

Global

[Rethinking the global war on drugs](#)

New York Times (25/04)

At the urging of Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia, world leaders met at the United Nations in a special session last week to discuss saner ways to fight the drug trade. They did not get very far toward a shift in approach. Nonetheless, there was a consensus that investing in health care, addiction treatment and alternatives to incarceration would do more to end the drug trade than relying primarily on prohibition and criminalization.

[UN Fails to Solve 'World Drug Problem' at UNGASS](#)

The Fix (27/04)

While the UN Special Session failed to make significant progress, global partners and activists outside of the event laid groundwork for positive change and offered real hope.

[Above All, Do No Harm: Searching for HIV Harm Reduction Strategies at the UN Special Session on Drugs](#)

The Body (29/04)

While it is quite evident that UNGASS didn't embrace a harm reduction-based approach to drug reform – the term “harm reduction” isn't used once in the entire document -- it's harder to parse out its consensus on the prevention and treatment of HIV because HIV was barely mentioned. In the entire 24-page UNGASS outcome document, HIV is addressed only once, and even then in a generalized statement that also addresses viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases.

[Editorial: Treatment, not punishment, key to drug policy](#)

San Francisco Chronicle (29/04)

A U.N. conference is underlining the deep divide between health-minded reformers and hard-liners siding with strict laws. The upshot leaves the world stuck where it's been for decades with drug policy treated as an enforcement problem, not a social scourge deserving of fresh thinking.

Australia

[Victoria to spend \\$29.5m on real-time monitoring of prescription drugs](#)

The Guardian (25/04)

Victoria's health minister, Jill Hennessy, on Monday announced a real-time prescription monitoring system to reduce the number of Victorians dying from prescription drug overdoses. There were an average of 376 overdose deaths a year in the state from 2009 to 2015, with pharmaceutical drugs contributing to 80% of these.

Fiji

[14 Years Each For Drug Pair](#)

Fiji Sun Online (30/04)

Australian national Joseph Nayef Abourizk and Lautoka taxi driver Josese Muriwaqa were each sentenced to 14 years in jail, for being found in possession of 49.9 kilograms of cocaine, after they appeared at the High Court yesterday.

India

[Justice for All: War on drugs- Roll it and smoke it](#)

Deccan Chronicle (30/04)

The upshot is that reformist countries will have to chart their own course, breaking with the existing global conventions on narcotics. All this desperately needed progress was subverted by the cussedness of hardline governments and officials at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime — an inept organisation dominated by drug-warriors Russia and the US. The world is left more dangerous and unfair as a consequence.

Indonesia

[A year after the Bali Nine executions, Indonesia prepares firing squads again](#)

The Guardian (28/04)

The chatter is ominous. Talk that the death squad is at the ready; that a new, bigger execution ground is in the making. Officials say it could be just weeks away. And after the circus last year, the security minister Luhut Panjaitan hopes there will be less “drama” this time around.

[Indonesia prepares to execute up to 13 prisoners, including many foreigners](#)

International Business Times (30/04)

Exactly a year after Indonesia sent the 'Bali Nine' drug convicts to the firing squad inviting harsh censure from the world for the mass killing, Jakarta has said it's preparing to execute up to 13 prisoners in the next few days.

Malaysia

[Changing tack to win the drug war](#)

New Straits Times (25/04)

Malaysia declared war on drugs in 1983. Thirty-three years later, drugs are still the country's No. 1 enemy. Instead of seeing the scourge reduced, it has escalated, with the number of addicts and trafficking cases hardly declining. What could have gone wrong? Does Malaysia need an overhaul of its policies, laws and programmes regarding substance abuse and drug trafficking?

Myanmar

[New agreement brings no end to war on drugs in ASEAN](#)

Myanmar Times (26/04)

Nang Pann Ei, a coordinator of the Drug Policy Advocacy Groups, called the UNGASS meeting significant because Myanmar civil society was able to speak up for opium farmers facing the constant threat of crop eradication. But she voiced disappointment about the resulting policy document, saying it has “some serious gaps”.

Nepal

[The coordination chaos](#)

Republica (29/04)

In a scenario where all police personnel do not know about the harm reduction programs approved by the government, the ministry and program implementing agencies should conduct orientation programs on regular basis to do away with such coordination issues. The government has made a sincere effort to tackle drug abuse but better implementation is crucial if it is to reach its desired goal.

New Zealand

[Whatever happened to New Zealand's lauded drug regulation?](#)

Volteface (26/04)

If we have learned nothing else from the drug wars, it is that a non-negotiable principle in any reform, must be that personal possession of any substance must never be an offence.

[Medical cannabis issue needs debate, says lawyer](#)

NZ Farmer (27/04)

Should medical cannabis be allowed to be grown in New Zealand? We look at both sides of the fence.

[Surging online illegal drug trade mind-blowing](#)

Indian Newslink (01/05)

Findings from the latest Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS) study show that 72% of frequent drug users report increased buying and selling drugs through social media and encrypted websites.

Philippines

['I'd kill my kids if they took drugs', says Philippines' presidential favourite](#)

The Guardian (28/04)

Asked what he would do if he learned one of his children was involved in drugs, Duterte replied: "I will kill him." Analysts say his profanity-laced campaign has resonated in a chaotic, high-crime society with limited opportunities for a vast underclass working for a tiny elite.

[Indonesia execution one year on: Mary Jane lives but death penalty questions linger](#)

The Rappler (28/04)

It's been one year since Filipina Mary Jane was given a temporary reprieve, and the execution of 8 others. What's the situation now?

Singapore

[Keeping to own drug-free model](#)

The Straits Times (26/04)

Last Wednesday, Home Affairs and Law Minister K. Shanmugam declared at the UN that Singapore will not soften its zero-tolerance policy. "Show us a model that works better, that delivers a better outcome for citizens, and we will consider changing. If that cannot be done, then don't ask us to change."

'Drug situation is under control. Why should we legalise drugs?': K. Shanmugam

The Straits Times (01/05)

Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam reaffirmed Singapore's zero-tolerance approach to drugs to a week after he set out the country's anti-drugs stance at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to tackle the world drug problem.

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