

APPENDIX C: TIMELINE OF EVENTS AND ADVOCACY RESULTS

Timeline: Ending Drug Detention

A chronology of key work by OSF and grantees, as well as [advocacy results](#).

2008

- PHP staff meets with NGO representatives from Vietnam, Cambodia, and China, learns of hundreds of thousands of people held in forced detention centers (July).
- PHP initiates contact with informants in several countries to gather details and extent of drug detention abuses (August).
- PHP convenes “kickoff” meeting in Geneva including rights advocates, NGO reps, and former detainees, and briefs Committee Against Torture and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (November).
- Human Rights Watch releases report, *An Unbreakable Cycle: Drug Dependency, Mandatory Confinement, and HIV/AIDS in China’s Guangxi Province* (December).

2009

- OSF releases *At What Cost? HIV and Human Rights Consequences of the Global “War on Drugs”* at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs High-Level Segment (March).
- OSF publishes fact sheet *Human Rights Abuses in the Name of Drug Treatment: Reports from the Field*.
- PHP and DC Office meet with officials at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator and Department of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor to brief them on drug detention and forced labor in Asia (March).
- PHP organizes major session “Compulsory Drug Dependence Treatment Centres: Costs, Rights and Evidence” at International Harm Reduction Conference in Bangkok (April).
- [US State Department Human Rights Report includes attention to drug detention centers in Vietnam \(included in every report since\) \(June\)](#).
- DC office staff meets with US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement to share concerns about abusive drug treatment centers (September).
- PHP organizes “Treatment Not Torture” panel at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference in Albuquerque (November).

2010

- Human Rights Watch releases report *“Where Darkness Knows No Limits”: Incarceration, Ill-Treatment, and Forced Labor as Drug Rehabilitation in China* (January).
- Human Rights Watch releases report *“Skin on the Cable”: The Illegal Arrest, Arbitrary Detention and Torture of People Who Use Drugs in Cambodia* (January).
- PHP staff author “In Rehabilitation’s Name? Ending Institutionalized Cruelty and Degrading Treatment of People Who Use Drugs” in the *International Journal of Drug Policy* (February).
- OSF engages Hastings Center to explore ethics of funding health services in abusive settings (February).

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- PHP and DC Office staff visit Vietnam and talk to recently released detainees, brief US State Department and representatives of implementing agencies in country on forced labor and rights violations there (February).
- PHP staff visit Cambodia, meet with UNODC, UNAIDS, World Health Organization, and US State Department officials to urge them to avoid support for drug detention centers (February).
- PHP and DC Office convene meeting of donors, humanitarian actors, and implementers in Washington, DC to discuss Hastings findings and educate program implementers on humanitarian standards and ways of working (March).
- PHP and DC Office meet with International Labor Rights Forum to propose work on drug detention centers in Vietnam (March).
- PHP, DC office staff, and partners meet with US officials – Office of National Drug Control Policy, Department of Labor, Department of State, Health and Human Services, Senate and House Committees on Foreign Affairs – to brief them about abuses and forced labor in detention centers (March).
- [State Department Human Rights Report includes attention to drug detention centers in China and Cambodia \(in addition to Vietnam\) \(April\).](#)
- OSF and the Nossal Institute for Global Health publish *Detention as Treatment: Detention of Methamphetamine Users in Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand* (May).
- PHP and DC Office staff meet with US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to share accounts of forced labor in Vietnam (June).
- [Global Fund Executive Director, Michel Kazatchkine, meets with Deputy Prime Minister from Vietnam and expresses concern about detention centers \(July\).](#)
- OSF sponsors session on “HIV Risk and Compulsory Centres for Drug Users” with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime at the International AIDS Conference (July).
- [Malaysia launches voluntary “Cure and Care” centers as an alternative to forced treatment \(July\).](#)
- [Special Rapporteur on Health issues thematic report exploring drug detention \(August\).](#)
- [UNICEF withdraws support for Choam Chao detention center in Cambodia and it closes \(September\).](#)
- Hungarian Civil Liberties Union releases video, “Abuse in the Name of Treatment – Drug Detention Centers in Asia” (September).
- PHP and Hastings Center staff author “The Limits of Equivalence: Ethical Dilemmas in Providing Care in Drug Detention Centers” in the *International Journal of Prisoner Health* (November).
- [UN Reference Group on HIV and Injecting Drug Use calls for drug detention centers to be shut down \(December\).](#)
- PHP staff author “Human Rights and HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care for People Who Inject Drugs: Key Principles and Research Needs” in *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* (December).

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2011

- PHP Campaign to Stop Torture in Health Care releases video, “Violence is not the Solution” about abusive drug detention in Cambodia (March).
- PHP and DC Office staff visit Vietnam and talk to recently released detainees, brief US State Department representatives in country on forced labor and human rights abuses in the centers (March).
- PHP staff visit Cambodia, meet with UN officials and US State Department staff to press them to denounce detention centers (March).
- [The World Medical Association issues a statement calling for closure of drug detention centers \(May\).](#)
- PHP Campaign to Stop Torture in Health Care publishes *Treated with Cruelty: Abuses in the Name of Drug Rehabilitation and Treatment or Torture? Applying International Human Rights Standards to Drug Detention Centers* (June).
- [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issues concluding observations critical of Cambodia’s detention of children for so-called drug treatment \(June\).](#)
- LICADHO releases *Still Beyond Capacity: A Progress Report on Cambodia’s Exploding Prison Population*, which criticizes drug detention (July).
- [Chinese government issues order limiting forced labor in drug detention centers to six hours a day \(September\).](#)
- Human Rights Watch releases report, *The Rehab Archipelago: Forced Labor and Other Abuses in Drug Detention Centers in Southern Vietnam* (September).
- Human Rights Watch releases report, *Somsanga’s Secrets: Arbitrary Detention, Physical Abuse, and Suicide Inside a Lao Drug Detention Center* (October).
- [UNODC issues guidance note for staff on promotion and protection of human rights in their projects \(November\).](#)
- [Special Rapporteur on Health visits Vietnam and calls for closure of centers \(November/December\).](#)
- [American Apparel and Footwear Association sends letter to Vietnamese officials expressing concern about forced labor in detention centers and supply chain uncertainties \(December\).](#)
- [ONDCP and NIDA issue statement voicing concerns about Vietnam’s approach to drug treatment \(December\).](#)

2012

- PHP and DC Office staff meet with the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator to share new findings and press them for a policy on work inside drug detention centers (February).
- [Twelve UN agencies issue joint statement calling for closure of drug detention centers and human rights-based alternatives \(March\).](#)
- [Committee on the Rights of the Child includes critique of drug detention centers in its concluding observations on Vietnam \(May/June\).](#)
- OSF and Harm Reduction International author *Partners in Crime: International Funding for Drug Control and Gross Violations of Human Rights* (June).

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- PHP staff visit Vietnam, meet with recently released detainees, and brief UNODC and PEPFAR officials, as well as diplomats at the US and Australian embassies about funding and programming that has contributed to the continuation of the detention center model. [UNODC affirms that no more funding will go toward detention centers \(June\)](#).
- [Vietnam reforms Ordinance on Handling of Administrative Violations, requiring independent medical assessment and court process prior to drug detention \(June\)](#).
- Human Rights Watch releases summary report, *Torture in the Name of Treatment: Human Rights Abuses in Vietnam, China, Cambodia and Lao PDR* (July).
- OSF organizes session “Detention as ‘Treatment’ – Administrative Detention of Drug Users and Sex Workers” at the International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC (July).

2013

- [Special Rapporteur on Torture issues thematic report on torture in health care settings, including drug detention centers \(February/March\)](#).
- Fellow of Latin America Program/Social Science Research Council reports widespread detention of drug users in private evangelical centers in Guatemala (February).
- PHP commissions brief for Committee Against Torture on Guatemala situation (April).
- [Committee Against Torture visits Guatemala and includes recommendations on drug treatment centers in their concluding observations \(May\)](#).
- [Global Fund announces that funding for health services in Vietnam’s drug detention centers will be contingent upon access for human rights monitors \(May\)](#).
- [US Department of Labor for the first time includes forced labor in Vietnam’s detention centers in their Trafficking in Persons report \(June\)](#).
- [US government adopts policy of “inreach,” with no funding for staff in detention centers and HIV medical services delivered by visiting personnel \(June\)](#).
- [Vietnamese government invites people who use drugs to share their experiences in drug detention centers \(June\)](#).
- PHP consultant visits Laos and meets with UNODC, UNDP, and US State Department officials to share progress toward closure in Vietnam and press them to stop supporting activities to build the capacity of drug detention centers in Laos (July).
- [US Department of Labor includes Vietnamese garments in their list of products made with forced or child labor \(due to advocacy on detention centers\) \(July\)](#).
- OSF sponsors panel “Compulsory Centers for Detention of Drug Users” at the International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (November).
- [Vietnamese government issues “Renovation Plan” to convert more than half of centers to voluntary \(December\)](#).

2014

- International Labor Rights Forum issues report, *Vietnam’s Forced Labor Centers: New Evidence Shows that Forced Labor and Other Abuses Continue in Vietnam’s Drug Detention Centers* (January).
- [International Labor Organization issues formal observation expressing concern about forced labor in drug detention centers in Vietnam \(February\)](#).

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- OSF authors chapter “Privatizing Cruelty – Torture, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment in Non-Governmental Drug Rehabilitation Centers” in *Torture in Healthcare Settings: Reflections on the Special Rapporteur on Torture’s 2013 Thematic Report* (March).
- PHP staff visit Vietnam, meet with government officials to learn about plans for community-based treatment and advocate for an evidence-based approach where abstinence is not the only measure of success. Also meet with US embassy officials to strategize about a program to monitor detention centers (November).
- [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria issues policy stating that they will not, as a general principle, fund activities related to compulsory treatment \(November\).](#)

2015

- Mexican NGOs CUIHD and COACTI launch reports and joint videos on abuses in private drug treatment centers at a public event at the Human Rights Commission of Mexico’s Federal District (February).
- CUIHD holds a public forum jointly with a Senator from the state of Baja California, Mexico on abuses in private drug treatment centers in that state (February).
- Human Rights Office of the Archbishop launches their report on drug detention in Guatemala (April).
- FUMAV holds a public forum to launch their report on drug detention in Colombia (May).
- Intercambios Puerto Rico and COIN hold a joint forum in the Dominican Republic on the findings of their reports on abuses in private drug treatment centers (May).
- Intercambios Puerto Rico issues report, *Humiliation and Abuse in “Drug Treatment” Centers in Puerto Rico*, to wide media coverage (May).
- Largest “drug treatment” center in Puerto Rico sues to get names of informants and accuses Intercambios of libel (June).
- [The Human Rights Commission of Puerto Rico announces that it will investigate independent accounts of abuses in drug detention centers \(June\).](#)
- Forum Mineiro de Saude Mental in Brazil holds a public forum on the release of their report and video (July).
- OSF submits request for a thematic hearing in front of the Interamerican Commission for Human Rights (outcome pending) (July).
- [Statistics show that the number of people detained in Vietnam’s centers has reduced by ¾ since we began our work in 2008 \(July\).](#)
- OSF publishes report *No Health, No Help: Abuse as Drug Rehabilitation in Latin America and the Caribbean* synthesizing reports from six countries (forthcoming).