

## Global & Regional

### [Let's Abandon the Assumption That If You've Been Addicted to a Drug, Total Abstinence Is Essential](#)

**The Influence (20/06)**

Ultimately, the terms of a person's "recovery" should be set by them, with medical or therapeutic advice as *they* deem necessary. Pseudoscience and outdated mantras do nothing to encourage healthier lifestyles.

### [Laos and Cambodia set-up consulates to tackle drugs](#)

**The Phnom Penh Post (20/06)**

The two countries agreed to cooperate on public order and drug trafficking issues by setting up consulates on either side of the Stung Treng border.

### [Mandatory treatment not effective at reducing drug use, violates human rights, researchers say](#)

**Science Daily (21/06)**

Clinician researchers assessed current global evidence and found that mandatory treatment for people with substance use disorders is not effective in reducing their drug use.

### [The war on drugs is failing – decriminalisation is the only way forward](#)

**The Guardian (23/06)**

Advice on alternative approaches from the United Nations Development Programme, UNAids, UN Women and the World Health Organisation, and even members of the UNODC themselves, together with pressure from Latin American countries such as Colombia, Mexico and Guatemala, seem to fall on closed ears.

### [With Failed War on Drugs as Backdrop, Global Day of Action Calls for Reform](#)

**Common Dreams (23/06)**

'Today, in cities around the globe, we will be out in the streets calling for support, not punishment.'

### [The Chinese Connection Fuelling America's Fentanyl Crisis](#)

**The Wall Street Journal (23/06)**

U.S. officials say the vast size of China's chemical industry and lax regulation make it difficult to control the production of fentanyl and its component ingredients. The deadly synthetic opioid is now flooding the United States, Mexico and Canada from China.

### [UN drugs agency report ignores global drug execution crisis](#)

**Ekklesia (24/06)**

A new report by the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) fails to mention the use of the death penalty for drug crimes, despite a surge in executions of alleged drug offenders in countries where the UN agency funds counter-narcotics police.

### [Can you get over an addiction?](#)

**The New York Times (25/06)**

Addiction is indeed a brain problem, but not a degenerative pathology like Alzheimer's disease or cancer, nor is it evidence of a criminal mind. Instead, it's a learning disorder.

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## Australia

### [Naloxone not being used as much as expected](#)

**ABC News (20/06)**

Low uptake of Naloxone since it was made available over the counter have led experts to claim that the cost of the life-saving Heroin antidote has become a barrier for drug users.

### [South Australians missing out on rehab services due to 'mental health worker shortage'](#)

**ABC News (20/06)**

South Australians in remote areas are missing out on drug and alcohol rehabilitation services because there is no one to refer them, health workers have said.

### [Australian may fall afoul of Philippine president elect's harsh drug measures](#)

**Mercury (22/06)**

An Australian arrested for selling ecstasy in the Philippines may fall afoul of the President-elect's promise to impose the death penalty for all drug crimes.

### ["Dob a dealer" launches new campaign](#)

**Whyalla News (23/06)**

Crime Stoppers South Australia are again calling on local residents to anonymously report information about those manufacturing and distributing methamphetamine (ice) and other illicit drugs.

### [Drug Policy Based On Fear Means Everyone Loses](#)

**Huffington Pot (24/06)**

If evidence-based drug policy is something you want to see in this country and is more important to you than public moralising, misguided beliefs and a fanciful goal of a drug free world, then this is your how-to-vote card to take with you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July.

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## China

### [Gospel drug addiction treatment centre founded for one year](#)

**China Christian Daily (22/06)**

The centre is dedicated to helping addicts overcome their addiction using faith.

### [Nearly 190,000 arrested for narcotic crimes in China](#)

**Xinhua (25/06)**

There were 217,503 prosecutions for drug offences from the beginning of 2015 to the end of May this year, it said. "Despite the prosecutions and arrests, drug-related crimes have risen each year, with new drugs springing up and criminals changing their methods," the Supreme People's Procuratorate said in a statement.

### [Inserting Electrode into Brain May Help Drug Rehabilitation: Study](#)

**CRI English (25/06)**

Medical institutes and research centers in Shanghai are now studying a new drug rehabilitation method that involves inserting an electrode plate into addicts' brains.

### [China intensifies fight against drugs](#)

**Shanghai Daily (26/06)**

A team of 500 volunteers clubbed together Sunday in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region vowing to fight drug abuse and illicit trafficking on the "roof of the world".

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## **Fiji**

### [Education ministry says population must say no to drugs](#)

**The Fiji Times (23/06)**

Minister Mahendra Reddy said the population cannot rely on recent efforts by the police to eradicate drugs, and a reduction in demand must be achieved by warning children to not use drugs.

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## **India**

### [Himachal Pradesh government told to file report on drug mafia](#)

**The Times of India (22/06)**

Himachal Pradesh high court directed state government to file a status report on the drug mafia operating in the state, accusing the government of failing to tackle rising drug abuse.

### [De-addiction centre: Easy access to drugs made us addicts, inmates tell panel](#)

**The Indian Express (24/06)**

One of the inmates reportedly told the committee members that drugs were easily available in the state — even on one telephone call. "It [drugs] is the reason why I am here today," he told the members.

### [Drug use by men impacts women, who face higher rate of HIV, physical violence in India: Report](#)

**The Indian Express (26/06)**

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released the World Drug Report 2016 on Sunday. The report pays special attention to the impact of drug abuse on health as well behaviour patterns, particularly violence on women and children.

### [Concerted efforts needed to combat drug abuse: President](#)

**The Times of India (26/06)**

President Pranab Mukherjee today said terrorism, smuggling and drug activities are co-related and a concerted effort is needed to break the nexus which was creating "havoc" in the country's social life.

### [International day against drug abuse: Nowhere to go for women addicts](#)

**The Times of India (26/06)**

While there is a stigma attached to men addicted to alcohol or drugs, it is doubly so for women. Very often they hesitate to seek help, and when they do, few families are supportive enough to bring them to de-addiction centres.

### [India fights drugs with 15-year-old data](#)

**The Times of India (27/06)**

In an age of 'big data', the Centre is battling the drug menace with figures that are 15 years old even as the United Nations sees India as a "potentially large opiate market."

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## Indonesia

### [Executions won't fix the drug problem](#)

**Reuters (21/06)**

Drug use is complex, poorly understood and heavily stigmatized – it's an issue that needs to be addressed with reason, science and in consultation with the people involved; not a punishment-oriented approach designed to advance a political and moral agenda.

### [BNN has rehabilitated 42,429 addicts: BNN Head](#)

**Tempo (26/06)**

The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) through government-owned rehabilitation institutions and communities have rehabilitated as many as 42,429 people who use or are dependent on drugs.

### [Budi Waseso: Indonesia still in state of drug emergency](#)

**Tempo (26/06)**

Head of the National Narcotics Agency (BIN) Commissioner General Budi Waseso said Indonesia is still in a state of drug emergency.

### [Illegal drugs cost country US\\$4.7 billion last year, claims Jokowi](#)

**The Jakarta Post (27/06)**

The spread of illegal narcotics among Indonesian society cost the country Rp 63 trillion (US\$4.7 billion) and 14,000 lives last year, while 5.1 million Indonesians are currently addicted to drugs, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has claimed.

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## Malaysia

### [Decriminalise drugs – would you agree to this in Malaysia?](#)

**Star 2 (26/06)**

In the Malaysian AIDS Council report "Everything On My Own: A Policy Brief On Women Who Use Drugs In Malaysia", Ayu's story is a common one – broken home, early initiation into drugs, poor relationships, a desire to change but no support to do so.

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## Myanmar

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

**Aljazeera (20/06)**

Pure cheap heroin does not just supply the international market but also floods Myanmar's villages, leaving devastation in its wake as "treatment" services leave much to be desired. Dr Nang Pann Ei Kham, coordinator of the Drug Policy Advocacy group, speaks to Liz Gooch about how to tackle the problem.

### [Wa Military Leader Arrested for Drug Trafficking](#)

**The Irrawaddy (24/06)**

Ma Ma, a leader of the Wa National Organization (WNO), the political wing of an ethnic Wa armed group, was arrested by Thai narcotics police in Chiang Mai, Thailand this week.

### [Bonfires lit around Myanmar to mark UN day against drug abuse, trafficking](#)

**Myanmar Times (27/06)**

The burning of seized drugs and precursor chemicals marked the UN's annual anti-drugs day. Speaking at one such ceremony in the capital yesterday, Vice President U Myint Swe said peace is the best way to solve Myanmar's drug problem.

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## **New Zealand**

### [Programme targets addiction in prison](#)

**Radio NZ (21/06)**

Six prisoners hoping to stay off drugs outside of prison have just graduated from Arohata Prison's drug treatment unit in Wellington.

### [Industry standards needed when testing homes for P contamination](#)

**NZ Herald (23/06)**

It seems the drug is so widespread that anyone seriously contemplating buying a home needs to have it tested for P contamination -- even if the property looks pristine.

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## **Pakistan**

### [Govt working for a drug-free Pakistan: Mamnoon](#)

**Daily Times (26/06)**

President Mamnoon Hussain said that through its proactive partnerships with the United Nations and other international organisations, the government is endeavouring for a drug-free Pakistan as well as making its mark in the efforts for a drug-free world.

### [Dealing with Drugs](#)

**The News on Sunday (26/06)**

The campaign against drugs should remain a national priority as long as we are faced with the problem. However, the war should not be on paper. Without debating and knowing how this war should be waged, no matter how many advisers are appointed or seminars and international conferences are held, we will remain in the grip of a worsening crisis.

### [Drugs are the real weapon of mass destruction](#)

**The Express Tribune (26/06)**

According to the Anti Narcotics Force, Pakistan has seven million drug addicts, three million of whom are concentrated in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Rehabilitation centres have been operating for decades, but options are still very limited.

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## **Philippines**

### [Philippine Catholic Church alarmed by rise in police killings after election](#)

**ABC News (20/06)**

The influential Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines denounced signs of vigilantism and the offering of bounties for criminals, in an indirect reference to the Rodrigo Duterte public statements.

### [Whatever happened to Mary Jane Veloso?](#)

#### **The Philippine Star (27/06)**

As we shift our attention to a new administration, Veloso continues to languish in prison. A year after her eleventh-hour reprieve, she has inched no closer to freedom.

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## **Singapore**

### [Authorities to step up efforts against drug abuse: Amrin Amin](#)

#### **Channel News Asia (26/06)**

Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs Amrin Amin on Saturday (Jun 25) spoke of the need to step up efforts to prevent drug abuse among youths. Singapore saw 1,330 drug abusers aged below 30 last year, the highest number in a decade. There was also a six per cent increase in the number of youth abusers arrested for the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period last year.

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## **Sri Lanka**

### [Lanka, a transit hub for narcotics?](#)

#### **Sunday Observer (26/06)**

Sri Lankan authorities responsible for the control of narcotics are finally admitting, albeit reluctantly, that the country is now a hotspot for trafficking drugs. A majority of convictions in Sri Lanka are due to drug addiction, which has caused over-crowding in prisons. Correction facilities in Sri Lanka are taking significant steps to include social welfare to support people with addiction, instead of punishing, to minimize prison overcrowding.

### [Sri Lankan President directs implementation of comprehensive programs for drug prevention](#)

#### **Colombo Page (26/06)**

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena today said several programs are being implemented island wide under his direction to eradicate drug menace which affects the development and peaceful environment of the country.

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## **Taiwan**

### [Taiwan: Harsh approach or tolerance?](#)

#### **The News Lens (21/06)**

A recent murder of a young girl by a mentally ill man suspected of using drugs has sparked a derisive national discussion about drug policy approaches. More people are arguing for a health and education based approach.

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## **Thailand**

### [Yes to drug policy mend](#)

#### **Bangkok Post (21/06)**

Contrary to initial reactions, the proposal by the Justice department to reclassify methamphetamine would not decriminalise or legalise the drug. 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. The move, as revealed last week by Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya, involves proposing an amended version of the narcotics law which would in effect destigmatise both drug users and small-time sellers to allow them to reclaim their lives.

### [Let's kick the 'war on drugs' habit](#)

#### **The Nation (22/06)**

Justice ministers Paiboon Koomchaya's readiness to declassify signals a new approach to drugs following the atrocities of former Prime Minister Thaksin Siniwatra's brutal campaign, which made the problem worse than ever.

### [Methamphetamine delisting "will not occur soon"](#)

#### **Bankgkok Post (22/06)**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is weighing public criticism of a proposal to take methamphetamine, or *ya ba*, off the dangerous narcotics list. FDA secretary-general Boonchai Somboonsook said it is unlikely to occur soon, but still hopes to move away from crackdowns on the currently illicit drug in support of rehabilitation for addicts.

### [Government 'won't legalise' meth](#)

#### **Bangkok Post (23/06)**

Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya has confirmed the government will not legalise methamphetamine, but will remove it from the dangerous narcotic drugs list that includes hard drugs such as heroin.

### [Talking about sex, meth and other 'taboos'](#)

#### **Bangkok Post (23/06)**

The meth policy reform proposal shouldn't be shot down just because it is controversial. It should allow healthy and honest debate which will open the way for Thais to be more tolerant of this and other taboos.

### [Thai drug abusers estimated to number 2.7 million](#)

#### **The Nation (26/06)**

Thailand has been struggling with an increasingly complicated drug problem as abusers are estimated to number as much as 2.7 million and the scourge of drugs apparently targets the very young.

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