



IDPC & HRA News Digest, Asia-Pacific | 22 -30 August 2016

Global & Regional

ASEAN to focus on jobs for addicts

The Bangkok Post (25/08)

ASEAN will deal with the narcotics problem by focusing more on healthcare and jobs for drug addicts as part of the bloc's 10-year anti-drug action plan, says Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya.

Phillipine's deadly drug war echoes Thai crusade

Chicago Tribune (26/08)

Thailand may provide a cautionary tale for Duterte in his goal of wiping out drugs.

Min of Justice calls for ASEAN role in drug clampdown

Pattaya Mail (28/08)

The Minister of Justice has appealed to Southeast Asian nations to combine their efforts to rid the Golden Triangle of drug production during the 37th meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD).

Summit in Laos: They all want to meet Rody

Philippine Star (29/08)

Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Martin Andanar said other ASEAN leaders have expressed interest to hold bilateral talks with Duterte, whom he described as "the most talked about leader in ASEAN and in the world" due to his controversial war on drugs.

Australia

[Heroin deaths spike as investigations begin into 'strong batch' in South Australia](#)

ABC News (23/08)

A public health warning has been issued after 10 South Australians died from overdoses of either heroin or the potent synthetic painkiller fentanyl since the start of July.

[Designer death: new killer drugs to flood local market](#)

The Age (23/08)

Professor Marilyn Huestis, a long-term member of the US National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Commission on Forensic Science, says synthetic cannabis can be up to 100 times more powerful than marijuana.

[Liverpool community members express unease with plans for Australia's first ice inhalation room](#)

ABC News (24/08)

Matt Noffs, from the Noffs Foundation, and Dr Alex Wodak, former director of the Alcohol and Drug Service at St Vincent's Hospital, explained their plan to the community members in attendance at the forum.

[The Rejection Of Drug Testing Is A Hard Pill To Swallow](#)

Huffington Post (26/08)

If it is one of your children or family attending a festival and considering taking a pill, which would you prefer; an engagement with health professionals, or reliance on an over-the-counter or internet-ordered test kit?

[Is Australia really being flooded by new killer drugs?](#)

The Conversation (30/08)

[Recent media reports](#) have suggested Australia is set to be flooded with new types of deadly "synthetic" drugs. Don't worry, as far as we know, there's no "turbo-charged version of ice" on its way. And we need to steer clear of [drug-related moral panic](#), which increases stigma and makes it harder for users [to seek help](#).

Cambodia

Drug Busts Increasing This Year

Khmer Times (26/08)

Police have detained more than 5,000 people for drug-related crimes during the first nine months of this year and seized about 65 kilograms of illegal substances, a meeting was told on Friday.

Indonesia

Indonesia Will Not Adopt the Philippines' 'Shoot on Sight' Policy Against Drug Criminals

Jakarta Globe (25/08)

National Police chief Gen. Tito Karnavian said Indonesia will not adopt Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's "shoot on sight" policy against drug criminals.

Saving Indonesia's future from the drug menace

Antara News (26/08)

The eradication of illegal substances is indeed a lengthy and complicated process, as the crime itself often leads to even more complex and multidimensional problems, but it does not mean that it is impossible.

India

BJP alleges drug mafia rule in Himachal Pradesh

The Indian Express (24/08)

The Virbhadra Singh government came under heavy fire from Opposition BJP in Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday which alleged that the situation in the state has deteriorated and the government has failed to rein in the mafias.

Act against drug menace toughened

The Times of India (27/08)

New legal provisions could place the burden of proof on those found in possession of drugs, rather than prosecutors.

BJP supporting drug trade

The Times of India (28/08)

Goa Vikas Party (GVP) supremo and Nuvem MLA Francisco Xavier Pacheco blamed the Goa government for "being actively involved in promoting prostitution and drugs in the state".

Iran

Cross-Border Drug Trafficking from Pakistan on Rise

Tasnim News Agency (22/08)

The commander of Iran's border police said the number of seizures of illicit drugs smuggled from neighbouring Pakistan has increased by a significant margin.

Death penalty failing to deter drug trafficking in Iran

Reuters (27/08)

The death penalty has failed to reduce drug trafficking in Iran, a senior Iranian judiciary official said, shortly before the scheduled execution of 12 people for narcotics-related offences.

Malaysia

Strategise to tackle student drug abuse problem

Borneo Post (26/08)

Sarawak Teachers' Union (STU) calls for prevention strategies including early intervention and prevention in school to tackle the problem of drug abuse among students.

Myanmar

14 youth drug clinics to open

Eleven Myanmar (28/08)

The military-controlled Ministry of Home Affairs will set up 14 youth rehabilitation centres across the country to educate and rehabilitate young drug addicts, Major General Aung Soe has told the Lower House.

New Zealand

'Drug dealers are terrorists': Rotorua mayoral candidate vows NZ's biggest drug crackdown if elected

Stuff.nz.co (24/08)

Rakei-Clark has thrown his hat into the ring for the Mayoralty and tackling Rotorua's drug problem is a key plank of his somewhat unorthodox manifesto. "A Class drugs are a nationwide epidemic that is tearing apart our communities, it is stealing our young, causing crime to accelerate and causing our children to live in these environments," he said.

Suspected drug-drivers could undergo saliva tests

Stuff.nz.co (24/08)

"The Government has already introduced a number of measures targeting drink driving but we needed more research to understand how drug driving enforcement could be carried out most effectively," a representative from the Ministry of Transport has said.

Prince's death drug prescribed to New Zealand's elderly

Stuff.nz.co (25/08)

The spike in prescriptions of fentanyl - a synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin - is being described as "opioid rain" by alarmed medical professionals.

Police's new drug stance 'a welcome move'

NZ Newshub (28/08)

Police say they want to offer support to those people, and executive director of the New Zealand Drug Foundation, Ross Bell, says it shows a real change in culture.

Pakistan

'Pakistan concerned about legalisation of drugs in Western world'

The News (24/08)

Federal Secretary of the Narcotics Control Division, Aijaz Ali Khan, on Tuesday said the government was concerned about legalisation of drugs by some European countries and US states, saying that this would put extra burden on its efforts to control smuggling of narcotics.

Save future generations from drugs

Pakistan Observer (26/08)

The problem of drug addiction is too real and serious to be ignored. The government needs to involve civil society and media in highlighting the perils associated with drug addiction.

Philippines

Philippines war on drugs: '1,900 killed' amid crackdown

BBC (23/08)

The head of the Philippines police has said more than 1,900 people have been killed during a crackdown on illegal drugs in the past seven weeks. He said police operations had killed about 750 people, but the other deaths were still being investigated.

Philippine War on Drugs Triggers Widespread Criticism and Senate Investigation

Voice of America (23/08)

“During [Monday’s] senate hearing it became apparent that some police operations didn’t even follow basic police procedures, including failing to secure arrest or search warrants,” Robertson said in an email to VOA.

Protestors in NYC Decry Duterte's Murderous War on Drugs

The Influence (23/08)

Human rights and drug policy activists gathered outside of the Philippines’ consulate in New York City to protest President Duterte’s violent war on drugs. Duterte’s bloody crusade has led to at least 1,800 extra-judicial killings so far, as police squads and vigilante groups roam the country killing alleged drug dealers.

Duterte and his War on Drugs

Business World (23/08)

After weeks of virulently enforcing the war on illegal drugs, it is high time that the Duterte government rethinks its strategy and shifts its focus from punishing drug users towards the capture and prosecution of big time drug suppliers and international drug traffickers.

The Guardian view on the Philippine war on drugs: street justice is no justice

The Guardian (23/08)

Hundreds have died since the new president, Rodrigo Duterte, announced a crackdown on crime. He likes it that way. The rest of the world should not be intimidated.

[CHR: Drug killings affect trade deals with EU](#)

CNN Philippines (24/08)

The growing number of suspected extrajudicial killings that had become a cause for concern for the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

[Philippines summons Chinese envoy over drug trafficking from China](#)

Reuters (24/08)

The Philippines government said on Wednesday it had summoned the Chinese ambassador earlier this week to explain reports that traffickers were bringing in narcotics from China, opening a new front in President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial war on drugs.

[Philippines cannot build a nation over the bodies of 100,000 dead in Duterte's 'war on drugs'](#)

The Conversation (24/08)

Saying "human rights are human rights" no longer suffices. We unfortunately no longer live (or have never lived) in a time when human rights can be a premise that requires no further justification. This is especially the case in the Philippines, where discourses of war, crisis and the fragmentation of the republic are being deployed.

[Drugs crackdown in the Philippines goes from bad to worse](#)

Volteface (25/08)

The 'war on drugs' is spiralling out of control in the Philippines as nearly 2,000 suspected drug users and dealers have been killed by police and vigilante in the last seven weeks.

[The Killing Time: Inside Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's War on Drugs](#)

Time (25/08)

As the body count soars, some say the real threat to the Philippines is not drugs but the President himself.

[Rodrigo Duterte's Campaign of Terror in the Philippines](#)

The New Yorker (26/08)

Rodrigo Duterte, the new President of the Philippines, is a liberal's worst nightmare. In his campaign, Duterte, a former mayor and prosecutor, promised to cleanse the country of drug users and dealers by extrajudicial means. Since his inauguration, on June 30th, he has been following through with a vengeance.

[Philippines drugs war: The woman who kills dealers for a living](#)

BBC News (26/08)

The Philippines is in the midst of a brutal war on drugs sanctioned by the controversial President Rodrigo Duterte, which has seen almost 2,000 killings in a matter of weeks. The BBC's Jonathan Head explores the country's dark underbelly of dealers and assassins through the story of one woman trapped in a chilling predicament.

[Duterte Takes Aim at Senator](#)

Khmer Times (26/08)

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday accused a senator heading an inquiry into extra-judicial drug killings of taking bribes from jailed drug lords, which she immediately denied.

[Kill drug lords, Philippines' top cop tells addicts](#)

Mail Online (26/08)

The Philippines' police chief has called on drug users to kill traffickers and burn their homes, escalating President Rodrigo Duterte's deeply controversial crime war that has claimed 2,000 lives.

[5-year-old girl killed in drug war, Human Rights Watch says](#)

CNN Philippines (27/08)

A 5-year-old girl has become the youngest reported victim of the war on drugs in the Philippines, according to Human Rights Watch.

[China supporting PH campaign vs drugs – Belmonte](#)

Tempo (28/08)

The chairman of the House Committee on the West Philippine Sea yesterday cited the Chinese government's support to the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs and drug-related crimes.

[Philippine president says his bloody drug war not genocide](#)

Japan Today (29/08)

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Monday that his bloody anti-drug campaign that has left nearly 1,800 people dead does not amount to genocide, but that he's ready to go to jail to defend his men from lawsuits.

Philippines' Duterte offers reward for corrupt police linked to drugs

Free Malaysia Today (29/08)

Singling out corrupt policemen known as "ninjas", who take pay-offs from drug lords, Duterte said he was placing a 2 million peso (\$43,000) bounty on their heads, telling their colleagues to "squeal on your friends".

Philippines' Duterte offers reward for corrupt police linked to drugs

Reuters (29/08)

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday promised rewards running to tens of thousands of dollars for information leading to the capture of police officers protecting drug syndicates and warned corrupt officials they would face "a day of reckoning".

Palace to foreign press on drug menace: Come to Philippines, see for yourself

Philstar (30/08)

Under fire for allegedly condoning extralegal killings, the President's communications secretary yesterday told the international media to visit the Philippines so they can see for themselves the extent of the drug menace in the country.

Thailand

Minister of Justice affirms to ASEAN Thailand will not legalize drugs

Pattaya Mail (25/08)

The Minister of Justice has affirmed to the ASEAN community and other relevant nations that Thailand will not legalize narcotics.

Section 44 to ease ya ba ban

Bangkok Post (30/08)

The Justice Ministry will seek the use of Section 44 under the interim charter to remove methamphetamine, or ya ba, from the dangerous narcotics list to allow health authorities to make medical use of the substance.

Vietnam

HCMC court upholds death sentence for Australian drug mule

Thanhnieu News (25/08)

The Ho Chi Minh City People's Court Wednesday confirmed the death sentence for a Vietnamese-Australian for drug smuggling after a reinvestigation determined the drug amount was too big to commute the sentence.

National scheme on drug-rehabilitation approved

Vietnam News (25/08)

Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc has approved the national scheme to restructure the network of drug rehabilitation centres by 2020.

You are receiving this email because you subscribed to this newsletter via a member of our staff or on our website.

[Join us on Facebook](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) gino@3vc.com.au from this list | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)

Our mailing address is:

International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

5th Floor, 124-128 City Road

London, EC1V 2NJ

United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2016 International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) All rights reserved.