

# Human Rights Watch

## Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2012/07/24/drug-detention-centers-offer-torture-not-treatment>

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UN, Donors Should Push for Immediate Closure and Community-Based Services

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Access to drug dependency treatment within the centers was either restricted to a small subset of the centers population, who were also required to adhere to a rigid and punishing forced labor regimen, or nonexistent. Huong Son, who was detained for four years in a drug detention center in Vietnam, said, No treatment for the disease of addiction was available there. Once a month or so we marched around for a couple of hours chanting slogans.

Human Rights Watch also found evidence that children were detained in drug detention centers in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Lao PDR, and subjected to the same treatments, including forced labor, military exercises, and physical and sexual abuse.

Drug detention centers jeopardize the health and human rights of detainees, Amon said. They are ineffective, abusive, and are detaining people in violation of international law. Mandatory HIV testing was common in Chinas drug treatment centers, but test results were not always disclosed to patients. A former detainee in Guangxi Province, China, said, I was tested in detox twice for HIV but was never told the result. Then when I got out I was so sick that I went to the clinic. I was scared of getting arrested, but I have a son and I didnt want to die. They tested me and told me I have AIDS. Unprotected sex and unsafe drug use occur in the treatment centers, but condoms and safe injecting equipment are not available.

Donors should recognize that they cannot credibly call for the immediate release of all individuals in drug detention centers while continuing to conduct research and provide support and assistance as if these are legitimate treatment centers, Amon said. Individuals in these centers are being held illegally, abused, and denied care.

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