



Advanced Level **UN warns of deadly fake Medicine**

The United Nations has sent out a warning that up to fifty percent of prescription medicines sold in developing world pharmacies are fake. A report from the International Narcotics Control Board, the UN drugs watchdog, said fake medicines are flooding into poorer countries. It stated that the consequences of people taking these drugs can be deadly. It also warned that the trade in fake prescription drugs may soon overtake the trade in illegal drugs. Many of the resources of the world's law enforcement agencies are focused on hard drugs like heroin and cocaine. The UN suggests a refocus so that poor nations can fight the trade in counterfeit prescription drugs. The biggest problem for developing countries is that their laws are too old to control the flood, especially for sales over the Internet and those delivered by mail.

The UN warns that many people will die as a result of taking the fake drugs. The counterfeiters very cleverly copy the details on the packaging and labeling of the medicine and ensure all tablets and pills look identical to the real thing. However, the fake medicine is often a dangerous cocktail of chemicals that can kill or cause serious injury. The UN's report said the fake drugs "expose patients to serious health risks by providing access to...medicines that are ineffective, substandard and, in some cases, even lethal." The UN's Philip Emafo said: "Gains over the past years in international drug control may be seriously undermined by this ominous development if it remains unchecked". He warned that many discount medicines in stores or online often seem to be authentic but turn out to be made from recipes posted on the Web.

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TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. Fifty percent of prescription drugs in poor countries may be fake.
- b. Some medicines are causing floods in some developing countries.
- c. The world's police forces are not ready to deal with this problem.
- d. The sale of prescription drugs over the Internet is not a problem.
- e. It is very easy to identify the boxes and labels of the fake drugs.
- f. A UN report said these drugs must not be taken with cocktails.
- g. The UN report says that the fake drugs can prove to be lethal.
- h. The recipes for many fake medicines can be found on the Web.

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| a. sent out | useless |
| b. fake | lethal |
| c. watchdog | not controlled |
| d. deadly | counterfeit |
| e. flood | exactly the same |
| f. identical | weakened |
| g. ineffective | issued |
| h. undermined | deluge |
| i. unchecked | genuine |
| j. authentic | monitor |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. The United Nations has sent | and labeling |
| b. the UN drugs | in illegal drugs |
| c. fake medicines are flooding | years in international drug control |
| d. overtake the trade | result of taking the fake drugs |
| e. fight the trade in | into poorer countries |
| f. many people will die as a | out a warning |
| g. copy the details on the packaging | seem to be authentic |
| h. a dangerous cocktail | watchdog |
| i. Gains over the past | counterfeit prescription drugs |
| j. medicines in stores or online often | of chemicals |