Reviewer's report

Title: Migration-related detention centers: the challenge of an ecological perspective with a focus on justice

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Reviewer: shakeh moamrtin

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Does the debate present a novel argument, or a novel insight into existing work?
The current report is certainly a novel investigation and innovative argument into an existing topic of research, and the original insight into an area which has been researched previously in different light, was interesting. As a researcher into trauma and clinical consequences of detention, the present report offering an ecological perspective, and their multiple effects on the people exposed to them was definitely new and innovative to me and an area which to my knowledge, has not been examined before.

Does the debate address an important problem of interest to a broad biomedical audience?
The debate addresses an important problem of interest to broad biomedical onlookers, because although asylum seekers, trauma sequelae and individual consequences have been examined and reported, the present report acknowledges the importance of adopting an ecological perspective to study migrants’ experiences as entrenched in local contexts, and as a context-dependent dynamic influenced by power inequities.

Is the piece well argued and referenced? Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation?
The manuscript is well referenced and well organized, separated with appropriate headings and sub headings, making it easier to follow and read. Figures appear to be genuine and sincere. To my knowledge, there is no evidence of manipulation of figures.

5. Has the author used logical arguments and sound reasoning? Is the piece written well enough for publication? (nb. Since we do not charge for access to published research, we cannot undertake the costs of editing poorly written manuscript. If you tell us that the writing is not acceptable for publication, we will ask the authors to find someone, or an editing service, to help them rewrite it. If you tell us that the manuscript is too poorly written for it to be peer reviewed, we will ask them to rewrite it now.)

Author’s arguments seem to be logical, following logical thought, explanations and pattern. I especially appreciated the logical and sound description of the location, designs and conditions of detention centres, where the authors acknowledged that their geographical location (for example remote and deserted areas where detention centres are built) presence of barbed wires, metal
detectors, security doors, CCTV cameras, barred windows, present an austerity and philosophy of prison dimensions, adding to the challenges of coping with prolonged detention. Moreover, the importance of cultural sensitivity in detention centres was also mentioned which is of upmost importance in such stressful conditions. The manuscript writing style is very well, easy to read and understand.

Although the following comment can be ignored, it would have been interesting to include a small section to mention the individual human cost in terms of clinical consequences following prolonged detention such as high depression, anxiety, PTSD or suicidality in some detainees. I acknowledge that the present manuscript has a different focus than individual aspects of detention and is focused more on the ecological characteristics of detention, however, it would have been interesting to mention in a little more detail clinical findings by previous authors, demonstrating the aftermath of prolonged detention, as it can cause very different outcomes for people following detention.

Considering the human cost of detention, bearing in mind the health, well-being and human rights of detainees, this is a very important and vital topic to be examined. The high complexity of the multi-level challenges faced by the scholars and professionals who work in this area, makes it difficult to investigate the various aspects of detention. The human cost and the environmental cost together represent a complicated methodology, which needs more attention and investigation. This type of study is vital and should take place hand in hand with clinical studies examining consequences and processes of prolonged detention in order for professionals to foster the health, equality and human rights of those exposed to these contexts, at the same time plan more effective method to help and treat them.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests