



# E-newsletter

November 2013



Welcome to Penal Reform International's Newsletter, a round-up of PRI and other penal reform news from around the world and a variety of criminal justice and human rights resources.

*The views expressed in the news items below are not necessarily those of PRI.*

## In this month's edition:

- [In the spotlight](#)
- [New from PRI](#)
- [Global Advocacy](#)
- [Justice for Children](#)
- [Women in the Criminal Justice System](#)
- [Alternatives and Improvements](#)
- [Death Penalty](#)
- [Prevention of Torture](#)
- [Other news](#)

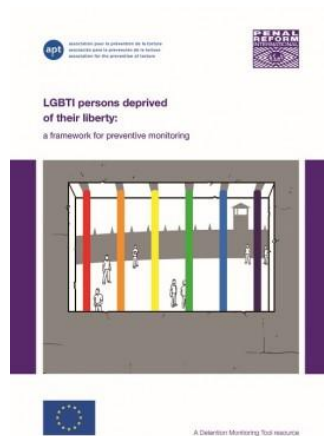
## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### **Tackling the excessive use of prison in Africa - blog from international conference**

'Imprisonment is appropriate, fair and just for certain offenders; it is not for others, particularly first and non violent offenders involved in petty or victimless crimes.' These are not the words of a prison reformer but of Tanzania's Chief Justice, the Hon. Mohamed Chande Othman, who opened a PRI sponsored international conference in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. The most senior figures in Tanzania's criminal justice system joined representatives from seven other countries for the inaugural meeting of a new network of heads of Probation, Community Service and Community Corrections in Africa.

[Read more of Rob Allen's blog](#) (PRI's associate) on the international conference held in Tanzania this week.

## NEW FROM PRI



### [LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty: a framework for preventive monitoring](#)

This paper highlights the main risk factors and situations faced by LGBTI persons in places of detention and proposes approaches that can be taken by monitoring bodies in order to reduce these risks. This resource was developed as part of [PRI/APT's Detention Monitoring Tool](#), with financial assistance from the [EIDHR](#). It is available in English and Russian (from December 2013).

### [Toolbox on the UN Bangkok Rules: Free online course, Guidance Document and Index of Implementation](#)

In October, PRI launched its [Toolbox for the Implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules](#) at the UN General Assembly in New York. Two flagship resources were presented: [a Guidance Document and Index of Implementation](#) and a self-directed e-course, [Women in Detention: Putting the UN Bangkok Rules into Practice](#), with Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand delivering the keynote address. Read more about the launch [here](#) or watch a webcast of the event [here](#).

Watch the trailer on our new e-course [here!](#)

**Toolbox  
on the UN  
Bangkok  
Rules**

Counter-terrorism  
in Kazakhstan  
Why the death penalty is  
no solution



## Counter-terrorism in Kazakhstan: why the death penalty is no solution

As Kazakhstan considers a [new Criminal Code](#) which retains the death penalty as an option for specific offences, this report focuses on the death penalty for terrorism related offences, an issue that has exercised many countries. It looks at evolving standards and practice internationally and considers how Kazakhstan can meet its human rights obligations while countering terrorism and maintaining the security of its people.

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## GLOBAL ADVOCACY

### **PRI at the UN General Assembly in New York**

On 16 October, PRI co-hosted a panel discussion at the UN General Assembly in New York, '[The human rights of women in prison: A toolbox to implement the UN Bangkok Rules](#)', where PRI's [Toolbox on the UN Bangkok Rules](#) was launched. Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand delivered the keynote address, stressing the importance of including the Bangkok Rules in the post-2015 development agenda. [Read more](#) about the event or [watch the full webcast](#).



*HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand speaking at General Assembly event on the Bangkok Rules, 16 October*

2013. © PRI 2013

On 22 October, PRI was represented in another panel discussion, '[Review of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners \(SMR\) - Preventing torture and ill-treatment?](#)' by our Policy Director, Andrea Huber. The event was moderated by the Special Rapporteur on Torture, Mr. Juan E Mendez, and based on his [latest thematic report](#) on the SMR review process. In her intervention, Andrea outlined how the review process came about and has developed since 2010 and highlighted a number of key areas where the SMR need to be updated in line with contemporary human rights standards. Watch Andrea's intervention [here](#) (at approx. 43 minutes) and read more about the review process [here](#).

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## JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

### **[PRI blog: New white paper says austerity could actually be an opportunity for governments to improve youth justice in Europe](#)**

Marianne Moore discusses a new white paper by the European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ) and the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), [Save money, protect society and realise youth potential](#).

### **[Upcoming publication: Protecting children's rights in criminal justice systems](#)**

PRI is preparing to launch its latest manual focusing on the rights of children in the criminal justice system. Look out for an announcement of the launch in the coming weeks!

### **Other news and resources:**

- New UNODC resource: [Justice in Matters Involving Children in Conflict with the Law: Model Law on Juvenile Justice and Related Commentary](#)
- New report from the International NGO Council on Violence against Children: [Creating a non-violent juvenile justice system](#)
- Final report from the three-year EU-funded COPING project: [Children of Prisoners: Interventions and mitigations to strengthen mental health](#). The end of the project was also marked by a conference in Brussels on 6 November: [Coping with a Parent in Prison: An Agenda for Policy Reform](#)
- [International Study Week 2013 on Children of Prisoners opens](#)

[in Kampala, Uganda](#)

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## WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

See '[New from PRI](#)' above on the launch of PRI's Toolbox on the UN Bangkok Rules.

### **PRI at the annual ICRC seminar on health care**

On 31 October, PRI's Programme Officer, Olivia Rope, attended the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) annual seminar on health care, which this year focused on older prisoners and women. Olivia presented on the UN Bangkok Rules and the specific health care needs of women in detention.

### **Report from UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women in prison**

On the 24 October, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Professor Rashida Manjoo presented a new report to the UN General Assembly titled, [Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women](#). This comprehensive report illustrates the strong link between violence against women and women's imprisonment - prior, during and after prison.

### **PRI survey of women in prisoners in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**

As part of PRI's [research project](#) inspired by the UN Bangkok Rules on the background and characteristics of women prisoners, a survey was undertaken in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the second half of September. The research report will be published in early 2014. Read researcher Frances Shehan's blog on the impact of social isolation on women prisoners in Kazakhstan [here](#).

The first report [Who are women prisoners?: Survey results from Armenia and Georgia](#) (available in English and Russian) was published in September of this year.

To sign up to PRI's quarterly E-bulletin on women in the criminal justice system email [info@penalreform.org](mailto:info@penalreform.org)

**Other news and resources**

- [UK: Female prisoners to serve sentences 'nearer families'](#)
  - [Russia: Pussy Riot singer has 'disappeared' in the Russian prison system](#)
  - [Albania: Political change bad news for the women in Albania's prisons](#)
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## ALTERNATIVES AND IMPROVEMENTS

### [East Africa Conference on Alternatives to Imprisonment](#)

On 6-8 November, PRI co-hosted the East Africa Conference on Alternatives to Imprisonment in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in partnership with the Government Probation Departments in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and our local NGO partners in the region. The UN Handbook on Early Access to Legal Aid was officially launched at the conference.

### [PRI blog: Sharing probation practice \(and theory\) from around the globe](#)

PRI's Becky Randel describes some of the highlights from the first ever World Congress on Probation held in London on 9-10 October. Organised by the European Organisation for Probation (CEP), the event was attended by over 300 delegates from 50 countries.

### [Is society ready to receive ex-prisoners?](#)

On 17 October in Astana, PRI's Central Asia Office and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Kazakhstan ran a forum on the theme 'Social reform of the prison system: employment, reintegration and training'. The forum was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the British Embassy in Kazakhstan, and was attended by representatives of state authorities, experts and ex-prisoners.

#### Other news and resources:

- UNODC publishes its [Handbook on strategies to reduce overcrowding in prisons](#)
- [Council of the European Union adopts a directive on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings](#). Member states will have three years after [the directive](#) enters into force to adopt

national provisions.

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## DEATH PENALTY

See '[New from PRI](#)' above on the new report, 'Counter-terrorism in Kazakhstan: why the death penalty is no solution.'

### **PRI activities: World Day against the death penalty (10 October)**

PRI supported two Kazakh MPs to attend the first-ever meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the World Day. The MPs spoke about the situation of the death penalty in Kazakhstan, where the Criminal Code is being revised and may change the offences which carry a death sentence. PRI also gave details of a recent public opinion poll in Belarus on attitudes towards the death penalty, which found that support for capital punishment has dropped from 80% in the mid-1990s to around 64% now. The full report will be available soon. A review of the meeting by the International Commission against the Death Penalty can be found [here](#).

### **Celebrities in Central Asia share their opinions on the death penalty**

This year for World Day against the Death Penalty PRI in Central Asia asked well-known famous figures to share their opinions on capital punishment and why it should be abolished. Read the responses from [Kazakhstan](#) and [Tajikistan](#).

### **Other news and resources:**

- [OSCE/ODIHR presents annual death penalty report](#)
  - [11th World Day against the Death Penalty: Greater Caribbean](#)
  - [EU underlines commitment to universal abolition of the death penalty](#)
  - [Efforts toward abolition of the death penalty in South East Asia welcomed](#)
  - [NHRC, lawyers want death penalty abolished in Nigeria](#)
  - [Bangladesh court hands down death penalty to 152 rebel soldiers](#)
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## PREVENTION OF TORTURE

See ['New from PRI'](#) on the new paper 'LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty: a framework for preventative monitoring'.

### [Detention Monitoring Tool: Addressing risk factors to prevent torture and ill-treatment](#)

PRI and [APT](#) have produced a new tool, consisting of four thematic papers and five fact sheets, which aims to provide analysis and practical guidance for monitoring bodies in addressing systematic risk factors that contribute to an environment where torture or other ill-treatment occur. The tool will be presented in Geneva on Friday 15 November, on the occasion of the joint session of the Subcommittee to Prevent Torture (SPT), the Committee against Torture (CAT) and the Special Rapporteur on Torture.

### [Ukrainian NPM visit Denmark](#)

From 24-28 October, representatives from the NPM Department of the Ukrainian Ombudsman's Office and national NGOs participated in a study visit to Denmark. During the visit, the delegation visited Jyderup State Prison and met with the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman, Danish Prison and Probation Services and various human rights organisations. According to participants, the visit was very useful, providing good practice examples that can be implemented in Ukraine and building relations with relevant Danish actors and stakeholders.

### **Other news and resources:**

- [Reports of prison abuse in South Africa must lead to urgent investigation](#)

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## OTHER NEWS

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have a vacancy in the field for a Detention/Criminal Justice Systems Adviser. The deadline for applications is 17 November. Click [here](#) for more information on the position and how to apply.
- [Sri Lanka: de facto CJ holds that inquiry into a prison death will encourage prisoners to riot](#)



18/11/2013

Tackling the excessive use of imprisonment in Africa and other news from PRI

- [Uganda: Prison officers investigated for overworking prisoners](#)
- [Armenia: 607 prisoners released under amnesty in Armenia](#)

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