Earthwatch: Prison Focus

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Manitoba, Canada called off an order for vanilla-, strawberry- and banana-flavored rubbers for its jails after conservatives railed against “flavored condoms for criminals.”

In largely Christian **Barbados**, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General Mia Mottley has called for legalization of homosexuality, prostitution and condoms in prisons.

Portugal —which has decriminalized drug use and opened safe heroin-injection sites to prevent HIV—is now debating safe-injection rooms inside prisons.

Natural deaths in **South African** prisons have quadrupled over the past eight years—due largely to HIV, according to the Inspecting Judge of Prisons.

In **Iran**—where needle-sharing, especially in prisons, accounts for most HIV cases—ex-inmates report as many as 500 peers using the same syringe.

In **Bangkok, Thailand** jails, IV-drug users in holding cells awaiting trial face a much higher HIV risk when swapping needles than those imprisoned after sentencing, a new study found.

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