

**Global & Regional**

**[Ecstasy in comeback as new generation discovers dance drug](#)**

**The Guardian (31/05)**

Survey of drug use finds MDMA is back in mainstream due to 'creative and aggressive marketing' and has a higher purity

**[This ban on legal highs will only have one effect: more drug-related deaths](#)**

**The Guardian (31/05)**

I predict that in a few years, the data on the impact of this act will reveal the same results as the Irish ban of six years ago did – that is, more use from the black market and internet supplies, and more drug-related deaths.

**[Addictions are harder to kick when you're poor. Here's why](#)**

**The Guardian (01/06)**

Addiction does discriminate: it hits hardest those who are already down or feel that they will never be able to rise.

**[As Fear and Intolerance Of Marijuana Declined, So Did Adolescent Use](#)**

**Forbes (02/06)**

With marijuana legal for medical or recreational use in two dozen states and the nation's capital, there is little evidence that adolescents have responded in the way pot prohibitionists predicted.

**[Secrecy for sale](#)**

**Volteface (02/06)**

If the UN were really serious about bringing drug lords to justice and hitting them where it hurt, it could simply have resolved to end the financial secrecy that criminals use to cover their tracks and hide their money.

**[Deaths of Despair: Overdoses, drinking, suicides hit whites](#)**

**Business Insider (03/06)**

Rising drug and alcohol overdoses, suicides, and disease from chronic alcoholism — labeled "deaths of despair" by one expert — are cutting the lives of white Americans short by nearly a half a year on average.

**[Fentanyl, the powerful drug that killed Prince, presents growing threat](#)**

**Channel News Asia (03/06)**

Fentanyl, a powerful painkiller that a medical examiner identified as the drug that killed the superstar Prince six weeks ago, has been responsible for an epidemic of overdose deaths around the United States, according to federal officials.

**[Report Accuses Mexico of Crimes Against Humanity in Drug War](#)**

**The New York Times (06/06)**

A new report by the Open Society Justice Initiative point to a pattern of indiscriminate force and impunity that are an integral part of Mexico's response to drugs.

---

## Australia

### [\*\*Michael Keenan: Australia cannot arrest its way out of methamphetamine scourge\*\*](#)

#### **The West Australian (31/05)**

Mr. Keenan made the comments following the revelation of government plans to provide a \$20 million funding boost to community based drug services, aimed at rehabilitating those addicted to the drug.

### [\*\*Ice epidemic: WA employers need help dealing with more workers affected by drugs\*\*](#)

#### **Perth Now (31/05)**

WA has the highest methamphetamine use in the country with 3.8 per cent of people over the age of 14 having used the drug, nearly double the national average of 2.1 per cent.

### [\*\*Pill testing at festivals akin to quality assurance for drug pushers: Tasmanian Police Minister\*\*](#)

#### **ABC News (01/06)**

Tasmania's Police Minister has ruled out introducing pill-testing machines at music festivals, saying the Government will not provide "quality assurance for drug pushers".

### [\*\*Waste-water drug testing to help target problem areas and substances\*\*](#)

#### **Herald Sun (5/06)**

The new program, to be announced by the Turnbull government today, will allow researchers and police to track in real time the hot spots and regions where drug use is increasing.

### [\*\*Talking Point: Testing festival drugs can stop people dying\*\*](#)

#### **Mercury (05/06)**

Police Minister Rene Hidding did himself and the Tasmanian community no good at all last week with his arrogant, dangerous dismissal of a sensible idea by the Greens for pill testing to be available at music festivals.

### [\*\*Fiona Patten: Why the back-pedalling on medical marijuana?\*\*](#)

#### **The Age (05/06)**

I think I am the only member of parliament in Australia to acknowledge my recreational use of cannabis. In fact, I have enjoyed the many blessings that cannabis can bestow for a lot of my adult life and have not lost my mind or become a serial killer.

---

## Cambodia

### [\*\*Australia and Cambodia Ink Anti-Drug Trafficking Deal\*\*](#)

#### **The Cambodia Daily (03/06)**

Australian and Cambodian police have signed an information and skill sharing agreement aimed at stemming the flow of drugs and dirty money between the two countries amid a spike in heroin trafficking

---

## **China**

### [\*\*China and Thailand cooperate on drug control\*\*](#)

**CCTV English (03/06)**

A delegation of drug control officers from China have been visiting northern Thailand this week to discuss further co-operation in the campaign against illegal drugs. The latest seizures indicate record amounts of drugs are being smuggled through the region, with 27,000 kilograms of crystal meth seized, and nearly 300 million methamphetamine pills.

---

## **Indonesia**

### [\*\*Government urged to save Indonesian migrant from gallows\*\*](#)

**UCA News (01/06)**

The Indonesian bishops' conference has urged the government to try and save a female migrant worker sentenced to hang in Malaysia for drug smuggling.

### [\*\*Former Indonesian president 'rejects' death penalty\*\*](#)

**Stuff.co.uk (01/06)**

As the country prepares for a third round of executions, the country's third president Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie has said he is firmly against the use of the death penalty. The revelation is a sign of growing dissent over the use of capital punishment.

### [\*\*Death Penalty does not hinder drug trade, leading cleric says\*\*](#)

**The Irish Catholic (02/06)**

FR Paulus Christian Siswantoko, executive secretary of the Indonesian Bishop's Justice and Peace Commission, said there is "no valid data or information indicating that the death penalty reduced or minimised drug business in Indonesia".

### [\*\*VP Kalla Asks for Sympathy from Amnesty Int'l over Death Penalty\*\*](#)

**Tempo.co (03/06)**

Vice President Jusuf Kalla has asked Amnesty International to have more sympathy for Indonesia over death penalty particularly in relation to drug use.

---

## **India**

### [\*\*Make campuses drug-free, Ramadoss tells governments\*\*](#)

**The Times of India (05/06)**

PMK founder P Ramadoss on Saturday urged the state and central governments to cancel recognition of institutions which failed to contain the menace of drugs and its supply to students in its campuses.

### [\*\*Drug peddlers in jail, but others bear the stigma\*\*](#)

**Deccan Herald (06/06)**

There are more than 100 Nigerians lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail, most of them arrested for peddling drugs, or in cases related to cheating, cyber and lottery-related crimes and even homicide.

---

## **Malaysia**

### [\*\*Man Faces Death Penalty For Weed Charge in Malaysia\*\*](#)

#### **Merry Jane (31/05)**

Dickson Levy Maria George, 29, has been sentenced to death in Malaysia for allegedly trafficking 31 pounds (14.49 kilograms) of cannabis on May 9, 2013.

### [\*\*AADK denies sending homeless to Rawang, Karak H'way\*\*](#)

#### **Free Malaysia Today (03/06)**

Anti-drug agency admits it rounded up 81 people in the city when they tested positive for drugs but left them at rehab centre or released them on bail.

### [\*\*Wake up and fight drugs\*\*](#)

#### **The Star (04/06)**

The Government had allocated a total of RM7.9mil from 2013 until last year for the rehabilitation and treatment of drug addicts. The programme has obviously not been effective. Some have argued that jailing drug users is not the answer to the drug problem.

---

## **Philippines**

### [\*\*Duterte offers bounty for drug lords “dead or alive”\*\*](#)

#### **Northbound Phillipines (01/06)**

The President Elect Rodrigo Duterte offered to law enforcement officials leftover fund from his campaign in return for catching those involved in the illegal drug trade. Duterte offered more money for “influential” traffickers. The announcement came following a promise to rid the country of illegal drugs within three months of his election to office.

### [\*\*Cops rewarded for killing drug traffickers\*\*](#)

#### **Straits Times (04/06)**

Mr Tomas Osmena, mayor-elect of Cebu, the nation's second-biggest city, announced on his Facebook page on Thursday night he had paid out 155,000 pesos (\$S4,500) to police who killed three men he said were drug traffickers. He lashed out at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), a constitutionally mandated body, for investigating the circumstances of the May 28 killings.

### [\*\*Philippines' Duterte urges public to kill criminals\*\*](#)

#### **Bangkok Post (05/06)**

The Philippines' president elect Rodrigo Duterte urged the public to join his anti-crime crackdown, offering people huge bounties for killing drug dealers.

---

## **Articles we missed last week:**

### [\*\*The problem of pain\*\*](#)

#### **The Economist (28/05)**

In poor and middle-income countries, people suffering from cancer and other terminal illnesses often die excruciating deaths with minimal relief. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) estimates that 92% of all morphine, an opioid commonly used to control the pain caused by cancer, is consumed in America, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and parts of western Europe—which between them hold only 17% of the world's population.

**Iran has a growing drug problem, and young, well-educated women are among its biggest victims**

**Quartz (29/05)**

Last year Shahindokht Molaverdi, Rouhani's vice-president for women and family Affairs admitted that the number of female addicts has more than doubled over the past couple of years.

---

**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>

**JOIN HRA NOW** <https://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au/join-hra>