

Global & Regional

[Why Lousy "Synthetic Drugs" Are Going to End the Drug War](#)

The Influence (01/08)

More completely and more quickly than any of the "classic" drugs, the creation and existence of NPS has forced two of the thorniest issues in drug policy to the fore: whether altered states are even allowable, and whether it should be possible for anyone to profit off of them. Answering these two questions will force an end, one way or another, to the drug-by-drug prohibition-based drug war we know.

[Is cannabis really getting stronger?](#)

The Independent (01/08)

The government should regulate cannabis products to make them safer, enabling consumers to make more informed choices.

[Two ships passing in the night](#)

Volteface (02/08)

For decades now, advocates of sensible drug policy have combined valid and innovative human rights legal argumentation with efforts to dismantle the fear and dogma, which still has a firm grip on most decision-makers and significant parts of society.

[Injustice of death penalty](#)

Bangkok Post (03/08)

Indonesia is a partner in the ASEAN community, where several countries have eliminated executions entirely, while others have greatly eased this ultimate and unchangeable form of punishment. Indonesia, too should rethink its use of mass executions.

[As Obama grants commutations, U.S. continues to aid countries who execute suspected drug offenders](#)

The Washington Post (04/08)

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited the Philippines last week, where he met with controversial new president Rodrigo Duterte.

[Online Trade in Illicit Drugs Is Growing, Study Finds](#)

Wall Street Journal (05/08)

Online trade in illicit drugs via the hidden marketplaces known as cryptomarkets is growing, with revenue having doubled and transactions having tripled since 2013, according to a study published Friday.

[A failing drug war triggers new approach in Thailand and Myanmar](#)

Straits Times (06/08)

Tough, decades-old narcotics laws have crammed prisons in South-east Asia with petty offenders. But drug kingpins - shielded by a combination of corruption, official complicity and weak policing - have largely remained untouched, triggering a recent rethink of the drug control policies.

[Fentanyl: The terrifying synthetic drug killing users in record numbers overseas](#)

News.com (06/08)

Fentanyl is a pharmaceutical drug that was initially used for operative procedures and severe pain in the 1960s. But the street version of the drug is different; it's typically manufactured in labs in China and smuggled overseas.

[Thailand's Novel Approach to Drugs Could Offer Lesson to Neighbors](#)

Radio Free Asia (08/08)

Sensible policies focus on mitigating the drug impact on health and on other crimes. President Duterte needs not only to abide by the nation's laws, but to learn some lessons from Thaksin and Thailand of what not to do.

[Indian cold pills pour over remote border to fuel Myanmar narcotics boom](#)

Reuters (09/09)

Today, the cross-border trickle has become a torrent and everyone knows why the Indian-made pills are so valuable: they are bound for secret laboratories in lawless eastern Myanmar that churn out most of mainland Southeast Asia's methamphetamine, or "meth".

Australia

[The Trials of Drug Checking Down Under](#)

Voltface (01/08)

If our political counterparts wish to continue with a modicum of credibility on the issue of drug policy, support for 'drug checking' programs represent particularly low hanging fruit, from which all parties stand to gain.

[Drug testing down under](#)

Volteface (01/08)

For emergency doctors with an interest in illicit toxicology, the arrival of the summer months in Australia signals, like some sort of grotesque seasonal cuckoo, the beginning of the music festival season. With it, the entirely predictable and unnecessary deaths of young Australians from illicit substance ingestion.

[Illicit drug use soars in Australia as wastewater analysis shows rising ice use](#)

ABC News (04/08)

A record 105,862 illicit drug seizures were made by Australian authorities in 2014-15, while wastewater analysis and arrests show the use of crystal methamphetamine has exploded.

[South Australia's three-strike drug rule targets traffickers and assets](#)

ABC News (05/08)

South Australia's declared drug trafficker law targeting repeat offenders and stripping them of "all assets" has passed State Parliament.

[An Increase in Drug Seizures Doesn't Mean A Decrease In Drugs](#)

The Huffington Post (04/08)

The intent of the enforcement regime of Australia's national drug strategy shouldn't be to arrest more people, nor seize more drugs. Rather, the intent behind our illicit drug enforcement strategy should be to reduce the supply of these harmful drugs in our communities.

India

[Rajya Sabha raises concern over 'alarming' drug menace in Punjab](#)

The India Express (03/08)

Nearly 40 cases were reported from Punjab every day, which was nearly half of the reported cases in the entire country.

[Centre protecting minister despite drug trafficking allegations: Opposition](#)

The Times of India (04/08)

Congress-led opposition on Wednesday charged the government with not acting against a Punjab minister to deal with the drug menace in the northern state.

[Depts crack the whip on sale of psychotropic medicines](#)

The Times of India (04/08)

According to the excise department officials, they have been receiving information that many medical stores were selling drugs containing psychotropic substances to minors. Inspections were carried out in six medical stores in Vadakara taluk and 10 in Kozhikode taluk on Tuesday.

[Soon, an anti-narco policy to look at curbing demand](#)

The Indian Express (08/08)

In a bid to rein in demand, the National Policy for Drug Demand Reduction proposes to develop over the next one year a drug abuse monitoring system that will have detailed records on all drug-dependent people.

Indonesia

[State Executions: A fate worse than death](#)

Euro News (01/08)

Indonesia went ahead with the execution of four drug offenders early on Friday morning. Last-minute petitions were denied. Another 10 more are due to be executed over the coming days.

[Amid fight to end drug trafficking, Indonesia cuts funding for rehabilitation](#)

International Business Times (02/08)

While raids, arrests and punishments against drug mules have gone up, state funding for rehabilitation seems to have decreased.

[Crackdowns and cutbacks: Indonesia's drug policy](#)

Aljazeera (03/08)

With funding cut for rehab, many of Indonesia's one million drug addicts are left with herbal and faith-based remedies.

[Why executions in Indonesia must stop](#)

The Conversation (03/08)

Indonesia executed four prisoners on death row for drug offences early on Friday. Last week's killings were the third round of executions under Joko Widodo's government, and were carried out despite ongoing legal appeals and international pressure.

[Human Rights Activist Haris Azhar Reported to Police for sharing Slain Drug Trafficker's Testimony](#)

Jakarta Globe (03/08)

National Police spokesman Insp. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar said Haris was charged with the controversial Electronic Information and Transactions Law for defamation and spreading false information to the public.

[Convicts in the dark for hours about Indonesia execution reprieve](#)

FMT News (03/08)

Authorities have not given a clear explanation but theories have ranged from concerns over legal problems with several cases to a major storm that hit the island as officials were about to carry out the sentences.

[Jokowi Urged to Act Against 'Drug Mafia' After Convict's Confession](#)

Jakarta Globe (04/08)

Civil society groups have urged President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to appoint an independent team to unravel evidence of what they call a "narcotics mafia," following recent revelations by a human rights activist.

[Equal Punishment for Law Enforcers Involved in Drugs: Watchdog](#)

Jakarta Globe (04/08)

A police watchdog has called on the government to demonstrate its commitment to the fight against the illegal drug trade by ensuring that law enforcement officials involved in the abuse and distribution of narcotics receive the same punishments as everyone else.

[Executions Cast a Pall Over Indonesia and Its 'War on Drugs'](#)

The Diplomat (04/08)

Despite promising to improve Indonesia's human rights records, President Jokowi has upped the pace of executions.

[Joko Widodo's law-enforcers are protecting drug traffickers](#)

The Australian (08/08)

The activist, Haris Azhar, became convinced that Budiman could provide crucial information to how top law-enforcement officials protect drug traffickers despite the country's war on drugs. So when he heard that Budiman was to be executed, Mr Azhar fought hard to keep the drug lord alive.

[Prosecution Watchdog to File Complaint Against AG Over Executions](#)

Jakarta Globe (08/08)

The Commission for Public Prosecutions, or Komjak, will file a complaint against Attorney General H.M. Prasetyo for what it claims was the unlawful execution of two death-row prisoners, whose clemency applications were still being processed.

Malaysia

[Only 12 specialists treating over 60,000 drug addicts](#)

New Straits Times (02/08)

There is a need to expand the scientific- and evidence-based treatment for drug addiction as there are only 12 addiction specialists to treat more than 60,000 drug addicts.

[Solve acute shortage quickly](#)

New Straits Times Online (03/08)

Experts insist that Malaysia's drug rehabilitation programme, with a success rate hovering at 60 per cent, can be better.

Myanmar

[Upper House approves proposal on eliminating drug abuse, trafficking](#)

Eleven Myanmar (03/08)

The proposal, submitted by Upper House MP Sai Wan Hlaing Kham, calls for prompt action to crack down on drug trafficking and abuse across the country. It also stresses the need to establish education programmes and rehabilitation centres for young drug addicts wherever necessary.

[Ministry of Home Affairs seeks bigger budget for drug crackdown](#)

Myanmar Times (03/08)

The Ministry of Home Affairs will request a separate budget allocation to crack down on use and distribution of illicit narcotics.

[Myanmar lawmakers want tougher measures to combat drugs](#)

Channel News Asia (03/08)

Military officials and lawmakers in Myanmar have voiced disappointment over the southeast Asian nation's lacklustre efforts to combat drugs, urging it to step up the battle on the narcotics trade.

Pakistan

[Pakistan embassy official meets drug convict Zulfiqar Ali in Indonesia](#)

The Express Tribune (01/08)

An official of Pakistan embassy in Jakarta met drug convict Zulfiqar Ali on Monday, days after his execution was halted by Indonesia.

Philippines

[Fear in the Philippines as police embark on state-sanctioned 'killing spree](#)

ABC News (02/08)

The ABC recently spent five days in the Philippines, during which time around 50 suspects were killed, mostly while allegedly resisting arrest.

[700 Killed: Human rights groups call on UN to denounce killings of suspected users and dealers](#)

The Guardian (02/08)

More than 700 suspected drug users or dealers have been killed by police or vigilantes in the Philippines in less than three months, say human rights campaigners, who are calling on the UN to denounce the violence.

[De Lima: 'We cannot wage the war against drugs with blood'](#)

CNN Philippines (02/08)

Amid online rumors that she is protecting the drug trade, Sen. Leila De Lima on Tuesday said she supported President Rody Duterte's war on drugs. But she insisted there must be another way to do it.

[Body Count Rises as Philippine President Wages War on Drugs](#)

The New York Times (02/08)

Human rights groups, the Roman Catholic activists and the families of many of those killed during the crackdown say that the vast majority of those killed are poor Filipinos, many of whom had nothing to do with the drug trade.

['Drug-free PH' now possible, says Lacson](#)

Inquirer (03/08)

The senator said the police "should be presumed to be performing their duties with regularity and should not be unduly accused of violating due process without basis."

[Why Is The U.S. Silent On Massacre Of Drug Users In The Philippines?](#)

The Huffington Post (03/08)

More than 300 organizations from around the world released a joint letter calling on the United Nations drug control agencies to urge Duterte's administration to put an immediate halt to its lethal anti-drug campaign. But the US government has remained silent on the issue.

[This Photograph Makes Life Inside a Philippines Jail Look Like Dante's 'Inferno'](#)

Time (03/08)

Human Rights Watch attach a shocking image to a dispatch to highlight the president's anti-drug campaign that critics allege has emboldened vigilantes and left hundreds dead.

[Dead or alive: Is the Philippines' war on drugs out of control?](#)

CNN (04/08)

"International drug control agencies need to make clear to Philippines' President Roderigo Duterte that the surge in killings of suspected drug dealers and users is not acceptable 'crime control,' but instead a government failure to protect people's most fundamental human rights," said Phelim Kine, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch in the report.

[The Bodies Of Drug Dealers Are Piling Up In The Philippines](#)

The Huffington Post (04/08)

Police wrap their lifeless heads in tape and cardboard scrawled with the tag 'pusher ako'. It's a sign to the community that this person who lays dead on a street was a drug dealer. You should not remember their face. You should not see them as human.

[Duterte's war on drugs](#)

Malaya Business Insight (04/08)

Duterte's relentless battle against drug lords, drug pushers, drug addicts, and 27 local government officials affects not only Filipinos, but also peoples in other countries, especially China.

[As Obama grants commutations, U.S. continues to aid countries who execute suspected drug offenders](#)

Washington Post (04/08)

Southeast Asian and Filipino news agencies are reporting that Duterte left the meeting with an assurance from John Kerry that the United States will send the Philippines \$32 million to help fight "drugs, terrorism, [and] crime."

[UN slams killings, Gvt claims warring drug groups were behind the spate of vigilante-style killings of suspected drug dealers](#)

The Standard Philippines (05/08)

Yuri Fedotov, who heads the UN anti-drug body, said that the apparent rise of drug-related killings “contravene the provisions of the international drug control conventions” and “do not serve the cause of justice.” However, the presidential palace responded, saying, “We view these killings as being perpetrated by the drug lords themselves”.

[Philippine President Acknowledges Abuses in Drug War](#)

The New York Times (05/08)

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged abuses have occurred in his war on illegal drugs, which has left more than 400 people dead in a month and alarmed rights activists, but refused to back down from a shoot-to-kill order for drug suspects.

[Philippines President Duterte accuses judges of drugs links](#)

BBC News (07/08)

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has accused dozens of current or former politicians, officials and judges of links with illegal drugs and told them to surrender to be investigated.

[U.S. expresses concern over extrajudicial Philippines killings](#)

Reuters (08/08)

The State Department said on Monday the United States is concerned about extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

[Philippines' Pacquiao preaches death penalty for drug traffickers](#)

Straits Times (08/08)

Philippine boxing icon-turned-senator Manny Pacquiao used the Bible to defend restoring the death penalty for drug traffickers as "approved by God", backing a controversial proposal of President Rodrigo Duterte.

[Drug lords paying media groups to derail Duterte war vs drugs – Aguirre](#)

The Inquirer (08/08)

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said influential drug lords have started funding media groups to derail President Duterte’s campaign against illegal drugs, as more names of prominent politicians behind drugs trade would soon be announced.

[Officials turn themselves in following Duterte's name-and-shame list](#)

CNN (08/08)

Almost 50 Filipino officials, including mayors and police officers, have surrendered in response to being called out by the country's president as being connected to illegal drug trade Sunday.

[SC orders probe of judges on Duterte drug list](#)

The Inquirer (09/08)

The Supreme Court has ordered the conduct of a fact-finding investigation against four incumbent judges identified by President Rodrigo Duterte as involved in narcotics trade.

[Rising death squad killings alarm UN](#)

The Inquirer (09/08)

In the strongest yet warning issued by the United Nations condemning President Duterte’s murderous campaign against drug lords in the country, the executive director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, said that he shared UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s condemnation of the summary killings.

[Archbishop: 'Violent crackdown on drug crime is turning Philippines into a killing field'](#)

Herald Malaysia Online (09/08)

The leader of bishops in the Philippines has issued a statement fiercely critical of President Rodrigo Duterte's violent crackdown on drug-related crime in the country.

[United States concerned over killings in Philippines](#)

Philstar (09/08)

Elizabeth Trudeau, director of the United States Department of State's press office, said Washington urges the Philippines to follow legal and human rights principles in its efforts against illegal drugs.

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