

Global & Regional

[Pope Francis Calls for Workshop to Address Global Drug Abuse](#)

The Fix (06/06)

Following the request of Pope Francis, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences will host a two-day workshop titled “Narcotics: Problems and Solutions of This Global Issue” that will take place at the Vatican from November 23-24, 2016.

[Banning Everything That Gets People High Is a Terrible Idea](#)

Vice (08/06)

Drugs should be regulated based on their potential to do harm—not their potential to be fun. Pleasure is not a poison, and what we need to worry about is addiction, organ damage, disease, behavioral dis-inhibition, impaired driving, and other genuine dangers.

[UN pledges to end Aids epidemic but plan barely mentions those most at risk](#)

The Guardian (08/06)

UN member states have pledged to end the Aids epidemic by 2030, but campaigners say the strategy adopted by the 193-nation general assembly on Wednesday barely mentions those most at risk of contracting HIV/Aids: men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people and intravenous drug users.

[It isn't lack of drugs preventing us eradicating Aids, but inequality](#)

The Guardian (09/06)

There was a time when we could say that humanity had no control over Aids, but this is no longer true. Yet only last year, 1.1 million people died of Aids-related illnesses, and 2.1 million more were infected with HIV. This is not due to our inability to tackle Aids; rather, it is a manifestation of inequality in all its forms.

[Asia's Exploding Meth Market \(VIDEO\)](#)

SCMP.tv (10/06)

Factories in China are pumping out crystal methamphetamine to eager buyers across the Asia Pacific. Organized crime rings are making millions of dollars from the trade every year, fueling drugs use across the region.

[Kratom: Natural painkiller or addictive drug?](#)

CNN (10/06)

Kratom is banned in six states. The Drug Enforcement Administration says there is "no legitimate medical use in the U.S." But the opioid-like substance is still sought out by users to boost energy and manage pain.

[Talking to your kids about sex, drugs, and rock & roll](#)

Rappler (13/06)

When kids start to ask about sex, drugs, and rock and roll, how should parents respond?

Australia

[Heroin overdoses in Sydney linked to deadly batch](#)

The Guardian (07/06)

Authorities blame 13 recent overdose deaths across Sydney on impure heroin.

[Fentanyl: Spate of fatal overdoses in Sydney could be linked to drug blamed for Prince's death](#)
ABC Net (10/06)

Dr Alex Wodak said the painkiller Fentanyl, a synthetic factory-made opioid similar to morphine, could be responsible for the recent spate of deaths across the city. Harm reduction groups pointed out that wider availability of Naloxone and supervised injection sites might have prevented fatalities.

[UN urges Australia to boost drug war role](#)
SBS (11/06)

United Nations' Asia drugs chief is urging a greater role for Australia in regional policing and intelligence gathering to stem trafficking in ice.

[New synthetic drug 'eight times stronger than morphine' connected to dozens of deaths across the world is being sold in Australia](#)

Daily Mail (12/06)

Several sites are selling the substance online from labs in China, with some claiming the product can be sent in a 'special disguised package.'

Cambodia

[Two former military officers retried for drug trafficking](#)

Khmer Times (07/06)

Former two-star general Chan Rithidy and officer Deap Sunlay have repeatedly appealed against their conviction. The pair received a 20-year jail term for possession of one kilogram of ecstasy and 85,000 amphetamine pills and intent to supply.

India

[Boot: Punjab's highest concentration of addicts](#)

The Indian Express (08/06)

The village of Boot has more registered addicts than any other village in Punjab. Possible root causes include an extremely low literacy rate of 50% and very limited access to health care.

[Punjab police making a mess of the drug problem](#)

India Today (09/06)

The Punjab police's action is being aimed at small peddlers and addicts instead of kingpins

[Punjab's war on drugs: The living and the dead](#)

Indian Express (10/06)

174 people arrested under the narcotics Act died in Punjab's jails since 2014, the Indian Express finds, in their wake, grief and anger.

['Censoring a movie won't help weed out Punjab's drug problem'](#)

Times of India (11/06)

On Friday, the Bombay High Court (HC) told the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) that their job is to certify and not censor films.

[Without hockey, I could have been a drug addict, claims Indian captain Sardar Singh](#)

Sportskeeda (12/06)

The skipper of Indian men's hockey team speaks up on the booming drug row.

[Amid 'Udta Punjab' row, CBFC clears Punjabi film on drugs issue](#)

Times of India (12/06)

In the wake of the ongoing controversy over certification of Bollywood film 'Udta Punjab', based on the menace of drugs in Punjab, the Censor Board has cleared Punjabi filmmaker Baljeet Singh's upcoming film 'Dhee Punjab Di' with a 'U' certificate.

[AAP raises eyebrows on Rahul Gandhi's Punjab visit](#)

India Today (12/06)

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday raised eyebrows on Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi's Monday Jalandhar visit during which he along with other Congress leaders will protest against the state government's failure to curb the menace of drugs.

[The haze thickens](#)

Indian Express (13/06)

As Punjab's government denies the gravity of the problem, drugs take a growing toll in the once prosperous state.

Indonesia

[Mother wants son "shot" for drug dealing](#)

Coconuts Jakarta (07/06)

The mother of a suspected drug dealer who could be sentenced to death said she'd be happy to shoot her son herself to "clear her family name". However, two key witnesses in the case have refused to testify that they had seen the drugs, casting doubt on the legitimacy of the prosecution.

[15 people will lose their life because of a lie](#)

The Diplomat (08/06)

It seems beyond doubt that at some point in the coming months, in the small hours of the morning, 15 people will lose their lives because of a lie. There is no 'necessity' to execute people to save Indonesia from drugs; it is a political decision and should be admitted as such.

[Indonesian migrant worker faces capital punishment over drug charge](#)

Global Indonesian News (09/06)

Indonesian authorities are appealing a capital sentence handed to Rita Krisdaianti, a migrant worker caught with methamphetamine in Malaysia. Rita joins an estimated 360 Indonesian migrant workers on death row in foreign judicial systems.

[Boxing offers Indonesian drug users way out of addiction](#)

Rappler (09/06)

The simple gym where he trains – kitted out with punching bags, sparring gloves and couches for downtime – offers a rare safe haven for countless drug users in a country where addiction often leads to jail time or premature death.

[Tricked to Death: Indonesia's Mary Jane](#)

Global Indonesian Voices (09/06)

In 2015, an estimated 360 Indonesians migrant workers face capital punishment. Is the government doing anything?

[Govt prepares legal aid for 208 Indonesians facing death penalty abroad](#)

The Jakarta Post (10/06)

The government is stepping up its efforts to spare the lives of 208 Indonesians abroad who are facing the death penalty, an official said on Thursday. As of May 2016, 154 of the Indonesian nationals on death row overseas were in Malaysia, with the majority of their cases relating to murder and drug offenses.

[INDONESIA: Open Prisons to Reform](#)

Scoop World Independent News (11/06)

The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has learned that the detainees and prisoners in Indonesia face serious problems, in particular those related to overcrowding.

Malaysia

[Measures must be taken to help former addicts](#)

New Straits Times Online (07/06)

Stigma and discrimination are major obstacles to rehabilitation and long-term employment, while the effectiveness of criminal sanctions in Malaysia has been questionable.

[Malaysian authorities accused of 'ignoring' drug smuggling](#)

Tempo.co (08/06)

The Mayor of Pontianak Sutarmidji, Indonesia, has accused the Malaysian government of ignoring drug shipments and importing drugs in large quantities to "weaken" Indonesia.

[Four varsity students escape the gallows after court drops drug charges](#)

Malay Mail Online (10/06)

Four private university students escaped the gallows after they were acquitted and discharged by the High Court here today for drug trafficking and possession, two years ago.

[Will we ever see the introduction of medical marijuana here?](#)

Malay Mail Online (12/06)

Some pain experts have expressed cautious support for Malaysia to allow the use of cannabis-based medicine to expand treatment options for chronic pain management.

Myanmar

[Myanmar vows to boost cooperation with GMS countries in combating drugs](#)

Xinhua News (11/06)

Opium production once registered a drop in 2007, but it went up in 2014 and in 2015-16; it fell again slightly. If negotiations with the six armed groups are successful, drug problem will be solved and the country will develop with momentum, noted Kyaw Kyaw Min, deputy police chief of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

New Zealand

[One woman's struggles the experience of many of NZ's drug addicted offenders](#)

Taranaki Daily News (11/06)

Close to half of all crime in New Zealand is committed by those under the influence of alcohol or drugs. But is the criminal justice system the right tool to help people get clean and stay crime-free?

Pakistan

[Pakistan has 9 million drug addicts](#)

Business Recorder (10/06)

Dr. Darya Khan Leghari of Sir C.J Institute of Psychiatry said that drug use is rapidly growing in Pakistan, especially among youth including those in colleges and universities, resulting in serious social and health implications.

Philippines

[Gang lords raise 300,000 against Duterte](#)

Mail Online (09/06)

Gang leaders have responded to Duterte's public bounty on drug dealers, by raising a \$300,000 bounty of their own for anyone who assassinates the president.

[Editorial: Drugs and sports](#)

Sun Star Davao (09/06)

While we laud the President-Elect's strong conviction to rid the country of drugs and corruption in the next six years of his presidency, we urge the beloved mayor of Davao City to also make sports as diversionary tool to keep our youth from vices.

Singapore

[Singapore's heartless death penalty for drug traffickers](#)

Online Citizen (11/06)

Even as controversy over capital punishment rages worldwide, support for the death penalty in Singapore remains remarkably strong.

Thailand

[Dutch MPs fight to get Dutchman alleged money launderer out of 103-year Thai jail sentence](#)

Coconuts Bangkok (13/06)

Dutch National Johan Van Laarhoven was arrested and sentenced to 103 years in prison for money laundering. His fortune was made from running licensed cannabis cafes in his own country, and Dutch parliament members are urging the Thai and Dutch governments to remove him from jail for lack of evidence.

An article we missed last week:

[Drugs wash ashore on atoll in Marshall Islands](#)

RTE News (05/06)

Several packages of cocaine have washed ashore on the Marshall Island of Atoll in the western Pacific. The history of cocaine wash-ups on the Marshall Islands goes back to the 1980s, serving as an indication to the authorities of a substantial and long established cocaine trade.

Gloria Lai
Senior Policy Officer
International Drug Policy Consortium

glai@idpc.net

Tel: +66 (0) 826960334

Based in Bangkok, Thailand

www.idpc.net

Find us on [Facebook](#)

Gino Vumbaca
President
Harm Reduction Australia

M: 0408-244-552

E: 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>