

Global

Diplomacy or denialism: World leaders heading towards monumental failure in tackling global drug problem at UN summit

Press release: International Drug Policy Consortium (13/03)

In April 2016, world leaders will gather in New York to decide on the future of global drug policy, at the first UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the topic in two decades. Over 200 civil society groups from all over the world today **released a statement** condemning governments for failing to acknowledge the devastating consequences of punitive and repressive drug policies as they prepare for the UN summit.

Australia

Methamphetamine residue in wastewater shows 5-fold increase in consumption

The University of Queensland News, (07/03)

Over 1000 samples were taken in one regional and one metropolitan area between 2009 and 2015, revealing a 4.8 times increase in the metropolitan area, and a 3.4 times increase in the regional area. The report follows a recent University of Queensland study that recorded 270,000 regular methamphetamine users in Australia, an increase of over 50,000 since 2014.

Recreational Marijuana Considered In Senate Committee Hearing

Huffington Post (11/03)

A senate committee has held a hearing in Sydney on the legalisation of marijuana for recreational purposes, as part of a series of hearings on personal choice and community impacts.

Doing drugs differently

The Age (12/03)

Does Australia have the courage to changes drug laws in ways that will actually save lives?

Victorian Premier blasted for not allowing safe injecting rooms

The Australian (14/03)

One of Australia's foremost criminal barristers has attacked Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews for failing to give "mature consideration" to a safe injecting facility in Melbourne.

Indonesia

President will raise status of narcotics agency head to ministerial level

Antara News (10/03)

President Joko Widodo has promised to raise the status of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) to ministerial level, after claiming that narcotics trafficking topped the list of problems facing Indonesia. The president estimated that half of all drugs in Indonesia are circulated within correctional institutions.

Japan

[National Police Agency reports 40% rise in young cannabis law offenders](#)

The Japan News (11/03)

The NPA said the figures reflect a trend among young people turning away from New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in favour of cannabis, following wider recognition of their danger and the imposition of tighter controls. More than 70% of those recorded were first time offenders.

[Japan-UNODC sign project on border security in Pakistan](#)

Asia News Network (11/03)

Japan has offered \$6.5 million in assistance to the UNODC in Pakistan, with the hope of curbing drug trafficking in the region. The UNODC Pakistan will implement the project, with funding being allocated to the controversial Anti Narcotics Force (ANF), among other law enforcement agencies, as well as a 'triangular initiative' intended to facilitate greater cooperation between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

Malaysia

[Police to address increasing crime cases — Zahid](#)

The Borneo Post, (14/03)

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who also serves as chairman of the Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) has said that the MCPF management committee chairman "will plan a series of programmes and activities to reach out to the community as well as engage respective government agencies such as the National Anti Drug Agency (AADK). After that, we will be organising a series of campaigns throughout the country with one of the focuses on drug education, drug prevention and creating awareness among the community of the dangers of drug abuse."

Myanmar

[Myanmar Christian Group attacks drug trade at its source](#)

USA Today (10/03)

Pat Jasan's popularity is fueled by fear that society is disintegrating at Myanmar's fringe. The unchecked flow of meth and heroin in their homeland has reduced already-poor villages to dismal places, haunted by skeletal men who'll sell their family's last chicken for another high. Now the movement is growing bolder. In recent months, the vigilantes have graduated from smacking around addicts and forcing them into primitive rehab camps. They've started attacking the drug trade at its source: poppy fields under the control of "Border Guard Forces" and "People's Militia Forces," armed units that answer to the national military.

New Zealand

[NZ likely to follow Australia on medical cannabis](#)

Radio NZ (11/03)

New Zealand is likely to follow Australia once it provides medical cannabis for use, says Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne.

[Time to regulate cannabis industry](#)

Stuff.co.nz (13/03)

Currently, the New Zealand cannabis industry is worth millions of dollars per year and is totally unregulated due to the legal status of cannabis. This has led to all sale and distribution being controlled by career criminals who have no ethics when it comes to selling this product to children or trying to push harder damaging drugs to their customers.

Vietnam

[Hà Nội police force ramps up drug fight](#)

Vietnam News (10/03)

The city police department are planning to launch a new campaign against drug trafficking in the next year, with greater national cooperation planned between sea police, customs and airport security, and increased cross border cooperation with neighbouring countries, including China, Lao and Cambodia.

Gloria Lai

Senior Policy Officer

International Drug Policy Consortium

glai@idpc.net

Tel: +66 (0) 826960334

Based in Bangkok, Thailand

www.idpc.net

Find us on [Facebook](#)

Gino Vumbaca

President

Harm Reduction Australia

M: 0408-244-552

E: gino@3vc.com.au

W: <http://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au>

T: <https://twitter.com/harmreductionau>

JOIN HRA NOW <https://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au/join-hra/>