

## Global & Regional

### [Bernie Sanders Joins World Leaders, Celebrities In Call For Overhaul Of Global Drug Policy](#)

**Huffington Post (14/04)**

Over 1,000 politicians, rock stars, activists and artists are calling for more humane global drug laws

### [Mounting International Resistance to U.S. Drug War Strategy](#)

**The National Interest (15/04)**

In the upcoming UN meeting, the United States will probably no longer be leading the charge in favor of staying the prohibition course. That “honor” will go to countries like Russia, China, and Saudi Arabia. If Washington were both wise and courageous, it would move from its current posture of uncertainty and ambivalence and lead the forces of reform. That would truly be a welcome change and represent enlightened statesmanship.

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## Australia

### [VIDEO: Should ice addicts be forced into rehabilitation?](#)

**ABC Net (12/04)**

The government in western Australia has announced a possible amendment to the mental health act, to enable authorities to detain drug users without conviction or charge in forced rehabilitation facilities.

### [Medicinal cannabis legalised in Victoria, child epilepsy patients to be given access from 2017](#)

**ABC News (12/04)**

Victoria has become the first state in Australia to legalise the use of medicinal cannabis.

### [Parliament passes child protection legislation a year after Chloe Valentine coronial inquest findings](#)

**The Advertiser (15/04)**

The Family First party of southern Australia have proposed a set of rules that would see compulsory drug tests for parents suspected of abusing drugs and alcohol.

### [Barnaby Joyce launches what could be Australia's first medicinal cannabis farm in NSW](#)

**ABC Net (15/04)**

Acting Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce launched the 47 hectare property, which will be used for growing cannabis should a proposed change of law take place in New South Wales permitting cultivation for medicinal purposes. Mr Joyce stated that society should do “everything in [its] power” to ensure that those who are ill get the medicinal help they need.

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## China

### [Communist Party Honcho Turns Godfather of Meth Gets Death Sentence](#)

**The Daily Beast (13/04)**

Ex-Chinese branch secretary turned Meth dealer was sentenced to death last month on trafficking and corruption charges. Held up as a victory in the country’s war on drugs, his conviction is unlikely to stem the huge demand and ready availability of precursor chemicals in the country.

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## Indonesia

### [Indonesia to execute 40 for Drug trafficking](#)

**Eagle Reporters (12/04)**

The Indonesian government has announced its readiness to execute 40 people sentenced to death for drug trafficking, with the executions expected to take place some time in May.

### [Rights activists demand Indonesia end use of death penalty](#)

**UCA News (14/04)**

Pointing to Indonesia's ratification of the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading treatment or punishment (1998) and an increase in the number of drug users in Indonesia following the resumption of the death penalty, The Indonesia Coalition on the abolition of the Death Penalty staged a protest imploring the government to abandon capital punishment.

### [Police in Indonesia Test Themselves for Drugs amid Anti-Drug Campaign](#)

**Herald Tribune (15/04)**

Police officers in the province of Aceh are expected to carry out drugs tests among their own officers at least once per year, as a part of anti-drug campaign which is attempting to put internal pressure the police and set an example for the public. Of the hundreds of urine samples tested in Monday, three or four are thought to have produced suspicious results.

### [Indonesia Declares War on Drugs, Needs To Plug Smuggling from Malaysia](#)

**Antara News (17/04)**

The Indonesian government has declared a war against drugs and the authorities have intensified security measures to thwart illicit drug smuggling into the country. Chairman of the United Malay Organization (LMB) Datuk Panglima Azman Zainal in Karimun, Riau Islands Province, recently urged the Indonesian government to hold talks with Malaysia regarding efforts to curb drug smuggling attempts in the border area between Riau Islands in Indonesia and Malaysia.

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## India

### [Congress will eradicate drug menace from Punjab: Rahul Gandhi](#)

**Times of India (16/04)**

Reiterating his stand on the drug menace in Punjab, Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi on Saturday emphasised that if the Congress government comes to power in the state, the problem will be eradicated within months and that the current state government was turning a "blind eye" to the dilemma.

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## Iran

### [Iranian VP Summoned to Judiciary for Commenting on High Execution Rate of Drug Traffickers](#)

**IranHumanRights.org (13/04)**

Shahindokht Mowlaverdi, Iran's vice president for Women and Family Affairs has been summoned to the prosecutors office after making comments about the lack of social support for the families of executed drug traffickers in the village of Sistan, Baluchistan, where allegedly the entire male population was executed for drug offenses. The province is the poorest in the country and has the highest rate of executions per capita.

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## New Zealand

### [Time to end insane war on drugs](#)

**Newstalk ZB (15/04)**

So after 40 years has the war on drugs been successful? Not even remotely so. It's estimated that the global drug trade is now worth \$320 billion a year. The so called war has failed to lower the level of the trade. In fact it is increasing exponentially. It is anything but eradicated. It's flourishing.

## [NZ's first medicinal cannabis charity fundraising for 10 patients to get treatment](#)

**Stuff.co.nz (16/04)**

New Zealand's first medicinal cannabis charity is fundraising to provide patients with the unfunded drugs.

## [Current Drug Laws Support Racial Profiling](#)

**Scoop (17/04)**

Dr Lance O'Sullivan says New Zealand's current drug laws, which criminalise the possession of small amounts of cannabis, lead to poor outcomes for young Maori men in particular. Dr O'Sullivan supports treating low level drug crime as a health issue, with better support services available to people whose lives are affected by drug use.

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## **Philippines**

### [Presidential aspirant vows all out war on drugs](#)

**Tempo (14/04)**

Vice presidential aspirant Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero yesterday vowed that the entire government force, including the military, would be tapped by the Poe administration to combat illegal drugs as a matter of policy. He also announced that mandatory drug tests among government officials would take place on an annual basis.

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## **Thailand**

### [ONCB launches drug-detecting operation at Suvarnabhumi airport](#)

**Thai Visa News (12/04)**

The Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) launched the operation "Safe Songkran Without Drugs", a programme designed to detect drugs in the urine of public vehicle drivers to reduce road accidents, and to encourage travellers to avoid those thought to be involved in drug trafficking.

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## **Vietnam**

### [Drug addiction is not social evil: Hanoi PEPFAR advisor](#)

**Tuoitre News (12/04)**

Substance abuse treatment advisor Kenneth W Robertson has said that recognising substance abuse disorders and addictions as diseases and not "moral failings" is key to tackling the drug problem in Vietnam.

### [Vietnam Drug Addicts In Mass Breakout](#)

**Sky News (14/04)**

A manhunt is underway after 450 people escaped from one of the nation's compulsory rehabilitation centres. 150 of the escapees, a mix of voluntary and compulsory inmates, have been found and bought back to the facility. But with 300 of the escapees still missing, the government is imploring families to send the escapees back to complete their treatment. US-based Human Rights Watch has described the centres as "forced labour camps", where inmates do not receive proper health care and are often subjected to physical violence.

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