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Portrayal of Vietnamese Boat People in the Hong Kong Media

The two and a half decades of Vietnamese Boat People crisis was marked by changing policies from open camps to closed camps and detention centres. One significant change was the increased population in closed camps and detention centres, who lived in segregation from the locals. As personal contact decreased, the local press became the main channel through which life behind the wired fences was presented to the public.

By looking at images from local newspaper and magazine, this paper will look at the changing visual representation of Vietnamese Boat People in the local media between 1975 and the 1990s, and argue that its portrayal facilitated the administration's expedient and inhumane handling of the Vietnamese Boat People.