



INTERNATIONAL PRISON NEWS DIGEST

47th Edition – September - October 2018

Welcome to the 47th 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 2018.

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. News items are grouped regionally. 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

Egypt: The Egyptian parliament is considering replacing prison sentences with community service for prisoners convicted of minor offences. [Al-Monitor, 25 September 2018](#)

Kenya: A majority of those on remand are still in custody even though they have been granted bail. [Daily Nation, 16 September 2018](#)

Kenya: President Uhuru Kenyatta has signed the Kenya Prisons Enterprise Corporation Order of 2018 with a view to unlocking the revenue potential of prisons. [Journal du Cameroun, 2 October 2018](#)

Rwanda: 2,140 prisoners have been released from jail following a cabinet meeting where a presidential "mercy" order was approved. [DW, 15 September 2018](#)

Sierra Leone: The Ministry of Internal Affairs is establishing bank accounts for all female prisoners to receive financial packages at the end of their jail terms. [All Africa, 17 October 2018](#)

South Africa: The number of unnatural deaths of prisoners in crowded correctional facilities in the country has increased by almost a third. [IOL, 5 October 2018](#)

Zimbabwe: The Government intends to build more open prisons to accommodate female prisoners who give birth in jail as it strives to improve the country's justice system. [Bulawayo 24, 1 October 2018](#)

AMERICAS

Brazil: Seven prisoners are dead after a mass escape attempt from an overcrowded prison in northern Brazil. [The Province, 18 September 2018](#)

Brazil: Authorities in Brazil say nine prisoners have been killed and 19 are on the run after fleeing when a riot broke out at a prison in the northern state of Tocantins. [The Province, 3 October 2018](#)

Canada: The Federal Government is moving to ban the practice of isolating prisoners who pose risks to security or themselves. [Ottawa Citizen, 16 October 2018](#)

Guatemala: At least seven people were shot dead and four were wounded in a prison riot in Guatemala. [Business Insider, 1 October 2018](#)

United States: For two decades, the number of children behind bars in the U.S. has been on the decline—but the racial disparity has been dramatically worsening. [The Marshall Project, 19 September 2018](#)

United States: A government watchdog agency has pointed to systemic problems in the way federal prisons treat the women in their custody. [ABC News, 28 September 2018](#)

ASIA

Cambodia: The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia has unveiled an ongoing project to build consultation rooms at prisons across the Kingdom. [The Phnom Penh Post, 25 September 2018](#)

Cambodia: Senators have asked the Interior Ministry to build more prisons in order to reduce overcrowding in jails across the Kingdom. [Khmer Times, 25 October 2018](#)

Israel: The Knesset Interior Committee has advanced a bill that provides for the early release of certain prisoners to reduce prison overcrowding. [Haaretz, 29 October 2018](#)

Pakistan: The Federal Ombudsman has told the Supreme Court that provincial prison departments have adopted a mechanism for the release of prisoners on parole. [The Express Tribune, 21 September 2018](#)

Thailand: Thailand's prisons have begun testing a video conferencing system that allows long-distance visits with prisoners via a social media messaging application. [The Washington Post, 2 October 2018](#)

Thailand: Thailand's cabinet has approved an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act, allowing those charged with offences punishable by less than 10 years imprisonment to get temporary release. [Chiang Rai Times, 3 October 2018](#)

EUROPE

Azerbaijan: Endemic corruption continues to haunt Azerbaijan's prison system, with prisoners expected to pay for everything from access to washing facilities to food and medicine. [IWPR, 5 September 2018](#)

France: The Minister for Justice has unveiled a plan to scrap short sentences and create 7,000 extra prison places for more serious offenders. [The Local, 12 September 2018](#)

Ireland: Life sentence prisoners released from Irish jails last year had served an average of 18 years, the Parole Board has said. [The Irish Times, 4 October 2018](#)

Ireland: The second annual report on standards in Ireland's penal system has identified little progress in several key areas. [Newstalk, 26 October 2018](#)

Italy: Italy's highly restrictive prison regime for Mafiosi violated the human rights of one known as "the boss of bosses", the European Court of Human Rights has ruled. [Scottish Legal News, 26 October 2018](#)

Russia: Russia's prison service has uncovered dozens of abuse cases in prisons. [The Moscow Times, 3 September 2018](#)

UNITED KINGDOM

England and Wales: Hundreds of prison officers have been sacked for smuggling drugs, weapons and mobile phones into jails. [The Guardian, 1 September 2018](#)

England and Wales: An average of two prison officers need to go to A&E every day after being attacked by prisoners. [Independent, 3 September 2018](#)

England and Wales: Prison staff in England and Wales have taken part in widespread protests over "unprecedented violence" in jails. [BBC News, 14 September 2018](#)

England and Wales: Young offenders are increasingly being locked up on their own, a children's rights watchdog has found, highlighting one case where a child was kept in segregation for 100 days. [The Guardian, 10 October 2018](#)

England and Wales: Elderly prisoners are not always receiving the care they need, with some struggling to wash themselves and others not getting help when they fall during the night. [Independent, 16 October 2018](#)

England and Wales: The number of prisoners being sexually assaulted by other prisoners has trebled since 2010. [BBC News, 16 October 2018](#)

England and Wales: Self-harm and violent attacks in prisons have hit a new record high as incidents soar by 20 per cent in a year, new figures show. [Independent, 25 October 2018](#)

England and Wales: Almost half of England's jails are providing inadequate medical care to prisoners, whose health is being damaged by widespread failings, the NHS watchdog has told MPs. [The Guardian, 27 October 2018](#)

Northern Ireland: The interim Prisoner Ombudsman has praised a drop in the number of complaints by prisoners in Northern Ireland. [Shropshire Star, 26 September 2018](#)

Northern Ireland: The number of female prisoners sentenced to short jail terms of three months or less has doubled. [The Irish News, 27 September 2018](#)

Northern Ireland: It has been revealed there have been 50 deaths in Northern Ireland prisons since 2007. [Belfast Telegraph, 27 September 2018](#)

Scotland: Prisoners could be given the vote in Scotland as ministers unveiled plans for a new "Electoral Franchise Law". [The Scotsman, 5 September 2018](#)

Scotland: Prisoners are at risk of being freed without having finished treatment programmes aimed at cutting reoffending, a report has warned. [Evesham Journal, 19 September 2018](#)

Scotland: Planning permission has been granted for the first of five small community jails proposed across Scotland to house female prisoners. [BBC News, 19 September 2018](#)

Scotland: Scotland's jails are the most crowded they have been for four years, with a dramatic rise in those on remand driving up the prison population. [The Scotsman, 3 October 2018](#)

OCEANIA

Australia: Indigenous women who died in custody were less likely to have received all the care they needed, but were more likely to have been injured in custody than Indigenous men. [The Guardian, 10 September 2018](#)

Australia: A coalition of more than 35 human rights, justice and community organisations have written to the government pleading for action on the rising numbers of Indigenous people in prisons. [The Guardian, 17 September 2018](#)

New Zealand: Tackling colonisation, institutional racism and employing tikanga-based justice methods are key to reducing the Māori prison population, researchers say. [Newstalk ZB, 4 October 2018](#)