



INTERNATIONAL PRISON NEWS DIGEST

46th Edition – July - August 2018

Welcome to the 46th 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 July to 31 August 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: Egypt has released 2,376 prisoners, including 627 debt defaulters, through a presidential pardon decree. [Ahram Online, 21 August 2018](#)

Ethiopia: Ethiopia fired five senior prison officials, hours before the release of a Human Rights Watch report that detailed torture and other abuses in a notorious prison. [Reuters, 5 July 2018](#)

Ethiopia: Riots have broken out in six Ethiopian prisons after parliament passed a law granting amnesty to dissidents. [News 24, 26 July 2018](#)

South Africa: Correctional Services Minister Michael Masutha says drastic steps need to be taken to reduce South Africa's prison population. [eNCA, 25 July 2018](#)

Southern Africa: Stakeholders from all over Southern Africa have called for intensified multi-sectoral and collaborative efforts in improving the health of prisoners. [NewsDay, 5 July 2018](#)

Tanzania: Tanzanian President John Magufuli ordered that prisoners be made to work "day and night", that conjugal visits be ended and that lazy prisoners should be "kicked". [News24, 15 July 2018](#)

Zimbabwe: The government has announced plans to build more open prisons in all the country's 10 provinces as it scales up efforts to expand its rehabilitative programme for prisoners. [All Africa, 5 July 2018](#)

AMERICAS

Brazil: The Public Defender's office for the state of Rio de Janeiro has reported that a prisoner died every two days during the first four months of 2018. [Telesur, 7 August 2018](#)

El Salvador: El Salvador's Congress has passed a bill that makes permanent a previously temporary tightening of security measures in prisons. [InSight Crime, 20 August 2018](#)

United States: State prisons across the US are failing to treat at least 144,000 prisoners who have hepatitis C, according to a recent survey. [Washington Post, 9 July 2018](#)

United States: Georgia's most restrictive solitary confinement facility deprives prisoners of basic human needs and risks causing them psychological harm. [Business Insider, 10 July 2018](#)

United States: Prisoners at a maximum-security prison in Guayama, Puerto Rico, are now members of a worker co-operative. [Co-operative News, 20 July 2018](#)

United States: Male prison guards in California will be prohibited from carrying out pat-down searches of incarcerated women and viewing them while they are not fully dressed. [CBS Sacramento, 20 August 2018](#)

Uruguay: Uruguayan President Tabaré Vázquez has introduced legislation aimed at refocusing the country's penitentiary system on rehabilitating prisoners. [InSight Crime, 4 July 2018](#)

Venezuela: Prisoners took control of a jail and asked the Prosecutor-General to provide them with assistance and to organise fair trials. [Nigeria News, 10 July 2018](#)

ASIA

Bangladesh: After 230 years of using blankets as a substitute for pillows, prisoners are going to get cotton-pillows to sleep on for the first time. [The Daily Star, 19 July 2018](#)

India: Women and transgender convicts above 55 and male convicts over 60 who have completed half of their prison sentences will be released under an amnesty scheme. [The Hindu, 18 July 2018](#)

India: The Supreme Court has said it will constitute a panel to examine problems in Indian jails and recommend solutions. [Scroll.in, 8 August 2018](#)

Israel: The plan to expand living space for prisoners in Israel has been put on hold at the order of the Public Security Minister. [Haaretz, 1 August 2018](#)

Kazakhstan: Several people have been sentenced to prison terms of seven to eight years after being convicted of involvement in the torture and death of prisoner in Kazakhstan. [Radio Free Europe, 6 August 2018](#)

Kyrgyzstan: A pilot project on the psychological rehabilitation of people released from prison has been launched in Bishkek. [24.kg, 25 July 2018](#)

Pakistan: 80,000 prisoners across the country have been denied their role in the democratic process of electing lawmakers for the next five years. [Pakistan Today, 20 July 2018](#)

Saudi Arabia: The Ministry of Justice has announced that pregnant women and women with children under 12 years are not allowed to be imprisoned. [Saudi Gazette, 2 July 2018](#)

Saudi Arabia: The Human Rights Commission has said some of the prisons in the country are crowded beyond capacity adversely affecting the level of hygiene and services available to the prisoners. [Saudi Gazette, 3 July 2018](#)

Sri Lanka: At least 11 people were injured when a fight broke out in the female ward of Colombo's main prison. [Xinhuanet, 20 August 2018](#)

EUROPE

Denmark: Increasingly tense conditions related to the presence of gang members in Denmark's prisons have resulted in the introduction of a new intelligence agency. [The Local.dk, 27 July 2018](#)

France: There have been 11 suicides in the past eight months at France's Fleury-Mérogis prison, according to authorities, a record for the largest prison in Europe. [RFI, 8 August 2018](#)

Ireland: Severely mentally ill people are being forced to sleep on the floor in Dublin's Cloverhill Prison because there is no room in the Central Mental Hospital (CMH). [The Irish Times, 9 July 2018](#)

Ireland: Assaults on prison officers by prisoners have increased over the last three years. [Irish Examiner, 16 July 2018](#)

Ireland: Ireland's prison population has increased sharply in 2018 following years of decline and stability. [Irish Times, 6 August 2018](#)

Luxembourg: The Chamber of Deputies has passed a new law on prison reform, which will provide for a stricter division of responsibilities between prosecutors and prison management. [Luxembourg Times, 5 July 2018](#)

Russia: Thousands of imprisoned Russians can expect early release under a new law that would count time spent awaiting trial towards a jail sentence. [The Moscow Times, 4 July 2018](#)

Russia: A brutal video showing Russian prison guards beating a prisoner has emerged, again raising questions about safety inside the country's justice system. [Independent, 20 July 2018](#)

Sweden: Sweden's prisons are nearing capacity and as a result both violence against correctional workers and the presence of illegal weapons are on the rise. [The Local.se, 12 July 2018](#)

UNITED KINGDOM

England and Wales: The number of prison officers resigning from their jobs has more than doubled in the last two years amid soaring levels of violence and self-harm in UK jails. [Independent, 2 July 2018](#)

England and Wales: Hundreds of women have been sent to prison to serve short sentences for minor offences like shoplifting, new figures reveal. [Independent, 8 July 2018](#)

England and Wales: The government is to spend £7m on installing in-cell telephones in prisons as part of a drive to improve rehabilitation and stem the flow of illegal mobiles. [The Guardian, 10 July 2018](#)

England and Wales: Prisoners in England and Wales are enduring some of the most disturbing conditions ever seen as violence and self-harm rockets. [The Guardian, 11 July 2018](#)

England and Wales: A spike in the number of assaults and incidents of self-harm in prisons, as well as an increased number of phones and drugs seized, has prompted fresh warnings of a crisis in jails. [The Guardian, 26 July 2018](#)

England and Wales: Hundreds of senior staff and management have left the Prison Service in the past five years without being replaced. [The Guardian, 25 August 2018](#)

England and Wales: A third of prison officers who leave the service quit within a year of starting, new figures show. [Independent, 30 August 2018](#)

Scotland: Problems with drugs in prisons have more than doubled over the past five years. [STV News, 23 July 2018](#)

Scotland: Labour has called for a full government review of remand after an analysis by the party found remanded prisoners were more likely to die than those serving sentences. [Herald Scotland, 3 August 2018](#)

Scotland: Scottish prisoners are becoming less involved in improving activities such as work and education, official statistics have shown. [The Scotsman, 15 August 2018](#)

OCEANIA

Australia: Female prisoners in Victoria are still subject to “abusive” routine strip searches, a state government watchdog says. [The Guardian, 4 July 2018](#)

Australia: Aboriginal leaders have called for an immediate review of the “absolutely unacceptable” numbers of Indigenous deaths in custody. [The Guardian, 27 August 2018](#)

New Zealand: The Human Rights Commission has criticised proposed changes to corrections law, including the continuing use of police cells and double-bunking. [Stuff.co.nz, 5 July 2018](#)

Papua New Guinea: Four prisoners were shot dead and two wounded after a mass breakout at a jail in Papua New Guinea. [The Jakarta Post, 9 July 2018](#)