

Global

[BRICS meet to curb drugs, smuggling and terror](#)

Russia & India Report (18/07)

Perhaps the most active and relevant activity that BRICS actually does is to tackle the huge menace of drugs and narcotics smuggling worldwide. BRICS has been called a “talking shop of fading relevance,” but the initiative against drugs can bring it back centre-stage.

[Drug War Fuels Global Lack of Access to Essential Medicines](#)

Alternet (19/07)

How much pain you have to suffer shouldn't be determined by where you live, and it is unacceptable that we let stigma and misguided fears of addiction get in the way of allowing patients to realize their right to health.

[Mass incarceration of drug users leads to high levels of HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis among prisoners](#)

News Medical (19/07)

The War on Drugs, mass incarceration of drug users, and the failure to provide proven harm reduction and treatment strategies has led to high levels of HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis B and C infection among prisoners—far higher than in the general population. With an estimated 30 million people passing in and out of prisons every year, prisoners will be key to controlling HIV and tuberculosis epidemics worldwide.

[Time to test – the festival drug report](#)

Volteface (21/07)

Festival forensic testing won't stop drug use but it will reduce harm and save lives. And the greater the input from all on-site stakeholders, including users, the more effective on-site testing will be.

[Support for drug users is mooted](#)

IOL (21/07)

Drug users – an often neglected key population – could benefit from support structures instead of strict punitive measures. This approach could also have huge impacts on the spread of viruses, including HIV/Aids.

Afghanistan

[US War In Afghanistan Is Fueling Global Heroin Epidemic & Enabling The Drug Trade](#)

Mintpress News (21/07)

The “War on Drugs” and the “War on Terror” are more intertwined than that media and our elected officials would like us to think.

Australia

[For Australians Returning From Singapore, Home Feels Like a Drug Paradise](#)

Vice (19/07)

Australia's drug laws aren't the more liberal in the world, but compared to Singapore, they might as well be.

[Calls for needle exchange program in jails](#)

The Daily Examiner (19/07)

The spread of blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B and C among Australia's prison population has prompted a call for jails to establish needle exchange programs.

[Why more drug consumption rooms are a must](#)

The Sydney Morning Herald (20/07)

Drug Consumption Rooms for injecting reduce deaths and non-fatal drug overdoses. They also reduce the spread of blood-borne viral infections such as HIV and hepatitis C, increase referral to drug treatment and other health and social interventions while also improving the amenity of neighbourhoods where there is a great deal of drug dealing.

[Victoria's first social impact bond to address drug and alcohol services](#)

Financial Review (21/07)

The Victorian government's first use of social impact bonds will ask investors to finance programs to get young people out of drug and alcohol addiction.

[Splendour in the Grass a 'missed opportunity' for drug testing, advocates say](#)

ABC News (23/07)

Advocates of minimising the dangers of drugs are frustrated that tens of thousands of young partygoers at one of the biggest events on the music festival calendar this weekend have no organised drug testing available to them.

[Decades on, old foes unite for new drug approach](#)

Sydney Morning Herald (24/07)

Two old political foes will unite to kickstart the debate about expanding Sydney's lone medically supervised drug consumption centre to new areas and new ways to help users of the drug ice.

China

[Duterte draws China into his 'shoot-to-kill' drug war with one simple question](#)

South China Morning Post (18/07)

The Philippines' new president said many of the unclaimed bodies of suspected drug criminals killed in confrontations with police were Chinese nationals.

[China's complex API regs fuelling US meth problem says congressional committee](#)

In-Pharma (19/07)

Legal loopholes and poor enforcement let criminals in China divert APIs for illegal drug production according to a US congressional committee which says the country is fast becoming the major global supplier of crystal meth precursors.

[China backs Philippine's controversial drug war](#)

The Bangkok Post (20/07)

China has offered its support to the Philippine's controversial drug crackdown pushed by new President Rodrigo Duterte, which has been slammed by rights groups for encouraging extrajudicial killings and vigilante justice.

[Report: China a Major Source of Crystal Meth Shipped Into US](#)

VOA (20/07)

“While Mexican cartels produce the majority [around 90 percent] of meth used in the United States, around 80 percent of precursor chemicals used in Mexican meth come from China,” said a report issued Monday by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

[Political advisors stress public participation in drug control](#)

Xinhuanet (22/07)

Advisers suggested that social organizations and communities should play a bigger role in drug control education and the rehabilitation of drug users, calling for enhanced professional training of social workers, volunteers and psychological consultants.

India

[To End Punjab Drug Running, Bill Wants Politico-Mafia Nexus Nixed](#)

The Quint (19/07)

Legalisation of drugs is in the news again with Patiala MP Dr Dharamvira Gandhi proposing to amend Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 through a private member’s Bill, intended to be moved this monsoon session of Parliament.

[Maharashtra tops list of deaths due to drug abuse: Government](#)

The Economic Times (22/07)

Abhishek Chaubey's 'Udta Punjab' may have stirred up a political controversy around drug problem in the election-bound state, but official data reveals Maharashtra tops in drug-related suicides.

[Drugged to denial](#)

The Indian Express (22/07)

There seems to be a sense that we were surreptitiously ambushed by a few Pakistani drug peddlers conniving with corrupt Indian officials and politicians to bring Punjab to this condition. But that is not the truth. This is a systematic narco-terror campaign being waged against India.

[Why Indian women can't afford to be addicts](#)

Daily O (23/07)

At Shanti Ratn Foundation, like the rest of the capital's rehab facilities, women addicts are a diminutive statistic. They exist in absentia.

[Stricter penalty to curb drug menace soon](#)

The Tribune (25/07)

To curb the growing drug trafficking and addiction, especially in the border areas, the government is planning stricter penalty and punishment.

Indonesia

[What explains Indonesia's enthusiasm for the death penalty?](#)

Coconuts Jakarta (22/07)

The death penalty has been offered as a solution to a range of problems, from narcotics crime, to sexual abuse, and corruption. Last month, for example, President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo urged police to chase, capture, and strike down drug dealers.

[Convicted drug trafficker Mary Jane Veloso spared Indonesian firing squad – for now](#)

South China Morning Post (22/07)

A Philippine maid, Mary Jane Veloso, got a last-minute reprieve last year, following a request from Manila after an employment recruiter, whom Veloso had accused of planting drugs in her luggage, gave herself up to police in the Philippines.

[Human Rights Group Urges Gov't to Cancel 3rd Wave of Executions](#)

Tempo.co (24/07)

Human rights group named Imparsial has called on the government to cancel the third wave of executions. Imparsial director Al Araf said that there was no relevance between the implementation of death penalty and the declining number of crimes in Indonesia.

['They electrocuted me' says Indonesia's death-row prisoner nearing execution](#)

Sydney Morning Herald (24/07)

A Nigerian man facing imminent execution in Indonesia tearfully told a court that police electrocuted his genitals to force him to confess to possessing heroin.

[Indonesia executions loom as convict Merri Utami is sent to prison island](#)

The Guardian (25/07)

The next round of executions in Indonesia appear imminent following the transfer of an Indonesian woman on death row, Merri Utami, to the execution island of Nusa Kambangan.

Malaysia

[Be inspired by Australia's efforts](#)

New Straits Times (19/07)

Australia has a population similar to ours (about 30 million), but surprisingly, it has eliminated the dreaded HIV virus, as triumphantly announced by New South Wales Health Minister Jillian Skinner: "The biggest cause of AIDS cases used to be intravenous drug users, but we have controlled that through harm-reduction programmes."

Pakistan

[Pakistani convicted of heroin trafficking executed in Saudi Arabia](#)

Pakistan Today (19/07)

Saudi authorities executed two men on Tuesday, bringing to 98 the number of executions carried out in the ultra-conservative Muslim kingdom so far this year.

["We salute the commitment of Pakistan for drug control": Representative UNODC](#)

Radio Pakistan (20/07)

Cesar Guedes says Pakistan is seizing the largest amount of heroin and this number is increasing in the last four years.

[43% of Afghanistan's opiates trafficked through Pakistan: UNODC](#)

Business Recorder (21/07)

Pakistan remains the main transit country for narcotics produced in neighbouring Afghanistan, particularly heroin, opium and hashish.

[Our drug problem](#)

The News (25/07)

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime representative noted that Pakistan's efforts had saved thousands of lives around the world. Unfortunately, despite the successes, around 700 people are estimated to die of drug overdose everyday in Pakistan.

Philippines

[Duterte says human rights not a concern in drug war](#)

The China Post (19/07)

Human rights are not a concern in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs, he said, as he vowed to ignore due process and compared himself to Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.

[303 QC government personnel tested positive in drug testing](#)

Update Philippines (19/07)

A total of 303 Quezon City government personnel were found positive in recent drug testing, QC Anti Drug Abuse Advisory Council (QCADAAC) chairperson and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte announced on Tuesday.

[Leni on killings: Senseless and unjust violence must stop](#)

PhilStar (20/07)

Vice President Leni Robredo on Wednesday condemned the series of extrajudicial killings in the country in recent days and called on authorities to investigate and prosecute those behind them.

[300 officers deployed to monitor drug lords in Manila prison](#)

Gulf News (20/07)

More than 300 elite personnel of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) were deployed at the national penitentiary to stop imprisoned drug lords from continuing their illegal drug trade.

[DILG creates 'Task Force Digong' vs illegal drugs](#)

Northbound Philippines (20/07)

Following President Rodrigo R. Duterte's recent pronouncement naming high ranking government officials allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on Wednesday they have created an inter-agency task force called DILG Inter-Government Operations Network Group or DIGONG.

[Drug education is imperative](#)

Inquirer (22/07)

It is truly commendable that the new education secretary, Leonor Briones, has declared that one of the first undertakings of the Department of Education under her stewardship is to conduct a thorough review of the syllabus on drug education, with the plan to fortify it.

[DOH plans to include drug rehab in PhilHealth coverage](#)

CNN Philippines (22/07)

A two-week drug rehabilitation program might become included in PhilHealth's coverage, Health Secretary Pauly Ubial said on Thursday.

[Asia's 'shoot-to-kill' republic? The rising body count of the Philippines' 'war on drugs'](#)

The Conversation (22/07)

In his inauguration speech, Duterte pledged that his "adherence to due process and the rule of law is uncompromising". The gruesome daily toll of police killings of criminal suspects demands that he deliver on that promise.

[Philippine cops kill Chinese drug lord](#)

AsiaOne (23/07)

Tan is believed to be the first high-profile suspect slain since President Duterte took office and launched a bloody war on drugs. As of July 18, the Inquirer's "Kill List" showed that 312 people have been killed since May 10, a day after the presidential election.

[K-I-L-L: Duterte spells out fate of drug lords](#)

Philippines Star (24/07)

A lawyer and former city prosecutor, Duterte said due process – especially for drug offenders – is not his concern but the concern of the courts.

[Big kill of small fry, puny drugs haul, defies PNP rules](#)

Inquirer (25/07)

The question of why the poor and puny pushers are dying in high numbers compared to just a handful of their rich counterparts, the drug lords, and their supposed coddlers in the police has been either inadequately answered or ignored.

[The war on drugs](#)

The Standard (25/07)

No stones are left unturned in the war against illegal drugs. This statement aptly describes the recent move of the Philippine National Police and the Department of Justice to deploy 320 trained Special Action Force Police Commandos to take over the security of the New Bilibid Prison.

Taiwan

[Drug dealer methods 'becoming more creative,' say local police](#)

The China Post (19/07)

Drug dealers are becoming more creative in their methods for luring the younger crowd to buy illicit drugs, police said recently.

Thailand

[Bulging prisons prompt rethink of drug war](#)

Bangkok Post (18/07)

More than a decade after Thailand declared a "war on drugs", the country is admitting defeat. As the prison population soars, Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya told Reuters he was looking at changes to the country's draconian drug laws.

[Opium re-emerges to create new drug problems](#)

Bangkok Post (23/07)

Increase in supply has led to a rise in demand and in the number of people dependent on opium use, and that prompted the government in 2013 to launch a rehabilitation programme using methadone treatment in five villages in tambon Mae Tuen of Mae Ramat district.

Vietnam

[Drug crimes on the rise in Vietnam: police](#)

Thanhnie News (19/07)

Drug crimes have been on the rise in Vietnam with a 33 percent increase in the number of arrests made in the first half of this year, according to a new report.

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>