

# The Drug War Drives Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities in U.S. Judicial Systems

## World Incarceration Rates

# per 100,000 incarcerated per country



-There were more than 1.5 million drug arrests in the U.S. in 2016. The vast majority – more than 80% – were for possession only.

-People of color experience discrimination at every stage of the judicial system and are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, convicted, harshly sentenced and saddled with a lifelong criminal record. This is particularly the case for drug law violations.

-Research shows that prosecutors are twice as likely to pursue a mandatory minimum sentence for black people as for white people charged with the same offense. Among people who received a mandatory minimum sentence in 2011, 38% were Latino and 31% were black.

*To learn more about rates of incarceration, sentencing, and the plight of prisoners of color, see Sentenced at 18 to 42 years on page 8.*