

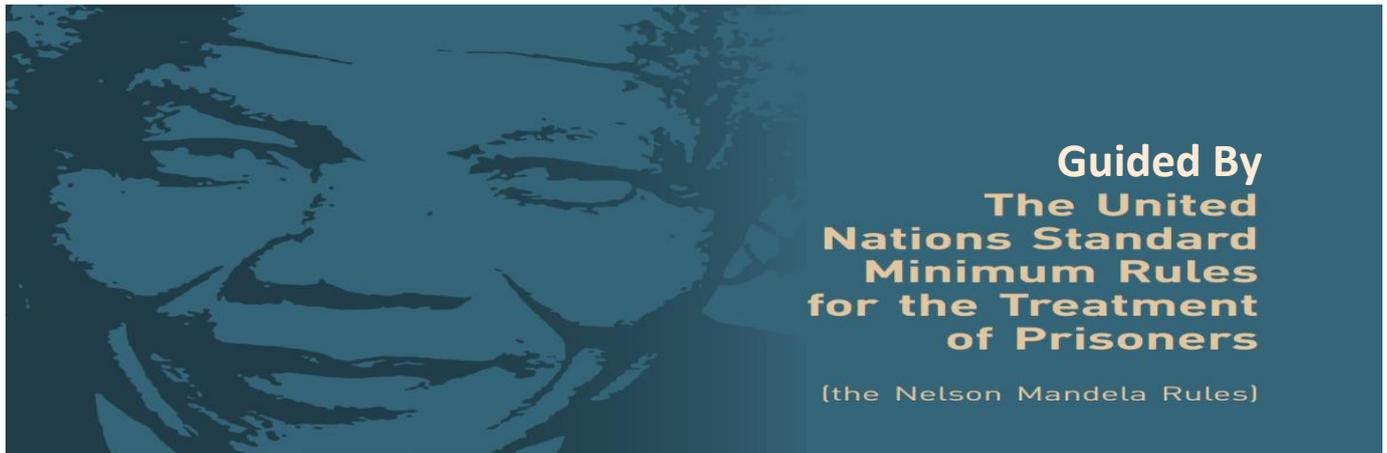


UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

POIDN Alert No. 2/2016

MANAGING HIGH-RISK OFFENDERS IN PRISON SETTINGS



BACKGROUND

As of March 2016, Indonesia's prison system housed approximately 185,801 prisoners based on a design capacity of 119,743.* The overcrowding of the correction system presents enormous challenges to the Directorate-General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia. One of these is housing prisoners requiring higher levels of security and who poses diverse threats to the correctional system. Specifically, Indonesia has seen a growing number of persons detained or convicted for terrorism related charges (approximately 167 as of March 2016) and who are held in 15 provinces across Indonesia.* The presence of these prisoners – albeit small in numbers – creates enormous risk to the corrections system if they are not managed effectively. At the same time, prisoners who are being detained or who have been convicted of serious crimes such as homicides, robbery, drug trafficking and other types of transnational organised crime also pose challenges to a system which lacks adequate resources to safely and securely house them.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continues to engage with the Government of Indonesia to support its efforts to improve the correction system. Recent media reports have indicated increasing consideration to construct specially designed prisons exclusively for prisoners detained or convicted on terrorism related charges. Hardened criminals are also included. UNODC recognizes the immense challenges being faced by the Government of Indonesia in combating increasing criminality and terrorism and the limitations faced to safely incapacitate “hardcore” criminal and terrorist elements when they are detained and convicted.

However, UNODC is concerned that these approaches, while having merit, carry enormous risks if not properly planned and implemented and potentially undermine the intent of the Government. UNODC notes that equally important to developing these plans should be planning to recruit, train and properly equip personnel assigned to these facilities. Particular consideration should be given to the following:



- The challenge of housing for extended periods hardened prisoners together with prisoners charged or convicted of terrorism related crimes. This could ferment an environment where these prisoners will attempt to control and in many instances radicalise other prisoners and staff;
- The need to properly train and maintain the training of staff who are assigned to supervise these prisoners;
- Developing a process for selecting the staff who are assigned to such facilities; and
- Implementing plans for managing the overall safety and security of the facility to include special management of prisoners who present extraordinary challenges for prison administrators within the facility.

Moreover, it is critical that the construction of these facilities occur simultaneously with the development of rules and procedures to include:

- A plan where prisoners may be housed in these facilities but are rotated at frequent intervals so as to disorient and prevent them from forming alliances with other prisoners;
- Procedures to rotate staff at frequent intervals (e.g. three months) so that they do not develop relationships with prisoners and are not intimidated into compromising security for the benefit of these prisoners;
- Implementation of a risk-based classification system that include reclassification based on behavior;

*<http://smlap.ditjenpas.go.id/>

- Implementation of rehabilitative programmes (e.g. vocational and reintegration) to reduce idle time and facilitate community reintegration.

UNODC supports prison reform in Indonesia and looks forward to providing its expertise in support of these efforts. This expertise would include assistance to improve the overall management and operation of prisons and to ensure that they are aligned with national and international standards.

“It is critical that corrections officials ensures that custody, care and control are applied effectively across the prison system”

Collie Brown, UNODC Indonesia Country Office Manager

RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

- [United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners \(the Mandela Rules\)](#)
- [Brochure on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners \(the Nelson Mandela Rules\)](#)
- [UNODC Prison Reform Concept Note](#)
- [HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support in Prison Settings - a framework for an effective national response](#)
- [The Bangkok Rules-United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders with their Commentary](#)

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