

## **Global & Regional**

### **[Is addiction really a disease?](#)**

**The Guardian (24/07)**

If we can acknowledge that addiction is like a disease in some ways and very much unlike a disease in other ways, maybe we can stop trying to label it and pay more attention to the best means for overcoming it.

### **[Revellers get the chance to see if their drugs are what they claim to be](#)**

**The Economist (25/07)**

Some suspiciously hard, grey pills were made of concrete and several samples of “cocaine” and “ketamine” were in fact ground-up anti-malaria tablets. Even the real drugs varied dangerously in potency: the strongest ecstasy pills were five times as potent as the weakest.

### **[How the World's Drug Users Created Something Great in Durban Last Week](#)**

**The Influence (26/07)**

“I have rights like any other person, and just because I use drugs does not mean I can't have a place in society.”

### **[The Link Between Drugs And Violence](#)**

**Huffington Post (26/07)**

As long as we persist in keeping drugs illegal, the violence, especially in our inner cities, will continue, and there will be an endless supply of new non-violent offenders as well as those who take violent action. Only legalization can change the dynamic.

### **[How one patch of grass became the UK's first ever decriminalised drugs space](#)**

**Politics.co.uk (28/07)**

Last weekend, inside a previously unremarkable circle of grass about 10 metres in diameter, a bold new precedent for drugs policy was set in the UK. For those few days it was the first ever de facto decriminalised space for possession of drugs in the UK.

### **[UN chief bucks capital punishment](#)**

**Philstar (01/08)**

The United Nations human rights chief is opposing the imposition of capital punishment in all circumstances, saying death penalty is “not an effective deterrent” to crime and does not protect people from drug abuse.

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## **Afghanistan**

### **[Kabul to Voice New Anti-Drug Smuggling Ideas at July 26 Talks](#)**

**Sputnik News (25/07)**

The Afghan National Security adviser said that Kabul would voice new proposals on the joint fight against drug trafficking with Russia at a meeting on July 26 in Moscow.

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## Australia

### [The Speed You're Taking Is Probably Just Meth](#)

**Vice (26/07)**

If Australia wants to reduce crystal meth supply, it might try doing better work at its borders and in cooperation with governments right across the Asia-Pacific.

### [Queensland children with severe drug-resistant epilepsy eligible for medical marijuana trial](#)

**International Business Times (28/07)**

Medicinal cannabis trial, announced in 2015, will now be available to Queensland children who have severe drug-resistant epilepsy.

### [We Asked an Emergency Room Doctor Whether There's a Safe Way to Take Drugs](#)

**Vice (29/07)**

After seeing too many young people admitted to his ER with overdoses, Caldicott has become one of Australia's leading advocates for safer drug use.

### [WA's \\$2b-a-year meth problem revealed by sewerage tests](#)

**ABC News (01/08)**

West Australians are using about two tonnes of methamphetamine each year with a street value of \$2 billion, wastewater tests have revealed.

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## China

### [IAS strengthens used syringe collection program](#)

**Macao Daily Times (26/07)**

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has partnered with private institutions for drug abuse rehabilitation, to launch a new campaign for the collection of used syringes in public spaces in order to maintain the safety and health of the community, the IAS informed in a statement.

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## India

### [Goa opposition leader recommends death penalty for drug peddlers](#)

**Hindustan Times (25/07)**

Fearing that the coastal state may turn into an "Udta Goa", leader of Opposition in the assembly Pratapsinh Rane on Monday recommended death penalty for drug peddlers.

### [Every day, India sees 10 suicides related to drug abuse— and only one of them is from Punjab](#)

**Scroll (26/07)**

Even though its state government finds it hard to address or even accept it, that Punjab has a drug abuse problem is widely known. However, recent government data shows that this is not limited to the North Indian state.

### [Illicit poppy cultivation now a principal source of funds for terror outfits at border](#)

**The Indian Express (28/07)**

Illicit poppy cultivation in the border districts of West Bengal and smuggling of the contraband across the border to Bangladesh and elsewhere are worrying intelligence authorities because it has turned out to be among the principal sources of funds for terror outfits like the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh.

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## Indonesia

### [Pakistan urges Indonesia to delay execution of man convicted of drug smuggling](#)

**Free Malaysia Today (26/07)**

Pakistan urged the Indonesian government to stay the execution of one of its nationals convicted of smuggling drugs, citing concerns that his 2005 trial had been unfair.

### [Police electrocuted my genitals, forced me to confess to drug possession in Indonesia](#)

**Daily Post (26/07)**

A Nigerian businessman, Michael Titus Igweh, who is based in Indonesia has lamented the unimaginable torture he was subjected to after the police allegedly forced him to confess to possessing heroin.

### [Human rights activists mount pressure on Indonesia not to execute Pakistani drug convict](#)

**International Business Times (26/07)**

Concerned diplomats and human rights activists around the world are continuing to ask Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to exercise restraint and grant pardon to a foreign national from Pakistan and an Indonesian woman, who are reportedly due to be executed soon.

### [Indonesia executes four convicted drug offenders](#)

**CNN (29/07)**

"Any executions that are still to take place must be halted immediately. The injustice already done cannot be reversed, but there is still hope that it won't be compounded," said Rafendi Djamin, Amnesty International's director for South East Asia and the Pacific.

### [The long and cruel reach of Indonesia's death penalty](#)

**The Intercept (29/07)**

With hundreds of Indonesians on death row in other countries, many have decried the hypocrisy of a government that fights to save their own people while targeting foreigners for execution.

### [Humphrey Jefferson's Execution is Illegal: Activist](#)

**Tempo.co (29/07)**

Community Legal Aid Institute (LBH Masyarakat) director Ricky Gunawan said that the execution of Nigerian drug convict Humphrey Jefferson violated two laws.

### [Why Jakarta presses forward with drug executions despite global outcry](#)

**Deutsche Welle (29/07)**

While many are reconsidering violent tactics in the "war on drugs," Indonesia has executed another round of traffickers. President Joko Widodo has relied on the killings to project a strong image within his country.

### [World Islamic philosopher urges Jokowi to end death penalty](#)

**The Jakarta Post (01/08)**

The execution spree in Indonesia has moved respected Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan to urge the government to end the death penalty for drug offenders as it does not reflect traditional or Islamic values.

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## Malaysia

### [Thai masseuse sent to gallows for drug trafficking](#)

**Free Malaysia Today News (26/07)**

A Thai masseuse was sentenced to death by the High Court here today after she was found guilty of trafficking in drugs into the country two years ago.

### [Most of 301 women in jail over drugs](#)

**Borneo Post (30/07)**

There are presently 301 women inmates at the Kepayan Women Prison, out of which 32 are juveniles, and the majority of them are in for using drugs.

### [Female addicts get 2nd chance](#)

**New Straits Times (31/07)**

There is a rise in female drug addicts, which is alarming and baffling the authorities, although the number is small compared with male drug addicts.

### [National Anti-Drug Agency wants govt to reject Risda's proposal to grow ketum commercially](#)

**Malay Mail Online (31/07)**

The National Anti-drug Agency (AADK) hopes the government will reject Risda's proposal to grow ketum trees on a commercial scale as it will be a hindrance to the effort of ensuring a drug-free Malaysia by 2020.

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## Myanmar

### [Myanmar's Upper House Passes Motion to Combat Drug Gangs in Shan State](#)

**Radio Free Asia (25/07)**

Myanmar's upper house of parliament on Monday unanimously approved a motion submitted by an ethnic Shan lawmaker to combat rampant illegal drug sales and use in impoverished northern Myanmar's Shan state.

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## New Zealand

### [Govt urged to allow legal P use for drug rehabilitation](#)

**Radio NZ (30/07)**

More than 130 papers have been written on the efficacy of drug consumption rooms, which number close to 100 worldwide.

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## Pakistan

### [100-bed hospital for drug users soon](#)

**Pakistan Observer (01/08)**

Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control is constructing a 100-bed drug treatment hospital in Peshawar for treatment and detoxification of drug users in the province, official sources said on Sunday.

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## **Philippines**

### **[A look at Philippines' war on drugs](#)**

**Deutsche Welle (25/07)**

Since Rodrigo Duterte won the country's presidency in May this year, the Philippines has seen scores of police killings as part of the leader's pledge to wipe out drugs and criminality.

### **[Duterte Defends His Deadly War On Drugs in The Philippines](#)**

**Huffington Post (25/07)**

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte vowed big reforms to tackle chronic economic flaws on Monday and defended his pursuit of a deadly anti-narcotics war, saying drugs were drowning his country and human rights were no excuse to shield criminals.

### **[AFP welcomes Duterte's plan to use camps as drug rehab centers](#)**

**Inquirer (25/07)**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines welcomed the proposal of President Duterte to use military camps as drug rehabilitation centres.

### **[Gov't to seek tycoons' help in building drug rehab centres](#)**

**GMA Network (26/07)**

The Philippines' richest families can share the responsibility of addressing the country's drug problem by helping in the construction of centers that would house drug addicts seeking rehabilitation, a senior government official said Tuesday.

### **[300 killed, but Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte says it's just the start](#)**

**The Sydney Morning Herald (26/07)**

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered police to escalate his war on illegal drugs that has already killed almost 300 people across the archipelago nation since the start of July.

### **[Bato to seek int'l cooperation on drug war with Malaysia](#)**

**Inquirer (26/07)**

Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald "Bato" de la Rosa on Tuesday flew to Malaysia to attend a four-day conference of police chiefs from member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to be held in Putrajaya.

### **[Government agencies outline drug rehab program](#)**

**CNN Phillipines (27/07)**

Representatives from concerned government agencies met Tuesday to iron out the details of an improved drug rehabilitation program, meant for drug users who surrender to authorities.

### **[Drugs putting Philippines on the brink of suicide](#)**

**New Straits Times (27/07)**

It will remain for Duterte's successor to begin the healing. Once people realise "how close we came" to national suicide, they will appreciate that the healing will take a long time.

### **[War on Drugs in the Philippines Affects the Most Disadvantaged](#)**

**Latin American Herald Tribune (27/07)**

These radical measures, however, have not affected Duterte's wide popularity, and a recent survey showed he enjoys the backing of 91 percent of those surveyed, which is the highest ever in the country's history.

### [Show no mercy on drug syndicates – Duterte](#)

#### **Manila Bulletin (27/07)**

Faced with an “enormous” drug problem, President Rodrigo Duterte is considering authorizing government forces to blast to smithereens the ships bringing drugs to the country.

### [China harbouring drug lords: Philippine's Duterte](#)

#### **Channel Asia (28/07)**

China is harbouring major drug lords who smuggle narcotics into the Philippines, the president said on Thursday as he pressed on with his ruthless war on crime.

### [President denounces extrajudicial killings](#)

#### **The Manila Times (28/07)**

Even as he reiterated his vow to crush illegal drug syndicates, President Rodrigo Duterte denounced extrajudicial killings and said he would put it “under control.”

### [Philippine crime war packs decaying jails](#)

#### **Bangkok Post (30/07)**

Security forces have killed hundreds of people and detained thousands more in just one month as they have followed the orders of President Rodrigo Duterte, who has said the top priority at the start of his six-year term is to eliminate drugs in society.

### [PNP gets drug lords' profiles from China](#)

#### **Philstar (31/07)**

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa has been provided by his Chinese counterpart with the profiles of suspected drug lords Peter Lim and Peter Co.

### [The dark side of Duterte's deadly but popular drugs war](#)

#### **FMT News (31/07)**

Some 316 suspected drug dealers were killed from July 1-27, 195 of which were vigilante killings, according to police. Human rights groups estimate the body count to be at least double the official number.

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## **Sri Lanka**

### [Sri Lankan President determined to eliminate drugs menace targeting school children](#)

#### **Colombo Page (27/07)**

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena today stressed that the laws will be strictly enforced against those who involved in illicit drug trade targeting the school children to protect the future generation.

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## **Thailand**

### [Thais to back 'Golden Triangle siege'](#)

#### **The Nation (30/07)**

JUSTICE Minister General Paiboon Koomchaya yesterday discussed the "Golden Triangle Siege" strategy with Myanmar authorities, which includes trying to prevent more than 3,000 tonnes of narcotic ingredients pouring into drug-manufacturing bases in the area each year and measures to stop the smuggling of illicit drugs to other countries.

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**Gloria Lai**  
**Senior Policy Officer**  
**International Drug Policy Consortium**

[glai@idpc.net](mailto:glai@idpc.net)

Tel: +66 (0) 826960334

Based in Bangkok, Thailand

[www.idpc.net](http://www.idpc.net)

Find us on [Facebook](#)

**Gino Vumbaca**

**President**

**Harm Reduction Australia**

M: 0408-244-552

E: [gino@3vc.com.au](mailto:gino@3vc.com.au)

W: <http://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au>

T: <https://twitter.com/harmreductionau>

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