

World Female Imprisonment List

(second edition)

(Women and girls in penal institutions, including pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners)

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This second edition of the World Female Imprisonment List shows the number of women and girls held in penal institutions, as pre-trial detainees (remand prisoners) or having been convicted and sentenced, in 212 prison systems in independent countries and dependent territories. It also shows the percentage of women and girls within each national prison population. The information is the latest available on the situation up to the beginning of 2012. In addition this second edition includes, where available, information about trends in the female prison population since 2000.

The International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS) published in July 2011 the ninth edition of the World Prison Population List. The World Female Imprisonment List is a similar publication focusing specifically on female imprisonment. Both lists complement the information which the ICPS already publishes and updates monthly in the World Prison Brief section of its website (www.prisonstudies.org).

The World Female Imprisonment List is compiled, like the World Prison Population List, from a variety of sources. In almost all cases the original source is the national prison administration of the country concerned, or else the Ministry responsible for the prison administration. Most of the figures are recent and efforts are being made to update them and to obtain information on the number of female prisoners in the independent countries and dependent territories for which figures are not currently available; ICPS will welcome the assistance of readers of the List in enhancing its recency and comprehensiveness. Care has been taken to ensure that the List is as accurate as possible but ICPS cannot guarantee the reliability of every figure and readers are also invited to draw attention to any errors they notice and, if possible, to supply corrections.

It is hoped that this edition of the World Female Imprisonment List will be found useful by policy makers, academic criminologists, non-governmental organisations, other criminal justice experts and everyone who is interested in the extent of female imprisonment.

Key points

- ▶ More than 625,000 women and girls are held in penal institutions throughout the world, either as pre-trial detainees (remand prisoners) or having been convicted and sentenced.
- ▶ Nearly a third of these are in the United States of America (201,200). The next three countries in terms of numbers are China (with 84,600 plus women and girls in pre-trial detention or 'administrative detention'), the Russian Federation (59,200), Brazil (35,596) and Thailand (29,175). The only other countries with more than 7,000 female prisoners are India (15,406), Vietnam (12,591 plus women and girls in pre-trial detention), Mexico (10,072), Ukraine (9,697) and Philippines (7,726).
- ▶ The female prison population is growing in all five continents. The total in the 187 countries whose figures were shown in the first edition of this List (2006) has increased by more than 16%, with the largest increase being in the Americas (up 23%) and the smallest increase in European countries (up 6%).
- ▶ In about 80% of prison systems female prisoners constitute between 2 and 9% of the total prison population. The highest percentage levels are in Maldives (21.6%), Hong Kong-China (20%), Bahrain (18.5%), Andorra (16.4% - 10 out of a total of 61 prisoners), Macau-China (14.8%), Qatar (14.7%) and Thailand (14.6%).
- ▶ There are continental variations in the prevalence of women and girls within the total prison population. The median level is 4.45% but in African countries female prisoners constitute a much smaller percentage of the total (the median is 3.1%) than in Asia where the median level is almost twice as high (5.95%). The median levels in the Americas, Europe and Oceania are 5.15%, 4.9% and 3.9% respectively.
- ▶ The prevalence of women and girls within the total prison population has increased in recent years, especially in Asia and Europe.

World Female Imprisonment List (second edition)

AFRICA

	Female prison population total	Percentage of total prison population	Date	Trend information (where available)					
				Year	Total	%age	Year	Total	%age
Northern Africa									
Algeria	984	1.8%	31.12.08	2000	626	1.8%	2006	607	1.1%
Egypt	2,386	3.7%	31.12.06	2002	2,213*	4.3%*	2005	2,453	3.6%
Libya	345	2.6%	8.4.10	2004	387	3.3%	2007	347	2.7%
Morocco	1,886	3.2%	31.12.08	2002	1,776	3.3%	2005	1,227	2.4%
Sudan	c. 200	c. 1.7%	3.03						
Western Africa									
Benin	210	3.5%	1.08	2000	c. 140	c. 3.6%	2006	220	3.8%
Burkina Faso	112	2.1%	.10	2001	25	1.0%	2007	74	1.8%
Cape Verde	38	5.0%	12.99						
Cote d'Ivoire	236	2.3%	8.3.02						
Gambia	6	1.2%	6.99						
Ghana	254	1.9%	5.10.09	2000	143	1.5%	2005	257	2.1%
Guinea (Rep. of)	133	4.8%	12.08	2002	61	2.0%	2007	112	4.4%
Liberia	31	2.0%	.10	2001		c. 5.0%	2007	50	4.9%
Mali	80	2.0%	2.02						
Mauritania	62	3.6%	.10	2003	10*	2.7%*			
Niger	224	3.2%	31.12.10				2006	183	3.2%
Nigeria	908	1.9%	31.7.11	2000	709	1.9%	2005	722	1.9%
Senegal	256	3.7%	.08	2000	183	3.7%	2005	234	3.6%
Sierra Leone	79	3.5%	31.10.10				2007	66	3.3%
Togo	59*	3.4%*	31.12.09	2004	64*	4.0%*	2007	39*	2.6%*
Central Africa									
Angola	196	3.3%	4.4.03						
Cameroon	581	2.7%	12.03						
Chad	21*	2.5%*	mid-02						
Congo (Rep. of)	70*	6.0%*	.07	2003	51*	4.7%*			
Dem. Rep. of Congo	130*	3.0%*	12.6.08	2004	83*	3.2%*			
Sao Tome e Principe	8	3.7%	.10	2002	3	2.3%			
Eastern Africa									
Burundi	345	3.5%	12.10	2002	216	2.5%	2007	206	2.9%
Comoros	2	1.5%	31.12.10						
Djibouti	c. 24	c. 4.0%	.10						
Ethiopia	3,895	3.5%	2009/10	2001/02	2,034	3.3%	2005/06	1,994	2.8%
Kenya	2,081	4.5%	5.6.09	2001	1,486	4.2%	2006	2,000	4.2%
Madagascar	736	3.9%	6.10	2003	650	3.4%	2006	573	3.3%
Malawi	156	1.3%	31.12.10	2001	91	1.3%	2005	117	1.2%
Mauritius	138	5.9%	30.11.09	2001	117	5.9%	2005	137	5.6%
Mozambique	358	2.2%	.09						
Rwanda	c. 3,860	c. 6.2%	31.12.10	2002	2,925	2.6%			
Seychelles	28	6.5%	17.11.10	2002	4	2.7%	2006	11	7.7%
Tanzania	1,285	3.4%	1.11.11	2005	1,515	3.3%	2008	1,361	3.3%
Uganda	1,278	4.2%	3.10	2005	901	3.4%	2008	1,060	3.6%
Zambia	c. 250	c. 1.5%	3.11				2005	237	1.7%
Zimbabwe	c. 450	c. 3.0%	10.10	2001	671	3.5%	2006	750	4.1%
Mayotte (France)	2	1.1%	1.10.07	2003	2	1.2%			
Reunion (France)	34	2.6%	1.10.07	2003	29	2.7%			
Southern Africa									
Botswana	215	4.1%	2.9.09	2001	289	4.6%	2004	306	5.0%
Lesotho	61	2.4%	.10	2000	139	4.5%	2005	78	2.7%
Namibia	110	2.7%	31.12.07	2000	104	2.1%			
South Africa	3,760	2.4%	28.2.11	2000	3,966	2.5%	2005	4,072	2.2%
Swaziland	68	2.6%	19.10.09	2002	133	3.9%	2005	104	3.9%

* These figures are for the main prison in the capital. Full figures are not available.

Figures are not available for the following countries:

Northern Africa: South Sudan, Tunisia

Central Africa: Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon

Western Africa: Guinea Bissau

Eastern Africa: Eritrea, Somalia

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AMERICAS

	Female prison population total	Percentage of total prison population	Date	Trend information (where available)					
				Year	Total	%age	Year	Total	%age
North America									
Canada	1,971	5.1%	2008/09	2002/03	1,626	5.0%			
U.S.A.	c. 201,200	8.8%	30.6.09	2001	159,431	8.1%	2005	c.195,140	8.9%
Bermuda (UK)	14	5.4%	31.10.07	2000	20	6.7%	2006	17	5.6%
Central America									
Belize	24	1.7%	31.12.10	2000	20	2.6%	2005	33	2.4%
Costa Rica	942	6.9%	31.10.11	2003	454	6.8%	2006	615	7.4%
El Salvador	1,917	8.5%	31.1.10	2000	371	4.8%	2005	585	4.7%
Guatemala	743	6.7%	7.10	2001	433	5.9%	2005	381	5.3%
Honduras	411	3.5%	12.10	2002	614	5.2%	2005	395	3.4%
Mexico	10,072	4.5%	28.2.11	2001	7,207	4.3%	2005	10,485	5.0%
Nicaragua	515	7.6%	.08	2002	c. 215	3.8%	2005	365	6.5%
Panama	764	6.6%	15.6.10	2001	721	7.5%	2005	761	6.6%
Caribbean									
Antigua & Barbuda	4	2.0%	20.9.07	2003	7	4.3%	2005	6	3.1%
Bahamas	23	1.8%	10.02						
Barbados	37	4.1%	10.10	2001	39	4.7%	2007	49	4.7%
Dominica	6	2.1%	29.12.10				2005	1	0.3%
Dominican Republic	552	2.7%	.10	2001	621	4.0%	2006	470	3.4%
Grenada	16	3.6%	.10	2002	9	3.0%	2005	2	0.8%
Haiti	440	8.6%	21.6.10	2003	116	3.3%	2006	248	6.6%
Jamaica	245	5.2%	1.10.07	2003	371	7.8%	2005	223	4.6%
St Kitts & Nevis	3	0.9%	7.12.11				2005	5	2.4%
St Lucia	8	1.4%	3.12.11	2001	11	2.4%			
St Vincent & the Grenadines	9	2.2%	.10	2001	8	2.6%	2006	10	2.7%
Trinidad & Tobago	212	5.6%	31.12.08				2006	108	2.8%
Anguilla (UK)	2	2.8%	19.10.11				2007	0	0%
Aruba (Neth)	25	9.0%	6.07				2005	23	10.0%
Cayman Is (UK)	11	5.2%	.10	2000	24	10.6%	2005	16	8.4%
Curacao (Neth)	38	6.6%	.06						
Guadeloupe (Fr)	18	2.3%	1.10.07	2003	9	1.3%			
Martinique (Fr)	15	2.0%	1.10.07	2003	12	1.9%			
Puerto Rico (USA)	409	3.1%	31.12.07				2004/05	513	3.4%
St Maarten (Neth)	7	7.4%	mid-07						
Virgin Is. (UK)	5	5.0%	7.11						
Virgin Is. (USA)	16	2.7%	1.1.11				2007	21	3.8%
South America									
Argentina	2,719	4.6%	31.12.10	2002	2,402	5.3%	2005	2,172	5.0%
Bolivia	1,344	11.7%	31.12.11	2000	1,393	17.1%	2005	913	13.4%
Brazil	35,596	6.9%	6.11	2000	10,112	4.3%	2005	20,264	5.6%
Chile	4,259	8.3%	31.12.11	2003	2,277	6.0%	2007	3,228	6.7%
Colombia	5,616	6.7%	10.10	2000	3,141	6.1%	2005	4,122	6.2%
Ecuador	1,230	8.0%	9.09	2002	682	8.8%	2005	1,305	10.7%
Guyana	83	3.9%	31.10.10	2001	47	3.1%	2006	79	4.0%
Paraguay	311	5.1%	7.09				2005	265	4.2%
Peru	3,201	6.1%	12.11	2001	2,054	7.6%	2005	2,363	7.0%
Suriname	30	4.9%	17.10.09	2000	42*	5.9%*	2005	39	4.8%
Uruguay	714	7.9%	30.6.11				2006	358	5.4%
Venezuela	2,399	6.4%	7.6.10	2001	936	5.5%	2006	1,255	6.5%
Fr. Guiana/Guyane (Fr)	56	8.5%	11.08	2003	34	5.8%	2007	54	7.4%

* These figures relate only to convicted prisoners. Full figures are not available.

Figures are not available for the following countries:

North America: Greenland (Denmark)

Caribbean: Cuba

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ASIA

	Female prison population total	Percentage of total prison population	Date	Trend information (where available)					
				Year	Total	%age	Year	Total	%age
Western Asia									
Bahrain	130	18.5%	31.12.04						
Iraq	415	1.6%	31.12.08				2005	215	2.5%
Israel	497	2.3%	31.12.08	2002	183	1.8%	2005	353	2.2%
Jordan	185	3.0%	18.8.11				2005	185	2.9%
Kuwait	201	4.8%	.10						
Lebanon	280	5.5%	.09	2002	358	4.3%	2006	233	3.8%
Oman	55	4.5%	.02	2000	101	5.0%			
Qatar	81	14.7%	31.12.08	2000	67	11.8%			
Saudi Arabia	1,639	5.7%	.02	2000	1,570	6.6%			
United Arab Emirates	1,249	11.2%	.06	2003	486*	9.6%*			
Yemen	170	1.6%	.09	2003	263	1.6%	2006	184	1.9%
Central Asia									
Kazakhstan	4,222	7.6%	1.3.11				2005	2,899	5.5%
Kyrgyzstan	298	3.0%	1.1.12	2003	678*	4.8%*	2006	700	4.4%
Tajikistan	118	1.6%	1.1.08				2006	511	4.7%
Turkmenistan	1,351	12.3%	.06	2003	1,507	9.7%			
South Central Asia									
Afghanistan	566	3.1%	11.10				2007	265	2.8%
Bangladesh	3,100	2.8%	19.9.08	2003	1,910	2.8%			
Bhutan	38	3.8%	7.11						
India	15,406	4.1%	31.12.09	2000	9,089	3.3%	2005	13,986	3.9%
Iran	c. 5,840	3.5%	1.1.10	2002	c. 5,790	3.5%	2006	c. 5,130	3.5%
Maldives	243*	21.6%*	.04	2001	319*	16.8%*			
Nepal	737	6.9%	15.12.10	2002	218*	8.3%*	2006	360	6.5%
Pakistan	931	1.2%	31.12.10	2003	1,518	1.8%	2007	1,328	1.4%
Sri Lanka	1,254	4.7%	mid-10	2000	662	3.9%	2005	906	3.8%
South Eastern Asia									
Brunei Darussalam	37	9.8%	mid-10	2000	22	6.6%	2005	37	7.5%
Cambodia	856	6.1%	30.6.10	2000	288	5.2%	2005	500	6.1%
Indonesia	6,876	5.8%	mid-10	2000	1,807	3.4%	2005	4,656	4.7%
Laos	421	10.5%	mid-04						
Malaysia	2,544	6.6%	mid-10	2000	1,246	4.8%	2005	2,322	6.5%
Myanmar	6,443	10.7%	mid-09	2001	6,034	19.1%	2007	9,754	15.0%
Philippines	7,726	8.1%	.10	2001	3,324	5.3%	2005	7,076	7.8%
Singapore	1,249	9.7%	31.12.10	2000	1,126	8.2%	2005	1,649	11.0%
Thailand	29,175	14.6%	mid-10	2000	35,803	17.4%	2005	28,452	17.2%
Timor-Leste	4	1.8%	.09	2003	1	0.3%			
Vietnam	12,591*	11.6%*	mid-10				2005	10,990*	12.4%*
Eastern Asia									
China	84,600*	5.1%*	mid-10	2000	47,100*	3.3%*	2005	77,279*	4.9%*
Japan	5,305	7.1%	mid-10	2000	3,302	5.4%	2005	4,839	6.1%
Korea (Rep. of)	2,375	5.2%	31.12.10	2000	2,951	4.8%	2005	2,589	5.5%
Mongolia	430	6.1%	mid-10	2001	227	3.4%	2005	308	4.4%
Hong Kong (China)	1,997	20.0%	31.12.10	2001	1,916	16.0%	2005	2,289	20.2%
Macau (China)	141	14.8%	31.7.11	2000	64	7.3%	2005	82	9.2%
Taiwan		10.3%**	10.11						

* These figures relate only to convicted prisoners. Full figures are not available.

** This is the percentage of prisoners newly admitted during the month. Full figures are not available.

Figures are not available for the following countries:

Western Asia: Syria

Central Asia: Uzbekistan

Eastern Asia: Democratic People's Republic of North Korea

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EUROPE

	Female prison population total	Percentage of total prison population	Date	Trend information (where available)					
				Year	Total	%age	Year	Total	%age
Northern Europe									
Denmark	179	4.4%	1.4.11	2000	164	5.0%	2005	184	4.5%
Estonia	197	5.8%	28.3.11	2000	203	4.2%	2005	212	4.8%
Finland	228	7.1%	1.1.11	2000	142	5.3%	2005	241	6.2%
Iceland	8	5.4%	1.9.11	2000	3	3.7%	2005	7	5.9%
Ireland	157	3.7%	avrgce 10	2000	84	2.9%	2005	102	3.4%
Latvia	421	6.2%	1.1.11	2000	421	4.9%	2005	411	5.7%
Lithuania	421	4.6%	1.1.11	2000	263	3.0%	2005	263	3.3%
Norway	209	5.8%	1.5.11	2000	147	5.6%	2005	155	5.0%
Sweden	390	5.8%	1.10.11	2000	288	5.1%	2005	368	5.2%
UK: England & Wales	4,060	4.7%	31.12.11	2000	3,350	5.2%	2005	4,467	5.9%
UK: Northern Ireland	44	2.6%	30.12.11	2000	23	2.2%	2005	32	2.5%
UK: Scotland	449	5.6%	30.12.11	2000	203	3.3%	2005	332	4.9%
Faeroes (Denmark)	0	0%	avrgce 10				2005	0	0.0%
Guernsey (UK)	16	13.9%	31.12.11	2001	7	10.0%	2006	4	3.5%
Isle of Man (UK)	5	4.8%	31.12.11	2000	2	3.7%	2005	2	3.3%
Jersey (UK)	21	12.7%	31.12.11	2001	14	10.4%	2006	16	9.1%
Southern Europe									
Albania	123	2.7%	1.9.09				2005	92	2.7%
Andorra	10	16.4%	31.12.10	2002	4	7.3%	2006	1	3.3%
Bosnia & Herz – Federation	39	2.4%	1.9.09	2001	33	2.4%	2005	40	2.8%
Bosnia & Herz – Rep. Srpska	17	1.6%	31.12.11	2001	23	2.7%	2005	16	1.6%
Croatia	236	4.6%	1.1.11	2000	74	3.7%	2005	140	4.0%
Cyprus	39	5.8%	1.9.09	2000	14	4.5%	2005	18	3.4%
Greece	554	4.9%	1.1.10	2000	358	4.7%	2005	594	6.8%
Italy	2,808	4.2%	31.12.11	2000	2,235	4.2%	2005	2,843	4.8%
Kosovo	35	2.4%	31.12.10				2004	24	2.0%
Macedonia	63	2.6%	1.9.09	2000	32	2.3%	2005	66	3.1%
Malta	42	7.2%	4.10	2002	11	3.9%	2006	14	4.1%
Montenegro	20	1.6%	31.12.08	2002	18	2.5%	2006	17	2.0%
Portugal	696	5.5%	31.12.11	2000	1,216	9.4%	2005	875	6.8%
San Marino	0	0.0%	1.9.09	2002	0	0.0%	2005	0	0.0%
Serbia	324	3.2%	1.9.09	2000	116	1.9%	2005	231	3.0%
Slovenia	50	3.8%	26.5.11	2000	40	3.5%	2005	48	4.2%
Spain	5,376	7.6%	30.12.11	2000	3,668	8.1%	2005	4,744	7.7%
Gibraltar (UK)	2	3.9%	27.11.09	2001	0	0.0%	2006	1	2.6%
Western Europe									
Austria	585	6.7%	3.6.11	2000	421	6.1%	2005	442	5.0%
Belgium	419	4.0%	1.3.10	2000	358	4.1%	2005	391	4.2%
France*	2,411	3.5%	1.7.11	2000	1,833	3.8%	2005	2,145	3.7%
Germany	3,869	5.6%	31.8.11	2000	3,515	4.4%	2005	4,037	5.0%
Liechtenstein	0	0.0%	1.9.09	2002	0	0.0%	2005	0	0.0%
Luxembourg	36	5.6%	1.9.11	2000	20	5.1%	2005	32	4.6%
Monaco	2	8.7%	1.9.09	2003	3	10.7%	2006	11	21.7%
Netherlands	731	6.1%	30.9.11	2000	644	5.8%	2005	1,117	6.3%
Switzerland	324	5.3%	7.9.11	2000	383	6.0%	2005	332	5.4%
Central & Eastern Europe									
Belarus	3,460	7.6%	31.12.06	2000	3,368	6.0%	2005	3,098	7.5%
Bulgaria	298	3.0%	1.9.09	2000	274	2.9%	2005	373	3.0%
Czech Republic	1,538	6.6%	30.12.11	2000	968	4.5%	2005	904	4.8%
Hungary	1,033	6.3%	31.12.10	2000	976	6.3%	2005	960	6.2%
Moldova	418	6.2%	1.9.09	2000	387	4.0%	2005	445	4.9%
Poland	2,529	3.1%	31.12.11	2000	1,729	2.5%	2005	2,359	2.8%
Romania	1,274	4.6%	25.5.10	2000	1,931	4.0%	2005	1,696	4.6%
Slovakia	474	5.2%	1.9.09	2000	259	3.6%	2005	399	4.3%
Ukraine	9,697	6.1%	1.1.07	2002	11,727	5.9%	2006	10,085	6.1%

* Metropolitan France, not including departments and territories in Africa, the Americas and Oceania

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EUROPE (continued)

	Female prison population total	Percentage of total prison population	Date	Trend information (where available)					
				Year	Total	%age	Year	Total	%age
Europe/Asia									
Armenia	159	4.0%	1.9.09	2002	123	2.2%	2005	82	2.8%
Azerbaijan	433	2.1%	1.9.09	2002	274	1.5%	2006	341	1.9%
Georgia	1,215	5.0%	31.12.11	2000	219	2.6%	2005	283	2.9%
Russian Federation	59,200	7.8%	1.1.12	2002	53,683	5.8%	2006	58,400	6.7%
Turkey	4,530	3.6%	30.11.11	2000	2,591	3.6%	2005	1,802	3.3%

OCEANIA

	Female prison population total	Percentage of total prison population	Date	Trend information (where available)					
				Year	Total	%age	Year	Total	%age
Australia	2,028	7.0%	30.6.11	2000	1,385	6.4%	2005	1,734	6.8%
Fiji	32	2.9%	mid-10	2000	17	1.4%	2005	23	2.1%
Kiribati	4	3.9%	8.10	2000	1	1.8%	2005	1	1.4%
Marshall Is.	0	0%	12.10				2005	2	4.7%
Fed. States of Micronesia	2*	3.8%*	31.12.10				2005	0	0%
Nauru	1	5.0%	31.12.10				2005	0	0%
New Zealand	499	5.9%	31.12.11	2000	266	4.7%	2005	435	6.1%
Palau	4	5.1%	.10	2003	7	6.9%	2005	8	8.6%
Papua New Guinea	230	5.4%	31.12.10	2001	101	3.1%	2005	201	5.0%
Samoa	26	11.3%	.07	2000	14	8.1%	2005	11	4.5%
Solomon Is.	1	0.4%	31.12.10				2005	2	0.7%
Tonga	7	4.4%	31.12.10	2000	1	1.5%	2005	7	5.5%
Tuvalu	0	0%	10.10	2000	0	0%	2005	0	0%
Vanuatu	3	1.6%	9.3.10	2002	3	3.1%	2005	6	4.3%
American Samoa (USA)	17	7.2%	31.12.07				2005	20	9.0%
Cook Is. (NZ)	0	0%	21.11.11	2000	1	4.3%	2005	1	3.7%
French Polynesia (Fr)	12	3.0%	1.10.07	2003	12	4.1%			
Guam (USA)	21	4.1%	18.11.09				2005	31	6.2%
New Caledonia (Fr)	9	2.8%	1.10.07	2003	4	1.3%			

* Figures are not available for one of the four federated states (Chuuk).

Figures are not available for the following country:
Oceania: Northern Mariana Is. (USA)

Sources The figures in the above tables originate almost always from the national prison administrations. Some were obtained indirectly, via the Ministry responsible for prisons, via national statistical offices, via United Nations surveys, via surveys for the annual meetings of the Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators, via the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE) and via U.S. State Department human rights reports.

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