

Beat: Health

INDONESIAN ANTI-DRUGS AGENCY TO USE CROCODILES TO GUARD DEATH ROW DRUG CONVICTS

PET PROJECT ANTI-DRUGS CHIEF BUDI WASEO

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USPA NEWS - Indonesia's anti-drugs agency has proposed building a prison on an island guarded by crocodiles to hold death row drug convicts, an official has said. Budi Waseso said crocodiles often made better guards than humans, because they could not be bribed...

Indonesia's anti-drugs agency has proposed building a prison on an island guarded by crocodiles to hold death row drug convicts, an official has said. Budi Waseso said crocodiles often made better guards than humans, because they could not be bribed.

'We will place as many crocodiles as we can there. I will search for the most ferocious type of crocodile,' he was quoted as saying by local news website Tempo.

Indonesia already has some of the toughest anti-narcotics laws in the world, including death by firing squad for traffickers, and sparked international uproar in April when it put to death seven foreign drug convicts. But President Joko Widodo has insisted that drug dealers must face death as the country is fighting a "national emergency" due to rising narcotics use. Despite the harsh laws, Indonesia's corrupt prison system is awash with drugs, and inmates and jail officials are regularly arrested for narcotics offences. (AFP)

Anti-drugs agency spokesman Slamet Pribadi confirmed authorities were mulling the plan to build 'a special prison for death row convicts'. He said only traffickers would be kept in the jail, to stop them from mixing with other prisoners and potentially recruiting them to drug gangs. The agency is currently in discussions with the justice ministry about the plan, he added. (AFP)

Ruby BIRD
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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

United Press Association, Inc.
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168

Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA
(702) 943.0321 Local
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile
info@unitedpressassociation.org
info@gna24.com
www.gna24.com