
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Happy New Year. Best wishes to all readers for 2001.

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Summary

AI reports & statements: India (Assam), Women

Death penalty: USA: DPIC review / *Nation* critique / 2 men released

Further news: Bangladesh - acid burns/ Cambodia - tribunal / Kosovo - rape trauma / Laos - de-mining / Tunisia - doctor convicted / UK - FGM / USA - program for torture survivors

Resources: IGLHRC / UN / WMA

Conferences: Germany / UK

Publications: PTSD book

Amnesty International reports & statements

India. *India: Armed groups target civilians in Assam.* (ASA 20/002/2001, 4 Jan) AI has expressed its concern about the killing of civilians and is calling for all parties to respect international humanitarian law. See the press release at:

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/thisweek/570ebd6660be5452802569ca004773bc?OpenDocument>

Women/UN. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which allows individual women to submit complaints, entered into force on 22 December 2000. AI welcomed this development. see: *Optional Protocol to the Women's Convention: a landmark for women's human rights*, AI Index: IOR 51/007/2000, 22 Dec 2000. <http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/thisweek/89c06fd22a7547f1802569b5003de22d?OpenDocument>

Death penalty

USA. The Death Penalty Information Center (Washington DC) has published a review of the death penalty in 2000 -- *A Watershed Year of Change*. The report is available online at:

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/yrendrpt00.html>

USA. An overview of the death penalty in the USA can be found in *The Nation* (8 Jan) at:

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20010108&s=sherrill>

An editorial on the death penalty in the same magazine can be found at:

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20010108&s=editors>

USA. Louisiana. Albert Burrell and Michael Graham Jr have been freed after DNA evidence cast doubt on their conviction. Burrell came within 17 days of being executed in 1996. See the Chicago Tribune report (3

Jan): <http://chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/article/0,2669,SAV-0101030253,FF.html>

Further news

Bangladesh. The World Organization against Torture (OMCT) has drawn attention to the acid

burning of women and children in Bangladesh. See the press release (2 Jan) at the OMCT site:
<http://www.omct.org/displaydocument.asp?DocType=Press&Language=&Index=91>

Cambodia. The National Assembly has approved the creation of a tribunal to investigate crimes carried out during the Khmer Rouge period reports the *Washington Post* (3 Jan). See: "Warlords Of 'Killing Fields' May Face Trial",

<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10171-2001Jan2.html>

Kosovo. *Newsweek* examines the continuing trauma of rape in Kosovo. See: "A war's hidden tragedy"

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<http://www.msnbc.com/news/437981.asp?cp1=1>

Laos. 28 years after the US stopped bombing Laos, unexploded cluster bombs are still posing problems. See the BBC report:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/newsid_1100000/1100842.stm

Tunisia. Prof Moncef Marzouki was convicted and sentenced on 30 December 2000 to eight months' imprisonment for "maintaining an unauthorized association" and four months for "spreading false information liable to disturb public order". Prof Marzouki, a paediatrician, was dismissed from his university post in July 2000. The charges stem from his role in the National Council for Liberties in Tunisia and criticisms he made of human rights in Tunisia at a meeting in Morocco in October 2000. AI issued a press release on his conviction: See:

[http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/thisweek/c2ee71f11c0c734e802569c80055c803?](http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/thisweek/c2ee71f11c0c734e802569c80055c803?OpenDocument)

OpenDocument ; See also Human Rights Watch's response:

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2001/01/tunis01300.htm>

Turkey. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) visited Turkey in December 2000 in connection with prison hunger strikes. See their press release (19 Dec):

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20001219en-tur.htm>.

UK. A British doctor has been struck off the medical register for offering to carry out a clitoridectomy on a young girl at the request of a woman pretending to seek a "circumcision" for her daughter. See the *British Medical Journal* (6 Jan) :

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7277/9/a>

USA. "Talking past the torture". Article from *Washington Post* (26 Dec) examining the work done at the Program for Survivors of Torture and Severe Trauma at Falls Church just outside Washington DC. See: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A50170-2000Dec25.html>

Resources

IGLHRC. The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission has published a guide to international human rights mechanisms. It is available at:

<http://www.iglhrc.org/news/factsheets/unguide.html>

UN. The edited version of the general comment on Article 12 of the CESCR (on the right to health) has been now published at the UNHCHR site:

[http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(symbol\)/E.C.12.2000.4,+CESCR+General+comment+14.En?](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(symbol)/E.C.12.2000.4,+CESCR+General+comment+14.En?OpenDocument)

OpenDocument

WMA. The World Medical Association has a human rights page at its web-site. Go to:

http://www.wma.net/e/wma_human_rights/policies.html

Conferences/courses

Germany. The University of Konstanz, Germany, is hosting the THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOTRAUMATOLOGY on the 27-29th of April 2001. Please see details at:

<http://www.clinical-psychology.uni-konstanz.de/DeGPT/>

UK. The Institute of Commonwealth Studies of the University of London is offering a one year full-time (or two year part-time) programme leading to a University of London MA in Understanding & Securing Human Rights. For further details contact Christie Goodall at (44) 20 7862 8834 or e- mailto:christie.goodall@sas.ac.uk. Details are also available at:

<http://www.sas.ac.uk/commonwealthstudies/courses/humanrights.html>

Publications

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: Diagnosis, Management and Treatment edited by David Nutt, Jonathan R. T. Davidson, and Joseph Zohar, 260 pp, with illus, \$69.95, ISBN 1-85317-926-4, London: Martin Dunitz; Malden, Mass: Blackwell Science, 2000.
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/current/ffull/jbk0103-4.html#a20>

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