

Global & Regional

[Global consensus and dissensus on drug policy](#)

Brookings.com (04/04)

U.N. member states will convene to reassess global drug policies. Some countries, particularly within Latin America and Western Europe, see the existing policies as ineffective and counterproductive. Others, particularly in East Asia and the Middle East (as well as Russia), staunchly support them. As a result of changing domestic policies, including state-level marijuana legalization, the United States is no longer interested in playing the role of the world's toughest drug cop.

[Mexico's most-feared drug cartels are infiltrating South East Asia](#)

South East Asia Globe (07/04)

Mexican cartel activity in the region has been apparent for many years, with the gangs often found purchasing precursor chemicals for eventual sale in the USA. However, recent increases in cartel activity in South East Asia is likely to be related to growing demand within the region itself.

[Will the global drug policy evolution hit SE Asia?](#)

Bangkok Post (09/04)

As the UNGASS approaches it is important to remember that the international drug control treaties do not mandate a war on drugs approach. Drug policy can, and should, include a balance of appropriate supply and demand reduction interventions, and be aligned with socio-economic development efforts including improved access to health care and social services. Governments should also keep in mind that dealing with demand for illicit drugs and ensuring access to public health services results in good public security.

[Does the death penalty target criminals or the poor?](#)

The Express Tribune (09/04)

Also among the top five countries for capital punishment was Iran which gave cause for moral outrage when it reportedly executed the entire male population of a village in the South for drug offences. Pakistan, in the meanwhile, carries the death sentence for, just a little behind in the horrible race to the bottom, 27 offences. By the middle of the year Saudi Arabia had executed at least 102 people and along within China, Iran and Pakistan, it accounted for 90 per cent of the executions in 2015. Saudi Arabia is known for its unfair trials, lethal intolerance for drug offences, and many Pakistani executed for being drug mules do not have adequate access to consular services or a fair trial.

[Same old drug lords](#)

Bangkok Post (10/04)

There's a new marshal in town. And let's stipulate that if Aung San Suu Kyi manages to improve 50% of the most important items on her to-do list she will be one of the most successful political leaders of all time. But her country's current drug policies -- and yes, they are policies -- not only corrupt Myanmar but the neighbours.

Australia

[Ecstasy could be used to treat PTSD](#)

The Conversation (06/04)

Nicola Lee, Associate professor at the National Drug Research Institute, looks at the history of the drug, citing the potential it has to help those that suffer Post-Traumatic stress Disorder (PTSD) to be more expressive during therapy.

[Drug expert says Australia's presence at UNGASS a waste of money](#)

The Guardian (08/04)

Dr Alex Wodak, from the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation, has said that Australia will not be listened to at the summit in New York, and that member states like it pursuing a more progressive agenda are best served by abandoning the search for international consensus on drugs, that is increasingly unlikely to be agreed.

['Compulsory' long-term rehab trial planned for WA's drug addicts and alcoholics](#)

Perth Now (10/04)

Drug 'addicts' and alcoholics will be locked up and forced to undergo compulsory rehab under a controversial trial planned for WA.

China

[China steps up punishment for drug crimes](#)

Shanghai Daily (07/04)

China's top court on Thursday released a new judicial interpretation on rules for drug-related convictions and sentencing, stepping up punishments. The document, issued by the Supreme People's Court (SPC), adopted stricter rules for ketamine by lowering the threshold for criminalization of the drug by half.

Indonesia

[Indonesia needs to increase cooperation with China, ASEAN against drugs](#)

The Jakarta Post (05/04)

In a recent UN-ASEAN meeting in Jarkarta, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) encouraged governments to develop systematic intelligence sharing and cooperation in the ASEAN region, targeting in particular drug traffickers and "big fish", rather than drug users and small sellers.

[Indonesia preparing to execute more foreign drug convicts](#)

Associated Press (07/04)

Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo is looking for the "right time" to carry out controversial executions of foreign drug convicts, in order to create a "deterrent effect". Fourteen people, mostly foreign nationals, were executed last year for drug crimes amid international outcry.

[Lawyer confident Indonesia's reprieve of Mary Jane Veloso still stands](#)

GMA News Online (08/04)

A Filipino lawyer of Mary Jane Veloso, the Filipina on death row in Indonesia for drug trafficking, believes her reprieve stands amid reports that Indonesia is set to resume executions of drug traffickers, including foreigners, this year.

[How Drugs Threaten the Country's Sovereignty, According to the Defense Minister](#)

Global Indonesian Voices (10/04)

The president's determination to eradicate drug trafficking and the high profile drug-related arrests over the past couple of months had incited Minister of Defense Ryamizard Ryacudu to plan drug tests for all military and police personnel including generals. "Drugs are among the things that threaten our sovereignty," said the minister while mentioning his plan to develop close coordination with BNN, the National Police (Polri) and the Armed Forces (TNI) in fighting drug dealers.

Myanmar

[Advocates Demand More 'Humane' Drug Policy Ahead of UN Summit](#)

The Irrawaddy (05/04)

During a public event in Rangoon on Monday, Burma's Drug Policy Advocacy Group (DPAG) demanded more humane drug policies at home, ahead of the upcoming UNGASS in New York. The group called for decriminalisation of drug users, voluntary treatment for addiction, and the assurance that drug laws and policies would fully comply with human rights.

New Zealand

[Kiwis spend \\$629m on illegal drugs as trafficking helps fuel organised crime](#)

TV NZ (08/04)

New Zealanders are spending more than half a billion dollars each year on illicit drugs, with trafficking helping fuel organised crime into other illegal areas.

Vietnam

[Vietnam prioritises combating drugs: Deputy PM](#)

Vietnam.net (06/04)

Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam voiced his satisfaction with Vietnam's drug prevention strategies and the INCB's assistance in the country's war against drugs, despite his acknowledgment of a rise in the availability of some substances and the failure of detoxification programmes for addicts.

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