



# INTERNATIONAL PRISON NEWS DIGEST

## 45<sup>th</sup> Edition – May - June 2018

Welcome to the 45<sup>th</sup> 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 May to 30 June 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

**Ghana:** The Acting Chief Legal Officer of the Ghana Prison Service says that by September this year, the service will have automated its prisoner records. [Modern Ghana, 14 June 2018](#)

**Kenya:** The Judiciary is planning to release 1200 petty offenders this year in a move aimed at decongesting prisons. [Citizen Digital, 11 May 2018](#)

**South Africa:** Pollsmoor prison is still overcrowded despite a court ruling in 2016 which ordered that the facility reduce the number of prisoners. [Times Live, 4 May 2018](#)

**South Africa:** The Justice Minister has announced that the government will officially launch the Nelson Mandela Rules for the treatment of prisoners. [The South African, 17 May 2018](#)

**South Africa:** A court application by three Boeremag prisoners could result in prisoners throughout the country being allowed to have a computer in their cells. [City Press, 21 May 2018](#)

**Zimbabwe:** The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service is failing to bring prisoners on remand to court amid reports that officers are protesting against poor working conditions. [The Zimbabwe Daily, 10 May 2018](#)

**Zimbabwe:** The National AIDS Council has embarked on a survey to assess sexual behaviour of prisoners as well as levels of drug abuse, to ascertain whether there is HIV transmission in prisons. [The Herald, 20 June 2018](#)

## AMERICAS

**Canada:** Three civil rights organizations have joined forces to voice their concern over the ongoing use of indefinite solitary confinement for prisoners. [Vancouver Sun, 14 May 2018](#)

**Canada:** The overrepresentation of Indigenous people in Canada's prisons persists amid a drop in overall incarceration. [The Star, 19 June 2018](#)

**Chile:** Chile's Minister of Justice Hernan Larrain has said that the country's penitentiary system is failing to rehabilitate prisoners. [Latin American Herald Tribune, 28 June 2018](#)

**United States:** The U.S. incarceration rate fell in 2016 to its lowest level in 20 years, according to new data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. [Pew Research Center, 2 May 2018](#)

**Venezuela:** Nine prisoners and two guards were killed during a riot in a prison in the western Venezuelan state of Lara. [Business Insider, 18 May 2018](#)

## ASIA

**Bangladesh:** Jails across the country are overflowing with nearly three times more prisoners than their capacity. [United News of Bangladesh, 30 June 2018](#)

**Hong Kong:** An NGO has called on Hong Kong's prison authorities to relax visiting rules so that human rights groups can visit prisoners. [South China Morning Post, 15 May 2018](#)

**India:** The Supreme Court has expressed concern about overcrowding in prisons across the country and asked all the High Courts to consider the issue as it involves the "violation of human rights". [The Hindu, 13 May 2018](#)

**India:** A total of 1,674 custodial deaths, including 1,530 deaths in judicial custody and 144 deaths in police custody, occurred from April 1, 2017, to February 28, 2018. [National Herald, 28 June 2018](#)

**Iran:** A state official has revealed that the number of women prisoners in Iran is twice the prisons' capacity. [NCRI Women's Committee, 10 May 2018](#)

**Pakistan:** A new report shows that Pakistan's jails are overcrowded by 57 percent. [Urdu Point, 8 May 2018](#)

**Pakistan:** The country's first model prison with state-of-the-art facilities is being constructed in the federal capital's H/16 area. [The Express Tribune, 20 May 2018](#)

## EUROPE

**Ireland:** A report published by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality calls for a range of prison reforms. [Irish Examiner, 11 May 2018](#)

**Ireland:** The Supreme Court has been asked to hear an appeal by a former prisoner with potential implications for up to 1,000 cases concerning slopping out in prisons. [Irish Examiner, 20 June 2018](#)

**Ireland:** Garda operations against feuding gangs and roaming burglary groups are believed to be driving a surge in the number of people being held on remand in prison. [Irish Examiner, 26 June 2018](#)

**Netherlands:** The government is planning to close four prisons in the Netherlands. [NL Times, 20 June 2018](#)

**Portugal:** The UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture has urged Portugal to change the focus of its penal system, replacing imprisonment with rehabilitation. [The Portugal News, 14 May 2018](#)

**Russia:** The Russian government is considering legislation which will allow those convicted of offences which do not constitute a felony to work instead of serving out their sentence in prison. [RT, 13 June 2018](#)

**Russia:** The State Duma has adopted a second reading of legislation that recalculates how pre-trial detention is weighed when determining how much time should be considered "already served." [Meduza, 20 June 2018](#)

**Turkey:** A report prepared by the Prison Commission of the Platform for Free Lawyers has revealed that torture, maltreatment and rights violations continue to take place in Turkish prisons. [Stockholm Center for Freedom, 22 May 2018](#)

## UNITED KINGDOM

**England and Wales:** The government has been accused of a "glaring failure" to act on deaths of women in custody as figures show almost 100 female prisoners have died in just over a decade. [Independent, 2 May 2018](#)

**England and Wales:** An influential committee of MPs has launched an inquiry into the effectiveness of prison healthcare services in meeting the needs of prisoners. [Nursing Times, 1 May 2018](#)

**England and Wales:** Conditions in Welsh jails have worsened, Chief Inspector of Prisons Peter Clarke has warned MPs. [BBC News, 22 May 2018](#)

**England and Wales:** Short prison sentences of less than 12 months do not rehabilitate prisoners and should be a last resort, the justice secretary has said. [The Guardian, 26 May 2018](#)

**England and Wales:** At least 40 children have been held in solitary confinement in young offender institutions in the past year. [BBC News, 18 June 2018](#)

**England and Wales:** A surge in the number of prisoners released early has helped to reduce the prison population to its lowest in eight years. [The Times, 22 June 2018](#)

**England and Wales:** The government has scrapped proposals to create “community prisons” for women as part of a delayed strategy aiming to combat female offending. [Independent, 26 June 2018](#)

**Scotland:** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been urged to allow all Scottish prisoners to vote in the country’s elections, by a majority of MSPs on Holyrood’s equalities committee. [The Guardian, 14 May 2018](#)

**Scotland:** Self-harming in Scotland’s prisons has almost doubled in the past four years. [The Scotsman, 12 June 2018](#)

**Scotland:** Too many prisoners are being held on remand in Scotland, Holyrood’s Justice Committee has found. [Holyrood.com, 24 June 2018](#)

## OCEANIA

**New Zealand:** Some of the country’s most challenging female offenders are leaving prison without the necessary tools to reintegrate back into society. [Stuff.co.nz, 13 May 2018](#)