

Global & Regional

[Drug Addiction Cannot Be Decoupled from Mental Illness](#)

New York Times (09/05)

The justice system has a limited ability to effectively and holistically treat people because the kind of care it delivers is determined by legal and punitive decisions, not clinical needs.

[Some Asian countries adopting health centred approach](#)

The Diplomat (12/05)

Executions, compulsory detentions, cruel and sometimes bizarre punishments against drug users form the face of drug policy in Asia. Despite slow and piecemeal progress, debate around decriminalisation is increasing and at least some harm reduction measures have been used in most Asian nations.

Afghanistan

[Afghan leader tells David Cameron that corruption is due to “drug habit of the west”](#)

Mail Online (12/05)

Following an embarrassing gaff by Mr. Cameron where he was caught on camera claiming that Afghanistan was “fantastically corrupt”, the Afghan leader Ashrag Ghani struck back at a recent UK anti-corruption summit, saying much of the corruption in the country is due to the West’s insatiable drug habit that drives criminal activity.

Australia

[AusCann in medicinal cannabis alliance](#)

SkyNews (09/15)

Australian medicinal cannabis firm AusCann has entered a partnership with the world's biggest legal cannabis producer, Canada's Canopy Growth Corporation. As Australia's nascent medicinal cannabis sector starts to develop, AusCann says its deal with Canopy puts it in pole position for international expansion opportunities.

[Mexican drug cartels move into Australia](#)

Sunshine Coast Daily (10/05)

Assistant Professor Dr Anthea McCarthy-Jones, from the University of Canberra, has claimed in a new report that Australia is being targeted by Mexican cartels because of the country’s exorbitant drug prices. Dr McCarthy-Jones said policy makers needed to focus on gaining intelligence on key transit hubs in the South-Pacific Region.

[New South Wales wants to be the first place to grow medicinal cannabis in Australia](#)

Business Insider Australia (10/05)

Premiere Mike Baird confirmed on Monday that his government had applied for the first licence to cultivate marijuana for research purposes. NSW is said to be leading the way on the most effective ways to administer the drug, with research focusing on children with epilepsy, terminal illness and chemotherapy-induced nausea.

[Health Minister set to introduce Medicinal Marijuana Bill](#)

International Business Times (10/05)

Australian Health Minister Cameron Dick will present the new Public Health Bill to parliament, which will enable widespread use of medicinal cannabis in Queensland. The move follows an online survey of over a 1000 people, which returned overwhelming support of ninety-six percent.

India

[Police chief faces tough questions over drugs](#)

The Times of India (12/05)

In a meeting organised to raise awareness of the drug problem facing the village of Rahimpur Village in Jalandhar, Punjab General of Police (DGP) Suresh Arora, was faced with an angry crowd who demanded that police and government corruption should be tackled.

Indonesia

[Indonesia confirms 15 drug convicts to be executed](#)

Anadolu Agency (10/05)

Ten Indonesians and five foreigners are to be executed around mid-May, after being moved to an island prison. Liliek Darmanto, Central Java regional police spokesperson, said firing squad members have been practicing and were receiving special guidance from religious leaders, in a bid to mentally prepare them to carry out the sentences.

[Indonesia death row prisoners allege they were tortured to confess](#)

The Sydney Morning Herald (11/05)

Lim Jit Wee bares his disfigured hands, which he claims is evidence of the torture he was subjected to by the Indonesian authorities. His consequent confession led to a man being held on death row that he claims he never met. Overcome with guilt, Lim Jit Wee recently testified in court that he supplied false testimony.

[Indonesia Hopes to Execute Several Foreign Death-Row Inmates Without the World Noticing](#)

Time (12/05)

The composition of the latest execution line-up appears to be an exercise in diplomatic harm-limitation, as Indonesia only intends to execute foreign nationals from countries that already implement the death penalty, and poorer African nations.

[Drugs Among Four Major Threats Facing Indonesia: Minister](#)

Tempo (14/05)

The Indonesian nation is now facing four major threats, and narcotics is one of them, Home Affairs Minister Tjahjo Kumolo said. He explained that besides drugs, radicalism and terrorism, corruption and social inequality were the other threats.

The minister hoped that the court would give the maximum punishment to those convicted of any of these four categories of crimes. Asked about the executions of drug death row convicts, Tjahjo stated that there was no problem with meting out such punishment because drug related crime was one of the biggest threats faced by the country.

[Indonesia Is Preparing to Execute More than a Dozen People for Drug Crimes](#)

Vice News (14/05)

Last year, the government of President Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, executed 12 foreign citizens and two Indonesians for drug crimes, sparking international outcry and leading several countries to withdraw their ambassadors from Jakarta. The state has executed no people since then, but media reports in recent weeks suggest that officials are once again preparing firing squads on the penal island of Nusakambangan.

[Drug Convict Mary Jane Escapes Firing Squad, Again](#)

Global Indonesian Voices (15/05)

Philippine national Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso, who is on death row for drug offences, is not among the several drug-related inmates allegedly to face this round of firing squad. The Attorney General's Office can decide whether and when 30-year old Mary Jane can be sent to the gallows only after the Philippine authorities have reached a final conclusion of the legal process concerning her alleged recruiter, Sergio and Julius Lacanilao.

Myanmar

[Opium Farmers' Forum calls for end to eradication until alternative found](#)

Mizzima News (09/05)

The forum implored the government to find a solution that recognised the needs of all stakeholders, while taking into account the medicinal and traditional uses of poppy crops. The 4th Myanmar Opium Farmer's Forum was held in Lokkaw, Kayah State on Monday 9th of May.

[Police sergeant involved in drug smuggling](#)

Eleven Myanmar (05/10)

A police sergeant has been caught with amphetamine tablets and a significant sum of cash. An investigation has uncovered his significant links to the drug trade.

[War on drugs needs ceasefire with armed groups, says general](#)

Myanmar Times (10/05)

Deputy Minister Major General Aung Soe urged the government to instigate political dialogue with armed groups and local communities, in order to catch drug lords and smugglers who benefit from their protection.

New Zealand

[Recreational Kiwi 'cannabis clubs' touted as compromise to legalising the drug](#)

TVNZ (11/05)

A compromise is being offered up in the debate about legalising cannabis in New Zealand.

[Regulating Drug Use: Prohibition and Legalisation](#)

Scoop (11/05)

We need to reconsider our approach to drug use and possession.

Criminal convictions carry devastating consequences for the lives of the people they are imposed on, and we need to be certain that our approach is not causing as much, or more, harm than the drugs themselves.

[Whirlwind reform this most definitely is not](#)

Volteface (12/05)

Peter Dunne MP, New Zealand Minister for Internal Affairs – and long running voice of reason in New Zealand’s debates on drug policy – provided new hope of progress for the country’s tortured reforms yesterday.

Pakistan

[Foreign nationals convicted in drug offences deported](#)

Pakistan Leading Alternative Policy Institute (09/05)

Four men convicted of drug offenses, from Iraq, Zambia, Ghana and Nigeria, have served their prison sentences and have been deported to their respective nations.

Philippines

[Rodrigo Duterte elected President of Phillipines admid promises to kill “drug pushers”](#)

Financial Times (10/05)

The maverick ex-Davao Mayor has won the election by default, achieving an insurmountable lead on his opponents. The news comes despite Durtete’s violent rhetoric, including promises to “butcher” drug “pushers” and others criminals in front of human rights campaigners. Many of his governmental policies remain to be known, as so far a tough stance on crime has dominated his campaign.

Thailand

[Malaysians face death in Thailand over drugs](#)

The Star Online (09/05)

As many as twenty-one Malaysian’s could face the death penalty following their arrest on suspicion of trafficking methamphetamine and heroin via the national Thai railway network. It is however rare that Thai courts hand down the death penalty, with courts usually defaulting to long-term jail sentences.

ARTICLES WE MISSED LAST WEEK:

Singapore

[Man gets jail, caning for bringing in drugs via mail](#)

Singapore Times (05/10)

A man who ordered Ecstasy and Ketamine from an online portal was traced to his address and convicted to six years and four months in jail, with an additional twelve strokes of the cane. He pleaded guilty to two charges of importing a controlled drug and one count of having “drug taking utensils”.

Vietnam

[Ho Chi Minh City establishes “friendly” rehabilitation environment for drug users](#)

Tuoi Tre News (05/10)

A new initiative in Vietnam could signal a shift in the way drug users are treated by society, viewing drug users as patients that need medical assistance rather than criminals. However, Tran Ngoc Du, head of the Ho Chi Minh City Bureau of Social Evils Prevention, said that if addicts cannot recover “despite all efforts”, they could face mandatory rehabilitation for between six and twenty-four months.

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