

Global & Regional

[Taiwan & Philippines join efforts in busting drug ring](#)

The China Post (14/06)

Taiwanese police authorities and Philippines counterparts joined hands last month in busting an illegal drug-producing operation in the Philippines.

[More People Than Ever Say They Get Their Drugs on the Dark Web](#)

Motherboard (14/06)

Even though the FBI has used extraordinary measures to seize dark web marketplaces, drug users are increasingly turning to them to buy narcotics, newly published results from the Global Drug Survey (GDS) 2016 suggest.

[Legal highs seen as affordable alternative drugs, survey shows](#)

The Guardian (14/06)

Global Drug Survey finds that legal highs are not seen as safer and will most likely be used in the long term by marginalised people.

[Leading public health bodies call for decriminalisation of drugs](#)

The Guardian (16/06)

Report from Royal Society for Public Health and Faculty of Public Health says misuse of drugs should be a health issue, not a criminal one.

[The evidence against the 'war on drugs' is so overwhelming it cannot be ignored](#)

Independent (16/06)

We wouldn't ask an organised crime syndicate to control the supply of our tobacco or alcohol, so why heroin and cocaine?

[This Ranking of the 10 Most Harmful Drugs May Surprise You](#)

The Influence (16/06)

In their report, "Taking a New Line on Drugs," UK experts list the top 10 most harmful drugs, and in what ways each specific drug is most harmful.

Australia

[The Australian ayahuasca debate](#)

SBS (13/06)

DMT's classification is currently being put to the test. Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration is reviewing submissions to legalise a small amount of DMT for religious ceremonies.

[Synthetic drugs posing increased risk to Australians, Global Drug Survey reveals](#)

The Guardian (14/06)

Experts urge public education campaign to get out message that 'traditional' illicit drugs are safer than new substances.

[Rising cost of ecstasy and cocaine has not cut use in Australia, survey finds](#)

The Guardian (14/06)

Global Drug Survey finds Australians use cannabis, ecstasy, opioids and nitrous oxide more than amphetamines, including ice and speed.

[We were once afraid of heroin. Now 13 people can die without notice](#)

The Guardian (14/06)

The wagon train of moral panic has moved on but the users are still there, hidden in plain sight.

[More Australians seeking treatment for alcohol consumption than any other drug](#)

The Guardian (14/06)

About one in 200 Australians sought treatment for drug use in 2014–15, with alcohol the main drug people needed help with, a new report from the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare launched on Wednesday shows. Amphetamine treatment rises to 20% of the 114,912 people aged 10 and older who received treatment for drug use.

[Female imprisonment numbers soar amid calls to free the majority of inmates](#)

The Age (18/06)

More women are being locked up in Australian prisons than ever before. The incarceration rate for women is rising twice as fast as for men, surging by nearly 40 per cent since 2005, compared to 18 per cent for men, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures.

Cambodia

[General convicted of drug trafficking loses appeal](#)

The Cambodia Daily (14/06)

While Chan Rithidy was still serving as major general of the Cambodian army, he was arrested in a sting operation in which he offered to sell \$10,000 of methamphetamine to undercover police. The appeal court upheld his sentence of 20 years in prison.

Fiji

[War against drugs intensifies](#)

FijiVillage (13/06)

A team of 50 police officers has been sweeping the Navosa Highlands in a search and destroy mission known as Operation Cavoura, aimed at eradicating illicit crops.

India

[First ever drug smuggler “arrested alive”](#)

The Indian Express (13/06)

SSP Fazilka Narinder Bhargav said the arrest of a pedlar at the Sowana border, amidst the shooting and consequent death of two in the same incident, was the “first time” a Pakistani smuggler had survived an encounter with the Indian Border Security Force.

[Solutions must be found to Punjab’s drug problem](#)

The Indian Express (13/06)

As the drug problem in the state of Punjab becomes evermore prevalent, the government must look to health-based and alternative development policies to tackle the problem.

[UNGASS 2016: Nations Call For A Humane Approach To Drug Problem, But Is India Listening?](#)

Huffington Post Blog (15/06)

The recent UNGASS on drugs called for a move away from hardline prohibition, yet India is calling for a tougher approach to drug trafficking. A lack of diverse voices from civil society and the influence of institutions like the UNODC might be misdirecting policy.

[Indian Court Okays Screening of Film on Drug Abuse](#)

Voice of America (14/06)

A film, criticised by the censoring board for portraying Punjab as overrun with drug users, has been permitted to screen with only one cut. India's film industry hailed the move as a victory for freedom of expression.

[Why does Punjab have a drug problem? The untold story](#)

The Quint (16/06)

"Why are we blaming Pakistan for Punjab's drug menace? It is of our own making. Our own government policy initiative to curb opium created a vacuum in the market which a deadlier and more costly heroin has filled," said a senior retired security personnel.

[Video: Punjab's drug problem a result of government policy](#)

The Quint (16/06)

Pakistan is often blamed for Punjab's drug problem, but the Indian government's policy to target the national supply chain of opium has backfired, pushing drug users toward heroin use and addiction.

[What after 'Udta Punjab'? Drug addiction is real, but here's how we're fighting it](#)

F. India (18/06)

The recent controversy surrounding the film *Udta Punjab* has brought into the limelight the problem of drug abuse not only in Punjab – but across the country. In retrospect, for society and our governing systems to have not realised the gravity of the issue says a thing or two about how the problem has spread.

[Udta Delhi](#)

The Sunday Standard (19/06)

The capital has only five de-addiction centres jointly run by the government and listed on the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment website, which acts as the nodal body for drug demand reduction. The centres complain of not having received a single grant in the last one and a half years. The Delhi government had delayed distribution of funds due to sheer negligence.

[Polls coming, Minister \(and BJP Punjab chief\) trashes AIIMS report on drugs](#)

The Indian Express (21/06)

CALLING its assessment of the Punjab drug problem exaggerated, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has rejected the findings of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on drug abuse in Punjab and has decided to ask AIIMS to conduct another "proper nation-wide survey".

Indonesia

[Majority of convicts on death row are there for drug crimes](#)

New.com.au (13/06)

According to the Justice Ministry, at least 121 people are on death row, mostly for drug related crimes. Among those convicted are 35 foreign nationals.

[Indonesia planning mass executions after Ramadan](#)

The Guardian (14/06)

Spokesman for attorney-general confirms that executions are set to resume after a hiatus.

[Luhut Warns Papuans of Fatal Threat of Narcotics, HIV/AIDS](#)

Tempo.co (19/06)

Coordinating Minister for Law, Security and Political Affairs Luhut Pandjaitan warned the West Papua people of the danger of narcotics and HIV/AIDS.

"It is important for religious and community leaders to know that millions of Indonesian have been addicted to narcotics," he said.

Malaysia

[Legalising medical marijuana not priority, health minister says](#)

Malaymail Online (13/06)

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam said Malaysia would not pursue a policy of medical marijuana legislation in the near future. Pain experts in Malaysia recently recommended medicinal usage to treat chronic pain.

[Nancy hints death penalty to be abolished before GE-14](#)

Malaysia Chronicle (19/06)

While the study on whether to keep the death penalty is ongoing, the Government is open to proposals on the matter. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri says the Government is considering suggestions to improve the current justice system including whether to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment.

Myanmar

[Jade miners' hopes of fortune often become tragedy of addiction](#)

Myanmar Times (20/06)

An estimated 300,000 people come from across Myanmar to Hpakant to scavenge through mining waste in the hope of finding jade stone. Daily income levels are good in Hpakant, but living conditions are harsh and deadly landslides are common. Yet the biggest threat to health is drug addiction.

[Poppylands: Understanding Myanmar's addiction to heroin](#)

Al Jazeera (20/06)

'Many drug users are still being harassed, arrested and jailed for numerous years - not because they are committing serious criminal offences, but just because they are using drugs. I would, therefore, like to invite our new government to reconsider the 1993 Narcotics Law and stop regarding drug users as criminals,' said Dr Pann Ei Kham.

New Zealand

[Legal high 'ban' leads to drop in use, but experts warn of increased risks for users](#)

Stuff.co.nz 17/06

Kiwis continue to turn away from legal highs after a government crackdown - but those who continue to use face increased health risks from "gangsters" selling the unregulated products, drug experts warn.

Philippines

[20 alleged drug suspects have been killed by police eager to please Duterte](#)

AEC News (15/06)

The president, who vowed to kill 100,000 criminals in the first six months in office, has already started a culture of killing drug suspects before fair trial or conviction.

[Philippines intensifies crackdown on illegal drugs operators](#)

Gulf News (19/06)

More than 17,000 suspects were arrested and at least 68 people were killed in government anti-drugs operations during the first half of the year even as the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte is yet to assume authority.

[Filipino police take tough stance on drug use](#)

The China Post (21/06)

Philippine police killed 11 suspected drug dealers during operations at the weekend, police said on Monday, adding to a surge of drugs-related killings since Rodrigo Duterte swept an election last month on promises to wipe out crime.

Taiwan

[American Kills Himself in Taiwan Court After 4-Year Drug Sentence](#)

New York Times (17/06)

An American man who had been convicted of growing marijuana in Taiwan, killed himself in a courtroom after he was sentenced to a four-year prison term.

Thailand

[Justice minister proposes rescheduling methamphetamine](#)

Bangkok Post (16/06)

Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya has proposed that methamphetamines be taken off the dangerous drugs list, citing revelations at the UNGASS meetings as a possible influence for the move. He added that Thailand supports proportional sentencing and alternatives to imprisonment, but legislative amendments must be made to enable reform to take place.

[Short of an armistice, Justice Minister concedes defeat in 'war on drugs'](#)

Khaosod English (18/06)

"Thirty years ago, we talked about a War on Drugs. We stated clearly that there must not be any narcotics left on earth," Justice Minister Gen. Paiboon said Thursday. "But when I joined this meeting in April [UNGASS 2016], it's not like that anymore. To put it simply: It's about how do we live happily [as a society] with drugs, and how can everyone understand it, and benefit from it?"

[Responding to reality](#)

Bangkok Post (20/06)

In looking at the scientific evidence and seeking to develop policies that better manage the harms of drug use and markets, Thailand is joining an increasing number of governments that are willing to respond to the realities of current drug-related problems.

[Yes to drug policy mend](#)

Bangkok Post (21/06)

Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya caused a major uproar with a statement out of the blue about the country's leading drug problem. Contrary to initial reactions, the proposal would not decriminalise or legalise meth and associated drugs. Rather, it would take drug abusers and some petty corner peddlers out of the revolving street-to-prison-to-street system that does more to encourage drug trafficking than to prevent it.

[Time we shook off meth's criminal stigma](#)

Bangkok Post (21/06)

The Justice Ministry's proposal to remove methamphetamines, or ya ba, from the illicit dangerous drug list is a bold attempt to tackle chronic drug problems in society.

[PM dubious about meth delisting](#)

Bangkok Post (21/06)

Removing methamphetamines from the illegal narcotics list would be a challenging task, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha says. He was responding to a Justice Ministry proposal to classify methamphetamines as a normal drug in a bid to tackle a long-standing drugs problem in society.

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