



INTERNATIONAL PRISON NEWS DIGEST

42nd Edition – November - December 2017

Welcome to the 42nd 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 November to 31 December 2017.

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

Ethiopia: The national human rights body has revealed that some 38 prisoners currently under detention in connection with a September 2016 prison fire incident have been tortured by the authorities. [Africa News, 13 November 2017](#)

Kenya: The number of offenders who have not been convicted has significantly reduced in the country's remand facilities. [KBC, 4 December 2017](#)

Nigeria: Nigeria Prisons Service will begin the free distribution of drugs and other medical supplies to 65,000 prisoners in its custody. [World Stage, 9 November 2017](#)

Zambia: Hundreds of children as young as 10 are kept locked up with adult prisoners in Zambian jails, according to the country's Human Right Commission. [AA.com.tr, 8 December 2017](#)

AMERICAS

Brazil: A 43-hour-long riot at the Cascavel penitentiary in Parana left two prisoners dead and six others injured. [News 24, 12 November 2017](#)

Canada: Canada's prison service must find alternatives to locking up prisoners with serious mental illness, according to the federal correctional ombudsman. [The Epoch Times, 1 November 2017](#)

Canada: The Ontario Superior Court of Justice has declared the country's solitary confinement laws unconstitutional. [Canadian Lawyer, 18 December 2017](#)

Colombia: Forty-two prisoners were allegedly injured after a prison search turned into riots in the Bellavista prison north of Colombia's second largest city, Medellin. [Colombia Reports, 8 December 2017](#)

Mexico: Mexico's prison population has fallen by a fifth from its peak in 2014. [Business Insider, 22 December 2017](#)

United States: Black men who commit the same crimes as white men receive federal prison sentences that are, on average, nearly 20 percent longer. [The Washington Post, 16 November 2017](#)

ASIA

Afghanistan: Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) has reported that prisoners in Afghanistan's major prisons are kept in inhumane conditions due to poor management, corruption and embezzlement. [Tolo News, 12 November 2017](#)

China: Lawyers in China will be allowed to meet privately with clients who are convicted criminals and serving time in prison. [Global Times, 10 December 2017](#)

Indonesia: One prisoner died and three others were wounded during a riot at Indonesia's super maximum security island prison Nusakambangan. [Jakarta Globe, 8 November 2017](#)

Israel: Israel Prison Services officials have warned of severe overcrowding if the High Court of Justice's ruling to expand living quarters for prisoners is not implemented in the coming months. [The Jerusalem Post, 5 December 2017](#)

Japan: The ratio of elderly former prisoners who returned to prison within two years of being released rose 2.8 percent compared with a year earlier. [Kyodo News, 17 November 2017](#)

Philippines: Riot at overcrowded prison kills two prisoners and injures at least 10 others. [BBC News, 4 November 2017](#)

Uzbekistan: Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has signed a decree ordering the first mass pardoning of prisoners in Uzbekistan's history. [Intellinews, 8 December 2017](#)

EUROPE

Denmark: The Danish Prison and Probation Service and architecture firm CF Møller have designed what they're calling the world's "most humane" maximum security prison. [Co.Design, 19 December 2017](#)

Germany: Germany's constitutional court has ruled against overpricing phone calls made by prison prisoners. [Reuters, 28 November 2017](#)

Romania: Overcrowding and poor conditions in Romania's prisons will see thousands of prisoners released early regardless of the crimes they have committed. [The Telegraph, 6 November 2017](#)

Turkey: The Turkish government plans to build 228 prisons in 5 years which will increase the total prison capacity by 137,687. [Turkey Purge, 11 December 2017](#)

UNITED KINGDOM

England and Wales: Legal aid for prisoners will be restored for three key categories of claims after the Ministry of Justice abruptly abandoned what was expected to become a supreme court battle. [The Guardian, 7 November 2017](#)

England and Wales: Children are being locked up for almost entire days in youth prisons, with some prevented from taking daily showers, a watchdog has warned. [Independent, 22 November 2017](#)

England and Wales: Prisons are struggling to cope with the soaring population of elderly prisoners. [The Telegraph, 28 November 2017](#)

England and Wales: The chief inspector of prisons has been given new powers to alert the justice secretary directly of any urgent and severe problems he finds during a jail inspection. [The Guardian, 30 November 2017](#)

England and Wales: An elite group of specially trained prison officers had to be deployed to jails in England and Wales 580 times last year, figures show. [Huffington Post, 6 December 2017](#)

England and Wales: A small number of prisoners will be given the right to vote after Council of Europe accepts British compromise offer [The Guardian, 7 December 2017](#)

England and Wales: Children in custody are facing a “significant shortfall” in mental health provision. [Independent, 9 December 2017](#)

England and Wales: Record levels of suicide and self-harm behind bars are a “damning indictment” of the prison system and point to “deep-rooted failures”, a powerful Commons committee has warned. [Huffington Post, 13 December 2017](#)

Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland's most senior judge has said a lack of political direction is hindering a scheme which reduces the high number of short prison sentences. [BBC News, 4 December 2017](#)

Scotland: Scotland's prisons watchdog has expressed concern at the number of prisoners being held on remand. [BBC News, 1 November 2017](#)

Scotland: Scottish prisons are significantly less violent than jails in England and Wales according to statistics released by the Scottish parliament. [The Guardian, 4 November 2017](#)

OCEANIA

Australia: The number of people being held in Australian prisons has increased for the sixth consecutive year. [Xinhua.net, 8 December 2017](#)

New Zealand: The Labour-led Government wants to lower the prison population by 30 per cent in 15 years. [NZ Herald, 5 November 2017](#)

New Zealand: The Corrections Department is carrying out a review of double-bunking of prisoners after two separate cases of repeat sex offenders raping their cellmates. [Radio NZ, 16 November 2017](#)

New Zealand: The Chief Ombudsman's report into four New Zealand prisons highlights violence, a lack of a regime for remand prisoners and unacceptable conditions in the at-risk units. [Yahoo New Zealand, 5 December 2017](#)