



INTERNATIONAL PRISON NEWS DIGEST

41st Edition – September - October 2017

Welcome to the 41st edition of the International Prison News Digest, our selection of news items from around the world on prison and the use of imprisonment. The Digest is produced bi-monthly and this issue covers the period from 1 September to 31 October 2017.

In this and future editions of the Digest, we are grouping news items regionally, rather than thematically. We aim in the Digest to cover all regions of the world and include new developments in policy and practice, as well as information from official and intergovernmental bodies. By clicking on the hyperlinks, you can access the news articles in their original form.

Content is sourced solely from English language news stories. Readers wishing to notify us of important news items in other languages are welcome to send us articles with a short summary of key content and we will consider them for inclusion in the next edition. Please note that ICPR is not responsible for the accuracy of external content.

Information on global prison systems can be found on [World Prison Brief](#)

AFRICA

Liberia: Special judiciary task force to review cases of pre-trial detainees. [All Africa, 16 October 2017](#)

Morocco: Moroccan prisons prohibit prisoners' families from delivering food. [Morocco World News, 30 October 2017](#)

Nigeria: The Nigerian Prisons Service has confirmed that three prisoners died while two warders were injured during a riot in an overcrowded jail in Lagos. [IOL, 22 September 2017](#)

Nigeria: The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has announced plan for prisoners to start exercising their voting right from the 2019 general election. [Today.ng, 25 October 2017](#)

Zimbabwe: Pre-trial detainees claim an acute shortage of anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) has hit the country's prisons and correctional facilities, and is now threatening their survival.

[Bulawayo 24 News, 24 September 2017](#)

AMERICAS

Canada: The number of Indigenous offenders in the federal correctional system has risen almost 40 per cent in the last decade, according to a government report. [The Hamilton Spectator, 15 September 2017](#)

Canada: Two government watchdogs have joined forces in calling for a ban on solitary confinement for young prison prisoners. [The Globe and Mail, 4 October 2017](#)

Canada: The number of women in federal prisons has jumped significantly in Canada in the last decade. [CBC News, 11 October 2017](#)

Mexico: At least 13 people were killed when a fight broke out in a prison in the northern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon. [Reuters, 11 October 2017](#)

United States: There has been a significant drop in new HIV infections in Federal and state run prisons. [Pink News, 4 September 2017](#)

United States: Texas prisons quietly end use of punitive solitary confinement. [Chron.com, 21 September 2017](#)

United States: The Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) has eliminated the use of Extended Restrictive Housing in its facilities so all prisoners are offered a minimum of four hours out of their cells. [Patch.com, 12 October 2017](#)

ASIA

India: The Supreme Court has asked all high courts to identify the families of prisoners who are known to have died an unnatural death since 2012 and to award suitable compensation to them. [New Indian Express, 15 September 2017](#)

Malaysia: More than 17,000 prisoners have completed their jail sentence outside the prison walls under the parole system introduced in 2008. [Malaysian Digest, 27 September 2017](#)

Philippines: Jails and justice system at breaking point as drug war intensifies. [Reuters, 1 September 2017](#)

EUROPE

Europe: The European Parliament's civil liberties committee has called on national authorities to address the issue of overcrowding in prisons. [New Europe, 6 October 2017](#)

Armenia: According to a study conducted by the Armenian Prison Monitoring Group, corruption in the country's prison system has increased significantly over the past few years. [News.Az, 31 October 2017](#)

Czech Republic: The first open prison has opened in the Czech Republic. [Xinhua.net, 17 October 2017](#)

Ireland: The State is bracing itself for the outcomes of around 880 court cases on "slopping out" in prisons after it lost a landmark action in the High Court. [Irish Examiner, 14 September 2017](#)

Ireland: Ireland has "finally started to enter a more positive space" in relation to prisoner numbers. [The Irish Times, 7 October 2017](#)

Macedonia (FYROM): The Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) strongly criticises the conditions of detention and treatment of prisoners at Idrizovo Prison, which holds some 60 % of the country's prisoners. [Council of Europe, 12 October 2017](#)

Netherlands: Hundreds of foreign criminals are released early from Dutch prisons each year and deported from the country. [NL Times, 18 October 2017](#)

Netherlands: A prison in Leeuwarden in the province of Groningen is experimenting with a special wing for fathers. [DutchNews.nl, 30 October 2017](#)

Netherlands: Detainees in the special terrorist departments in the prisons in De Schie and Vught are detained under inhumane conditions. [NL Times, 31 October 2017](#)

Turkey: Turkish Justice Ministry Undersecretary Kenan İpek has said more than 50 prisons are under construction. [Turkey Purge, 5 September 2017](#)

UNITED KINGDOM

England and Wales: Almost 800 years of additional imprisonment were imposed on prisoners found to have broken prison rules last year. [The London Economic, 4 September 2017](#)

England and Wales: Ministers have been accused of failing to address soaring suicide levels in prison. [Independent, 10 September 2017](#)

England and Wales: Prisoners across England and Wales are being locked up for long periods in cells that are so insanitary, unhygienic and degrading that it is driving them to drugs. [The Guardian, 10 October 2017](#)

England and Wales: The government does not collect even basic information on how many prisoners have a mental illness, or the total number in need of treatment. [The Guardian, 11 October 2017](#)

England and Wales: Too many prisoners leaving jail are merely being "signposted" towards rehabilitation services. [BBC News, 13 October 2017](#)

England and Wales: Muslim and black prisoners are more likely to be restrained and segregated in jail. [Huffpost, 19 October 2017](#)

England and Wales: More than half of prisoners freed after serving controversial indeterminate sentences for public protection are being sent back to jail for breaching licence conditions. [BBC News, 18 October 2017](#)

England and Wales: High-security prisons holding Britain's most dangerous prisoners have lost one in four officers since the Conservatives have been in government. [The Guardian, 26 October 2017](#)

Northern Ireland: A third of young offenders and an even higher proportion of adults in Northern Ireland go on to re-offend within a year of being released from custody. [Belfast Telegraph, 6 October 2017](#)

Scotland: Two mini prisons for women are to be opened by 2020, the Scottish government has announced. [BBC News, 14 September 2017](#)

OCEANIA

Australia: Australia's jail population has hit a record high of more than 41,200 prisoners, as a 20-year surge in incarceration rates shows no sign of waning. [The Guardian, 11 September 2017](#)

Australia: Inflexible rules in the youth justice system are setting children and young people up to fail and worsening the Indigenous incarceration rate. [The Guardian, 25 September 2017](#)

New Zealand: The Corrections Department is reviewing its criteria for double-bunking in cells after a repeat sex offender was found guilty of raping three of his cellmates. [Radio NZ, 8 September 2017](#)

New Zealand: Corrections has set up a dedicated team to help get prisoners out of prison on electronic bail because it is running out of cells in which to keep them. [New Zealand Herald, 10 September 2017](#)

New Zealand: A Corrections' initiative to employ social workers in women's prisons aims to reduce re-offending and prevent women from returning to prison. [Scoop, 27 September 2017](#)

New Zealand: New Zealand's prison population has increased by 700 this year - enough prisoners to fill a brand new medium-sized prison [this rise of 700 is for the 12 months from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017]. [New Zealand Herald, 30 October 2017](#)