



E-newsletter

January 2015



Welcome to Penal Reform

International's monthly e-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

- [Expert blog series](#)
- [Justice for children](#)
- [Women in the criminal justice system](#)
- [Conditions of detention](#)
- [Death penalty](#)

EXPERT BLOG SERIES



To mark PRI's 25th Anniversary and prepare for the [Crime Congress in Qatar in April 2015](#), we're running a series of monthly expert guest blogs, addressing interesting current trends and pressing criminal justice challenges in criminal justice and penal reform.

Prison systems need to acknowledge widespread corruption

In the latest entry in the series, John Podmore, a former UK prison governor and criminal justice expert, calls for greater recognition and prevention of the widespread corruption occurring in prison systems that seriously hinders the impact of penal

reform.



Turning recommendations into reality: improving the impact of detention monitoring bodies

In the series' December entry, Moritz Birk from the [Ludwig Boltzmann Institute](#) examines the role of National Preventative Mechanisms in challenging the practice of torture and measures their effectiveness in turning their recommendations into implementations of anti-torture policies.

Catch up on [all of PRI's expert blogs!](#)

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

PRI participates at the first World Congress on Juvenile Justice

The Congress, hosted by the [Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs](#) in collaboration with the [Swiss Federal Office of Justice](#) and the [Terre des Hommes Foundation](#), brought together over 800 juvenile justice stakeholders from States, international organisations and civil society in order to share experiences, lessons learned and good practices in the area of juvenile justice and improve international cooperation on children affected by justice systems worldwide.

PRI made a range of interventions, sharing our resources and promoting our ongoing work in the areas of informal justice and international norms, the gender perspective in juvenile justice, conditions in detention and success factors in implementing diversion and non-custodial measures.



[UN endorses Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty](#)

The UN General Assembly has officially requested for the Global Study to be carried out. The passing of the Child Rights Resolution is a result of the successful campaign by [Defence for Children International](#), which has been calling for this study since March 2014 with support from over [sixty other NGOs, States, and UN human rights agencies and experts, including PRI](#).

Other news and resources:

- **Azerbaijan:** [UNICEF: Juvenile arrests decreased in Azerbaijan in 2007-2014](#)
- **Australia:** [Northern Territory government defends transfer of juvenile detainees to former adult jail](#)
- **Scotland:** [Family bus scheme launched at Polmont youth prison](#)
- **Singapore:** [Singapore Prison Service opens new rehab centre for young drug offenders](#)
- **UK:** [Feltham young offenders' home rife with 'gang violence'](#)
- **UK:** [Immigrant children still being detained, figures show](#)
- **USA:** [New York City will no longer put its youngest inmates in solitary confinement](#)

WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

[New blog: Research suggests Albania needs a more gender-sensitive justice and penal policy](#)

Edlira Papavangjeli, Program Manager and Researcher at the Albanian Helsinki Committee, carried out [research](#) into the profile and needs of women prisoners in Albania. Here she sums up some of the findings of her research and makes recommendations for change.

[Arabic trailer for Bangkok Rules e-course](#)

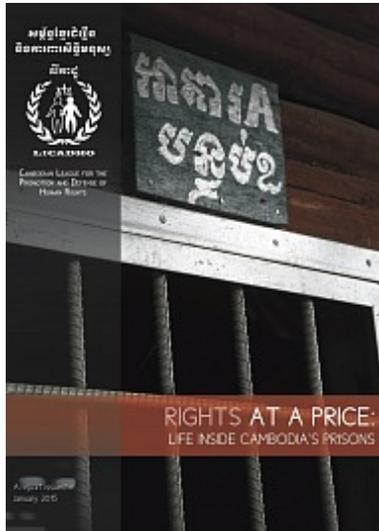
[Watch a trailer](#) for the upcoming launch of the Arabic version of [PRI's e-course on the Bangkok rules and women in detention](#).

Other news and resources:

- **Japan:** [Female inmates OK'd to give birth without handcuffs](#)

- **Scotland:** [Too many of Scotland's women end up in jail – and that's bad news for us all](#)
- **UK:** [Halve female prisoner numbers, says minister Simon Hughes](#)
- **UK:** New briefing from [Prison Reform Trust](#), '[Working it out: Employment for women offenders](#)'

CONDITIONS OF DETENTION



[Rights at a Price: Life Inside Cambodia's Prisons](#)

This new report from the [Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights](#) details [the on-going, systematic abuse, discrimination, exploitation and corruption within Cambodia's prison system](#) and notes that despite steps towards reform, many challenges remain, including prison overcrowding, poor infrastructure, lack of appeal transportation, weak implementation of the law and lack of knowledge amongst prison officials.

[Annual report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture](#)

In its latest [annual report](#), the CPT has warned states against intimidation and reprisals towards individuals who denounce ill-treatment. The CPT has also urged states to protect public officials who act as whistle-blowers.

Other news and resources:

- **Bulgaria:** [European Court of Human Rights requires Bulgaria to address poor conditions in prisons](#)
- **Egypt:** [Human Rights Watch says Egypt not serious about improving prison conditions](#)
- **India:** [Conjugal rights for prisoners to be a reality in jails](#)
- **Ireland:** [Overcrowding eases despite rise in numbers jailed](#)
- **Turkey:** [Turkish prisons full to the brim as number of inmates rises to 160.000](#)
- **UK:** [Prisoners' phone to be cut off under new law](#)
- **USA:** [Pennsylvania strikes deal to keep mentally ill inmates out of solitary confinement](#)

DEATH PENALTY AND ALTERNATIVE SANCTIONS

States' support for UN moratorium on the death penalty increases

When the General Assembly as a whole voted in December, 117 states voted in favour of a global moratorium, 37 against and 34 abstained. This is the 5th time the UN has voted on the issue and support for a moratorium has increased with each vote, rising from 104 states saying yes in 2004, 111 in 2012 to 117 in 2014.

Particularly encouraging was Uganda's abstention on the measure, which came about after seven years of voting against the moratorium. Uganda is [one of ten countries](#) where PRI is working to abolish the death penalty and implement humane alternatives.

Other news and resources:

- **Botswana:** [Gov't appeals High Court ruling on death penalty](#)
- **Cote d'Ivoire:** [Bill passed for death penalty abolition](#)
- **Japan:** [Cabinet Office poll: 80% of respondents think death penalty 'permissible'](#)
- **USA:** [Maryland commutes last four death row sentences to life](#)

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