



Promoting fair and
effective criminal justice



Concept note for side-event at UN Crime Commission May 2017

Global Prison Trends

Co-organisers: Penal Reform International
Thailand Institute of Justice
TBC - The Royal Thai Government

Date / time: Wednesday, 24 May 2017, 2.20 – 3.10pm

Venue: United Nations, Vienna – Room M7

Objectives:

- Present analysis of global crime trends and the use of imprisonment, with the *Global Prison Trends 2017* report
- Discuss the contribution of criminal justice reform to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Context:

This side-event will serve as the launch of the 2017 *Global Prison Trends* report, jointly published by Penal Reform International (PRI) and the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ).

The report is the third of publication initiated by Penal Reform International in 2015 to fill a gap in the analysis of the use and role of imprisonment globally.

In 2016, the TIJ became the first member from Southeast Asia of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institute (PNI). Marking this new role, TIJ and PRI decided to co-publish the *Global Prison Trends* report in 2017, and to dedicate the Special Focus section to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This feature section will summarise links between the SDGs and criminal justice. It will illustrate Goal 16, which, for the first time, links sustainable development with justice, rule of law and transparency, but illustrate the link also of other goals with criminal justice, including those on poverty, inequality, health and education.

The importance of data collection and analysis for the monitoring of progress in implementing the SDGs has been acknowledged, alongside the fact that ‘international monitoring and analysis of crime trends and of criminal justice operations is key to further improving the understanding of patterns and drivers of crime, and of the quality of the responses to crime, including of crime prevention programmes’.¹

¹ UN Office for Drugs and Crime, *State of Crime and Criminal Justice Worldwide, Report of the Secretary-General*, 12 December 2014, UN-Doc. A/CONF.222/4, paras. 77-78.

Chapters in the report address:

- Political developments and policies on prisons and crime prevention
- The role of imprisonment
- Prison populations
- Prison management: *including* violence and security issues, health, prison labour, solitary confinement and addressing violent extremism and radicalisation in prisons
- The role of technologies
- Alternatives to imprisonment

Proposed agenda:

Welcome/ Opening speech

Ambassador Angell-Hansen, Permanent Representation of Norway to the United Nations in Vienna (TBC)

Presentation of global prison trends

Presentation of the 'Global Prison Trends 2017' report

Andrea Huber, Policy Director, Penal Reform International (confirmed)

Links between the SDGs and criminal justice reform

N.N., Representative of the Thailand Institute of Justice (confirmed)

UN report, 'World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice'

N.N., Chief of the Crime Research Section, UNODC (confirmed)

Q & A Session

Further information:

- [Global Prison Trends 2016](#)
- PRI Briefing: [Why criminal justice reform is essential to the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development \(SDGs\)](#)
- Information on [TIJ's work on the Rule of Law](#)

Information about organisers

About Penal Reform International (PRI)

Penal Reform International (PRI) is an independent non-governmental organisation that develops and promotes fair, effective and proportionate responses to criminal justice problems worldwide. We promote alternatives to prison which support the rehabilitation of offenders, and promote the right of detainees to fair and humane treatment. We campaign for the prevention of torture and the abolition of the death penalty, and we work to ensure just and appropriate responses to children and women who come into contact with the law. We currently have programmes in the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, and work with partners in South Asia.

About Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)

Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) is a public organization established by the Government of Thailand in 2011 and officially recognized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as the latest member of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes (PNIs) in 2016. One of the primary objectives of the TIJ is to promote and support the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (or “the Bangkok Rules”). In addition, the TIJ strives to serve as a bridge that transports global ideas to local practices with an emphasis on fundamental issues including interconnections between the rule of law and sustainable development, human rights, peace and security.