invited to contribute to high-level events. Our presence in Geneva places us at the heart of the international human

rights system, enabling first-hand engagement with global policymakers, real-time influence on decision making, and effective advocacy for detainees' rights.

**“Every generation has faced its moments of trial, and in those moments, young people have been the ones who dared to speak when others were silent, to dream when others surrendered, and to act when others hesitated.”**

*Abdulaziz Muhamat, Refugee Advocacy Coordinator, delivering the keynote speech at the Global Youth Summit for Change*

Notable engagements included events at the Human Rights Council's 59th Session, the Global Refugee Forum, NGO consultations on the European Pact on Migration



▲ Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who arrived in Crete following the suspension of asylum claims are held under guard at a temporary facility in Agia, near Chania, August 2025 (Associated Press/Alamy)

and Asylum, and the Geneva Youth Summit for Change. A particular highlight was our attendance at the launch of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Violence and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families' General Comments 7 and 8 and Joint General Recommendations 38 and 39 on eradicating xenophobia towards migrants.

Our data and research continued to be regularly used and cited by a range of authors, scholars, and policy experts, helping to ensure that immigration detention concerns reach new and wider audiences. Our team frequently responded to interview requests and research assistance requests. In 2025, we recorded **247 media, advocacy, and academic citations**—representing a 45 percent increase on 2024—including Al Jazeera, the New York Times, BBC, Haaretz, and MSN News, as well as numerous local media outlets from across the world.

Of note was the use of our data by John Oliver's Last Week Tonight for a segment on ICE detention operations (which, to-date, has garnered over **5.8 million views on Youtube**), and BBC's Focus on Africa live interview with our Refugee Advocacy Coordinator on World Refugee Day, discussing the fact that many migrants and refugees are unable to access healthcare due to fear of detention and deportation.

## Global Detention Project In The News 247 Media, Advocacy, and Academic Citations

**“The point is that Clinton-era expansion super charged the detainee population which passed 20,000 in 2001, only to expand through Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden to the point where we now have “the world’s largest immigration detention system.”**

*John Oliver's Last Week Tonight, March 2025*

**“A major transit point for Europe-bound migrants, Libya operates numerous detention facilities for refugees and migrants. ... The Global Detention Project says detained migrants in Libya endure “physical mistreatment and torture,” forced labor and even slavery.”**

*New York Times, May 2025*

**“The Global Detention Project, which monitors detention centers, has identified Malaysia’s strict detention system as one of the most punitive and abusive in the world, with few legal remedies for detainees.”**

*BBC, July 2025*

## Global Detention Project Website Reach

	2025	2024
Pageviews	603,659	420,000
Visitors	443,864	302,991
Return Visitors	63,928	45,076
Report Downloads	7,108	6,377

### Most Visited Country Pages

1. United States
2. Libya
3. Mexico
4. Saudi Arabia
5. Malaysia
6. Canada
7. Türkiye
8. Qatar
9. Kuwait
10. Egypt

### Most Visited Detention Centres

1. Dubai Central Jail for Men (United Arab Emirates)
2. Everglades Detention Facility/ 'Alligator Alcatraz' (USA)
3. Kajang Prison for Men (Malaysia)
4. Centro de Retencion Haina (Dominican Republic)
5. West Texas Detention Facility (USA)
6. Centre de Détention Montréal (Canada)
7. Al Shumaisi Detention Centre (Saudi Arabia)
8. Sungai Buloh Prison (Malaysia)
9. Guantanamo Migrant Operations Centre (USA)
10. Sweihan Immigration Jail (United Arab Emirates)

# THE GDP TEAM AND GOVERNANCE

## STAFF

### Michael Flynn, Executive Director

Michael founded the Global Detention Project in 2006 while a student at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, where he received his PhD in International Relations. He previously was a project director at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C.; a coordinator at the Graduate Institute's Programme for the Study of Global Migration; and an editor at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists in Chicago.

### Abdulaziz Muhamat, Refugee Advocacy Coordinator

Abdulaziz Muhamat is an internationally recognised human rights defender and advocate for refugee rights. His efforts have earned him prestigious accolades, including the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, the Australian Human Rights Commission Media Award, the Walkley Awards, and recognition from the New York Radio Festivals. Through storytelling, public speaking, and media engagement, he continues to raise awareness and push for meaningful change.

### Katie Welsford, Communications Coordinator and Researcher

Katie has a background in non-profit communications and journalism specialising in conflict and displacement. She previously worked for the AMAR International Charitable Foundation and Reach All Women in War. As a freelance journalist, she has published in The Guardian, Daily Beast, and Le Monde Diplomatique. She holds an MSc in Political Science from the University of London's Birkbeck College.

### Chloe Fung, Research Fellow

Chloe is a researcher with a particular interest in data analysis and visualisation to advance rights protection and transparency. Previously, she was part of the first research project studying immigration detention in Hong Kong (2020 – 2023), during which time she spearheaded data gathering and built the first online data repository on the topic. She has a background in legal and policy research on refugee status determination procedures, right to work, and resettlement in East Asia.

▼ Aerial view of Gijilan Prison, Kosovo (Google Earth)



L-R: Fatih Barsak (GDP Research Fellow), Abdelaziz Muhamat (GDP Refugee Advocacy Coordinator), and Silvana Maeder (GDP Research Fellow) (Global Detention Project)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS (2025)

Members of the Executive Committee serve in an individual capacity. We have included their organisational affiliations purely for the purpose of identification.

## GOVERNANCE

A non-profit association under Swiss law, the Global Detention Project (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, who participate on a voluntary basis, may appoint a 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. The association also 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, helping to ensure that the GDP's outputs meet the highest standards, providing advice on research, suggesting areas to focus GDP efforts, and collaborating with staff on producing materials published by the association.

- Kirsten Sandberg** (University of Oslo) **Interim President of the Board**
- George Kourous** (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) **Vice President of the Board**
- Yves Klein** (Monfrini Bitton Klein) **Secretary of the Board**
- Pierre-Eric Simon** (Processus Immobilier SA) **Treasurer of the Board**
- Sahar Okhovat** (NSW Inspector of Custodial Services) **Member of the Board**
- Meghna Abraham** (Independent Consultant/ Founding Chair)
- Megan Day Paterson-Brown** (Webster University)
- Seta Margossian Hadesian** (Middle East Council of Churches)
- Michaela Told** (HumanImpact5/HI5)

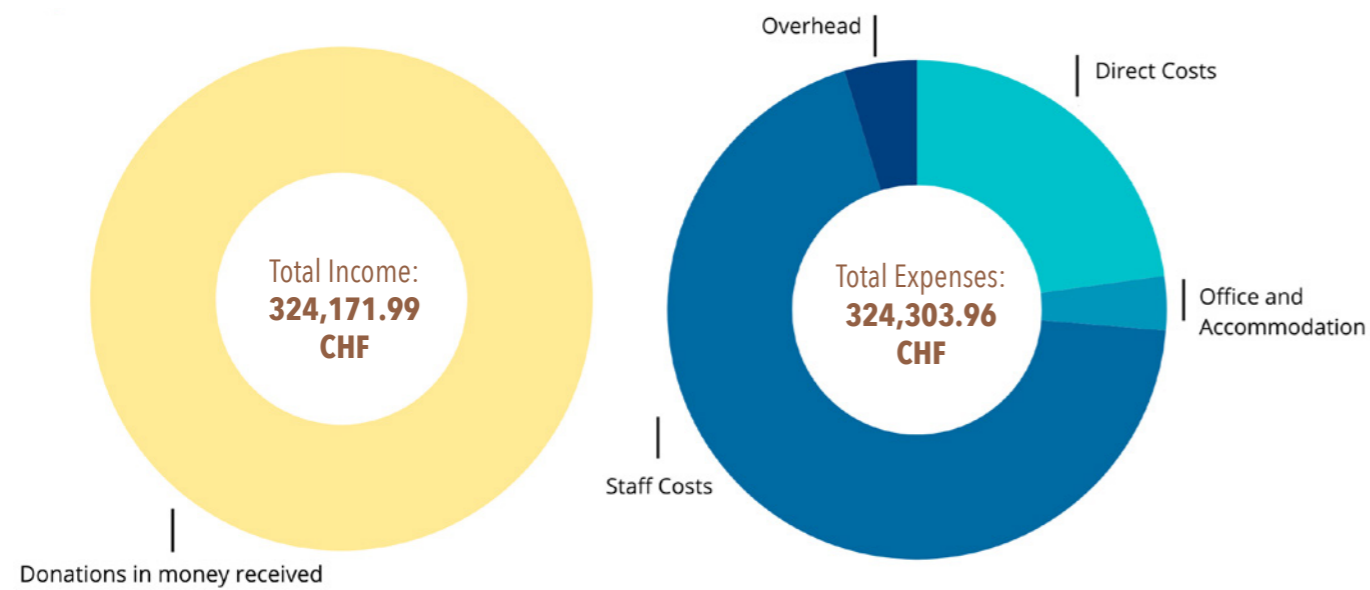
## ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (2025)

- François Crépeau** (McGill University)
- Jeff Crisp** (Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford)
- Matthew Flynn** (Georgia Southern University)
- Niels Frenzen** (University of Southern California)
- Elsbeth Guild** (Radboud University)
- Jussi Hanhimäki** (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)
- Donald Kerwin** (Journal on Migration and Human Security)
- Daniel Wilsher** (City University London)

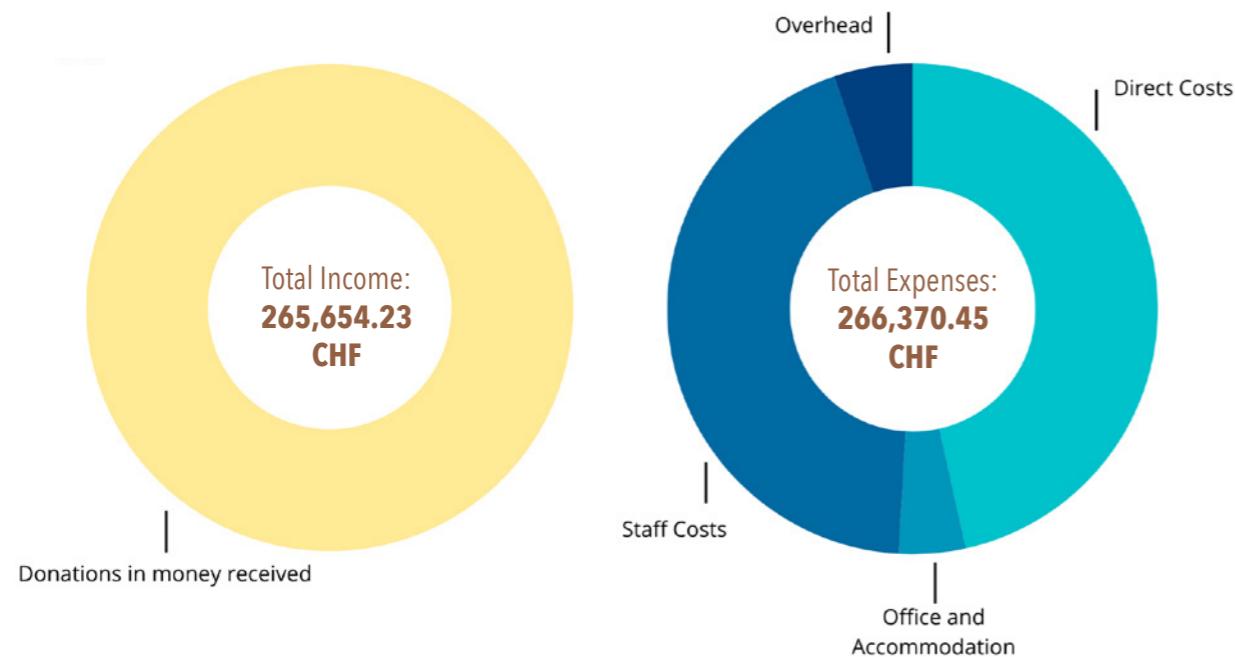
# FINANCES

This is an extract of the Global Detention Project's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2025. To request a copy of the full audit, please email [admin@globaldetentionproject.org](mailto:admin@globaldetentionproject.org).

## 2025 - INCOME AND EXPENSES



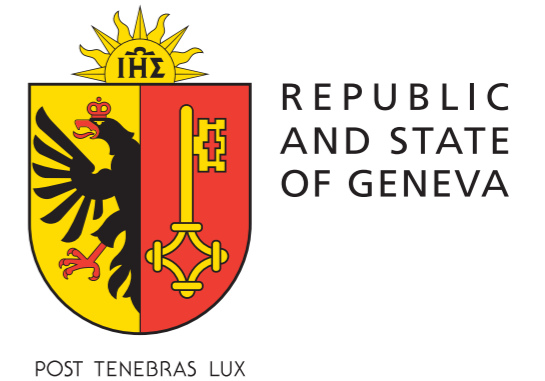
## 2024 - INCOME AND EXPENSES



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are extremely grateful to our financial supporters—including the **Oak Foundation**, the **State and the City of Geneva**, **Loterie Romande**, and numerous individual supporters—whose trust and steadfast support makes our work possible.

We would also like to thank our partners and numerous individuals around the world who collaborated with us in 2025, including: Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network; Association for Solidarity with Refugees (Mülteci-Der); Centre d'Etudes en Sciences Sociales sur les Mondes des Africains, Américains et Asiatiques (CESSMA); Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matias de Cordova; Collective Aid; Committee for Justice; Cross Cultural Foundation; Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux (FTDES); Hotline for Refugees and Migrants; Human Rights Monitoring Institute; International Legal Initiative; International Refugee Rights Association; Lawyers for Human Rights; Lebanese Center for Human Rights; Level73; Myanmar Ethics Organization; North South Initiative; Observatorio Migrantes del Caribe (OBMICA); Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; ONG JMED Niger; Quaker United Nations Office; Réseau Migration Développement Droits Humains (REMIDDH); Sahra Moallim; Silvana Maeder; Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (Association for Legal Intervention); Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights; and the World Organisation against Torture.





Global Detention Project  
3 rue de Varembé  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
[admin@globaldetentionproject.org](mailto:admin@globaldetentionproject.org)  
[www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org)