

## Global & Regional

### [For the time being the 'war on drugs' will continue unabated](#)

**Australian Strategic Policy Institute (02/05)**

Reform minded advocates and member states have been left scratching their heads following UNGASS and asking what was achieved. But it is undeniable that there is a wider acceptance among the international community that punitive approaches are failing.

### [UNGASS: The World is Failing to Learn the Right Lessons from its 'War' on Drugs](#)

**The Wire (03/05)**

The United Nations persists with a conservative policy on drugs, even as the chorus for reform gets louder.

### [The drugs consensus is not pretty – it's been ripped apart at the seams](#)

**Huffington Post (03/05)**

For decades governments have proudly proclaimed a global consensus on drugs. In mid-April the biggest global drugs summit in 18 years took place at the UN and one thing was clear - that out-dated and damaging consensus is no more.

### [Germany to make medical marijuana legal early 2017; Australia's growth potential is huge](#)

**International Business Times (04/05)**

The whole world seems to be joining the "legalise marijuana" campaign with Germany stating its plans to legalise medicinal cannabis early 2017. Germany's Health Minister Hermann Groehe will be presenting the draft legislation to the German cabinet on Wednesday. He said that Germany's goal should be to treat seriously ill patients in the best possible way.

### [Region's harsh drug policies slammed by experts](#)

**Southeast Asia Globe (05/05)**

Following a UN conference on drugs last month, countries in the region are being accused of sticking with ineffective and harmful anti-drug policies

### [Why governments worldwide are changing tack in the war on drugs](#)

**The Guardian (07/05)**

Easily the most powerful way to reverse the catastrophic effects of wayward counter-narcotics policies is to regulate drugs. This has long been considered heresy, but attitudes are changing. There is growing acceptance that regulation can put governments in control.

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## Afghanistan

### [Afghan president inaugurates drug rehabilitation centre & calls upon Afghans to fight drug menace](#)

**Xinhuanet (04/05)**

Until recently, addicts were housed in an ex-US military compound on the eastern edge of Kabul, where they received treatment and vocational training. As some 1,500-drug addicts were shifted to the new National Rehabilitation Centre, Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani inaugurated the building and called on the population to help in the national fight against drugs.

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## Australia

### [NSW Govt's Stance Against Pill Testing Could Result In Trial Outside State](#)

#### **The Music (02/05)**

Due to the NSW Government's firm stance against pill testing, talks of the initiative have commenced with senior politicians and police in other states which could see it be trialled at summer music festivals throughout the country.

### [Australia's drug driving culture](#)

#### **Busselton-Dunsborough Mail (03/05)**

Road safety experts have called for a "shift" in culture following a study where 11 per cent of the 25-34 year olds surveyed admitted to drug driving within the past 12 months. Astoundingly, 19 per cent of those surveyed believed that driving under the influence of cocaine, ice or acid would not impact their ability to drive safely.

### [Former top cop Mick Palmer backs trial of a drug consumption room in Australia](#)

#### **ABC News (07/05)**

A high-profile former police chief has joined a group of doctors who want more safe centres for drug users to be rolled out in Australia's capital cities.

### [Scientific research using psychedelic drugs is surging overseas - why not here](#)

#### **Bendigo Advertiser (08/05)**

Fiona Patten, the Sex Party MP, has been lobbying for drug law reform for some time, mostly in the health and civil libertarian space, and believes an attitudinal shift is overdue. "The beauty of many of these substances – which is not great for anyone wanting to make money from them – is they don't need continued use."

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## Cambodia

### [Drug crackdown points to official involvement](#)

#### **VOA Cambodia (03/05)**

It has emerged that a shootout in the Phnom Penh on Saturday led to the deaths of at least one drug dealer, whose associates were found driving cars bearing police number plates.

### [A hard life in the shadows](#)

#### **Phnom Penh Post (09/05)**

For the past nine years, he has been purposefully rubbing shoulders with the capital's drug users and dealers to gain an insider's perspective on Phnom Penh's underworld. His work is a perpetual exercise in trust building, gaining the confidence of characters to whom the police might otherwise not have access.

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## Indonesia

### [Albert Heijn heir avoids death penalty in Indonesia on drug charges](#)

**NL Times (02/05)**

Indonesian authorities will not seek the death penalty against the heir of the family behind Albert Heijn grocery stores. He was arrested after a friend sent him a package of marijuana in the post, that he reportedly never took receipt of. Mr. Heijn could face 15 years in prison.

### [Next round of Indonesian executions doesn't include Mary Jane](#)

**Rappler (02/05)**

Out of "respect" for the legal processes taking place in the Philippines, Filipina Mary Jane Veloso, who is on death row for allegedly smuggling drugs into Indonesia, is not set to be included in the next round of executions by the Indonesian government.

### [Indonesia is preparing to execute prisoners, police official confirms](#)

**The Guardian (04/05)**

An Indonesian police official has confirmed that national firing squads have been in training, risking backlash from foreign governments with citizens on death row. President Joko Widodo's administration has said the executions are a necessary response to the country's "drug emergency".

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## India

### [BJP MP wants death sentence for those consuming drugs](#)

**The Times of India (02/05)**

A BJP party member called for reform of the "weak" NDPS bill by including the death penalty for those involved in the drug trade and anyone found consuming drugs. The comments were made during the Zero Hour of parliament, and were met with support by several party colleagues.

### [Terrorists, drug mafia, police and their shared love for Punjab's drug Chitta](#)

**dna India (03/05)**

Adjacent to Chakki river that separates Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, Bhadroya housed dozens of one-room hutments, used as pick-up points for 'Chitta' a local drug that has, in the last decade, plagued the entire state of Punjab. The unpaved roads that lead into Channi valley of Bhadroya had over the years become a part of the important route used by notorious drug syndicates of Punjab. A route that originates from Pakistan.

### ["Drug peddling allegations have embarrassed BJP"](#)

**Times of India (05/05)**

Local MLA and chief parliamentary secretary Som Parkash has admitted that allegations of drug peddling, which have been circulating the Phagwara unit of the BJP, have deeply embarrassed the party.

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## Malaysia

### [Dedicated courts necessary, says Malaysian Crime Prevention Vice Chair](#)

**The Star Online (03/05)**

The Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation vice-chair, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, said the new courts would help to clear the backlog of drug cases and facilitate police work. In the same statement, he claimed that drug pushers have been aggressively targeting Malaysians as young as seven years old and pushing sales in educational institutions.

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## Myanmar

### [‘Drug-addicted people should not be treated as criminals’](#)

**Mizzima (03/05)**

Dr. Nang PannEi Kham of the Yangon-based Drug Policy Advocay Group (DPAG) stresses the need for Myanmar to move away from a punitive approach, in order to provide healthcare for drug users and help subsistence poppy farmers substitute their poppy crop.

### [Kachin State HIV rate highest in country](#)

**Eleven Myanmar (03/05)**

Kachin state, home to more raw opium production than almost anywhere else in the world, has plagued the state with high HIV rates and other drug related problems. Education on safe sex and the need for clean needles has proven ineffective so far due to the heavy discrimination targeting the most affected groups, which include drug addicts, homosexuals, transgender people and prostitutes.

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## Pakistan

### [Illicit drugs “biggest threat” to human lives, says ANF Director General](#)

**Pakistan Today (04/05)**

At the International Drug Enforcement Conference held at Lima, Peru, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Director General (DG) Major General Nasir Dilawar Shah stated that the threat posed by illicit drugs is best tackled by countering their manufacture and production.

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## Philippines

### [Cayetano reiterates plan vs. crime, illegal drugs](#)

**CNN Philippines (03/05)**

With just a few days to go until the Philippine elections, vice presidential candidate Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano presented plans to suppress drug trafficking by mobilising the military and exercising special powers to contain drugs and crime.

### [DILG assures full support to National Anti-Drug Plan of Action](#)

**Phillipines Information Agency (03/05)**

Secretary Mel Senen S. Sarmiento of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), has assured his departments full support in implementing the strategies behind the National Anti-Drug Plan of Action (NADPA), which aims to create a drug free Philippines by 2020.

### [Duterte “The Punisher” who promises to fix the Philippines](#)

**Latin American Herald Tribune (06/05)**

Rodrigo Duterte, accused by the United Nations of “not preventing the killings” of drug dealers by death squads during his term as Davao City Mayor, claims the “summary execution of criminals as the most effective” way to fight the drug problem. Mr Duterte, who is a front runner in the presidential elections taking place next Monday, has promised to fight the scourge of crime and warned that 100,000 criminals will lose their life if he succeeds.

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## **Thailand**

### [Thailand still has some way to go before achieving development goals](#)

**Bangkok Post (02/05)**

Veteran development practitioner Mr Disnadda Diskul acknowledges the considerable progress that has been made with regards to alternative development (AD) programmes in Thailand. However, he stresses that some key issues must be recognised going forward, namely that AD is not just about drugs but about people and livelihoods, and community and area specific policy responses combined with accountability and international cooperation are essential.

### [Push for legalisation reaches new highs](#)

**Bangkok Post (08/05)**

The 420 Weed Fest provided a rare opportunity for activists to gather and speak openly about creating a legal marijuana industry in Thailand. Several representatives from the public sector and pro-marijuana activists took part in a discussion forum prior to the concert, marking one of the first times authorities have participated in a formal discussion of the issue.

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## **Singapore**

### [Soft drug policies “risky”](#)

**Straits Times (02/05)**

The Straits Times argues that letting “softer drugs off the hook” and focusing on more lethal varieties, is “defeatism masquerading as realism” that results in dangerous mixed messages for society.

### [Singapore’s drug rehab programmes are “humane” and “effective”](#)

**Strait Times (05/05)**

A former senior prison officer said the drug situation was well under control in the areas of trafficking and consumption, and said Singapore could not afford to relent its efforts to appease a few nations calling for decriminalisation.

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## **Vietnam**

### [Singaporean man gets death penalty in Vietnam for trafficking 2.5kg of heroin](#)

**Singapore Times (03/05)**

Lee Loke Dah appeared before Ho Chi Minh City court last Friday and found guilty of trafficking 2.5 kg of heroin. Under Vietnam law, anyone convicted of smuggling more than 600 grammes of heroin faces the death penalty.

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**Gloria Lai**  
**Senior Policy Officer**  
**International Drug Policy Consortium**

[glai@idpc.net](mailto:glai@idpc.net)

Tel: +66 (0) 826960334

Based in Bangkok, Thailand

[www.idpc.net](http://www.idpc.net)

Find us on [Facebook](#)

**Gino Vumbaca**

**President**

**Harm Reduction Australia**

M: 0408-244-552

E: [gino@3vc.com.au](mailto:gino@3vc.com.au)

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

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

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