



United Nations Committee against Torture
September 30, 2008

Committee Members
United Nations Committee against Torture

**Re: Fourth Periodic Report of China, 41st session of the Committee against Torture
coercive drug dependence treatment and potential cruel inhuman or degrading
treatment or punishment**

Dear Committee Members,

We write in advance of the upcoming Committee against Torture periodic review of China and submit information regarding the government's policies and practices on coercive drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention, treatment and care for people detained in detoxification and re-education through labour centres.

China's continued engagement in the periodic reporting process to the Committee is commended, as are the initiatives and improvements relating to the implementation of the Convention set out in the State party's fourth periodic report. We welcome the opportunity for positive discussion between the Committee and the State party.

We welcome the emphasis placed by the Committee in the "List of Issues" on questions that address concerns about re-education through labour and rehabilitation centres; about police training with regard to torture and ill-treatment of vulnerable persons; and about the health status of detainees with HIV and AIDS. The issues we raise in this letter relate to these questions in order to facilitate a thorough discussion with the Chinese delegation.

In particular, we wish to raise potential cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment of drug users detained in coercive drug dependence treatment and re-education through labour centres – including gaps in HIV prevention, treatment and care for those detainees.

The information we present is based on in-depth interviews by Human Rights Watch with drug users who had been detained in forced detoxification and/or re-education centres; NGO workers, health care workers, and security officials with experience in forced detoxification and/or re-education through labour centres; government officials from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and provincial and city health departments; and staff at methadone and AIDS clinics during research missions in 2007 in Guangxi Province (publication forthcoming) and in 2002 and 2003 in Yunnan Province (published in "Locked Doors: The Human Rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS in China," attached and available at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2004/lockeddoors>).

online at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/china0803/china0903ruil.pdf>), and rese
UNAIDS and other international health experts on this issue (cited below).

Our specific recommendations for points of discussion with the State party are set ou
of this letter.