
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Amnesty International Reports & Statements

27 April: Iran: [Sharp rise in public executions as Iran executes first juvenile offenders in 2011](#). As many as thirteen hanged in public so far this year as Iran carries out first executions of juveniles anywhere in the world in 2011.

26 April: USA: [Leaked Guantánamo files highlight need for fair trials and accountability](#). Amnesty International renews its call on US authorities to release or give fair trials to remaining detainees after leaked files reveal fresh details about detention centre.

21 April: Bahrain: [Bahrain: International pressure needed now to halt spiralling human rights crisis](#). In *Bahrain: A Human Rights Crisis*, Amnesty International calls on governments with close ties to Bahrain to press for an end to the crackdown on those calling for change.

20 April: USA: [Bradley Manning to be moved to new detention centre](#). The US soldier accused of leaking documents to the Wikileaks organisation is being moved to a new detention centre following concerns over his treatment.

20 April: Egypt: [Egypt: Investigate security forces crimes now](#). In *Time for Justice: Egypt's Corrosive System of Detention*, Amnesty International calls for the immediate establishment of an independent inquiry into human rights abuses committed by the much-feared State Security Investigations Service (SSI).

19 April: Iran: [Iran Arab minority protest deaths must be investigated](#). The Iranian authorities must investigate clashes between security forces and protesters from the Ahwazi Arab minority that reportedly left at least three people dead and dozens injured in the south-western province of Khuzestan, Amnesty International said.

19 April: Libya: [Libya: International community must urgently increase aid to Misratah](#). The international community must immediately step up humanitarian aid to the Libyan city of Misratah, Amnesty International said today, as many of its residents remained without communications, electricity and water supplies. "The medical situation is acute and worsening, with serious shortages of medicine, hospital supplies and electricity generators. Thousands of people have been wounded and clean water is in short supply," said Malcolm Smart, Amnesty International's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

15 April: India: [Indian human rights activist Binayak Sen to be released on bail](#). India's Supreme Court has granted bail to Dr Binayak Sen, a human rights defender who has spent 100 days in prison as part of a politically motivated life sentence on sedition and conspiracy charges.

13 April: Côte d'Ivoire: [UN protection needed for tens of thousands of displaced civilians in Côte d'Ivoire](#). The UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) must protect the tens of thousands of civilians displaced by the conflict who wish to return to their home villages but are afraid to do so, Amnesty International said. "Thousands of people are hiding in the bush in life-threatening conditions and without any proper food or sanitation. They need to be reassured and to be allowed to return to their homes," said Gaëtan Mootoo, Amnesty's Côte d'Ivoire researcher.

12 April: Iraq: ['Days of Rage: Protests and Repression in Iraq' - Testimonies / Case studies](#)

12 April: Bahrain: [Bahrain urged to stop targeting protesters as two more die in custody](#). Bahraini authorities must urgently reveal the whereabouts and legal status of more than 400 mostly Shi'a opposition activists detained in recent weeks, Amnesty International said today amid concerns about their safety after reports that at least three have died in custody.

12 April: Cameroon: [Cameroon: Dire prison conditions threaten writer's health](#). The health problems of a Cameroonian writer jailed for offending the president's wife are being exacerbated by prison overcrowding, a poor diet and lack of access to adequate medical care, Amnesty International said.

12 April: USA: [Cruel conditions for pre-trial prisoners in US federal custody](#). Amnesty International has called for a review of conditions in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) of the federal Metropolitan Detention Center (MCC), New York, where prisoners have sometimes spent long periods confined to small cells with little access to natural light or fresh air. Amnesty International believes that conditions in the unit flout international standards for humane treatment.

8 April: Iraq: [Iraq: Investigate deadly violence at Camp Ashraf](#). The Iraqi authorities must immediately launch an independent investigation into reports that Iraqi troops killed and injured residents of a camp for Iranian exiles north of Baghdad in an unprovoked attack, Amnesty International said.

7 April: Mexico: [Mexico must urgently investigate mass grave](#). Amnesty International today urged the Mexican authorities to conduct a full and effective investigation into the deaths of 59 people, whose bodies were found in mass graves yesterday on a route used by migrants travelling to the USA.

Actions for Health Professionals

Please click on the link and take action by writing appeals to the addresses listed.

26 April: Bahrain: [Health professionals held incommunicado](#). Dozens of health professionals, including doctors and nurses, have been arrested in Bahrain since mid-March 2011. They are currently held under military custody. In early May, Amnesty International learned that [47 are to be put on trial](#).

14 April: Iraq: [Update: Camp Ashraf injured residents denied medical care: Health Professional Action](#). On the morning of 8 April, Iraqi security forces using armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles sought to take greater control of Camp Ashraf, home to some 3,400 Iranian refugees and exiles, using lethal and other excessive force and causing a reported 34 deaths of residents. These are mostly members and supporters of the People's Mojahedine Organization of Iran (PMOI), an Iranian political opposition group that formerly engaged in armed action against the Iranian government and which is outlawed in Iran. In addition to those killed, over 300 residents of Camp Ashraf are reported to have been injured by use of live fire and other excessive force by Iraqi security forces; many of the injured are alleged to have been denied medical treatment and others have been detained while in hospital.

NEWS ARTICLES

Children

Indonesia: [In Child Justice, Adult-Sized Shackles](#). Insightful article on the impact of incarceration on children in Indonesia. It also addresses the inappropriateness of applying the adult criminal justice system to juveniles. *Jakarta Global* (5 April)

Death Penalty

India: [Indian Firm to Stop Selling Execution Drug to Prisons](#). "An Indian drug company that supplied a key execution drug to U.S. prisons has decided to halt future sales following objections from death-penalty opponents". *Wall Street Journal* (7 April)

Ethics

USA: [Texas Psychologist Punished in Death Penalty Cases](#). A psychologist who examined 14 inmates who are now on Texas' death row — and two others who were subsequently executed — and found them intellectually competent enough to face the death penalty agreed on Thursday never to perform such evaluations again. Attorneys for the 14 inmates hope the agreement will help their clients, who they argue are mentally handicapped, to escape lethal injection. *Texas Tribune* (15 April)

Gender, Sexuality and Identity

Kenya: [Bill seeks to stamp out female cut](#). Anyone found practicing female circumcision will be jailed for seven years or fined Sh500,000 if a new Bill is passed into law. Under the Bill, anyone

who causes death while carrying out FGM will be liable to life imprisonment. The Bill was introduced in Parliament yesterday by Mt Elgon MP Fred Kapondi. *The Star* (1 April)

USA: [Abuse of LGBT Immigrants Alleged](#). LGBT immigrants are undergoing severe abuse when held in custody by the federal agency Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an immigrants' rights group charges in a complaint filed this week, the Associated Press reports. *Advocate* (15 April)

Zimbabwe: [Centre on a mission to fight for sex workers' rights](#). With alarming numbers of young girls and women turning to prostitution due to unemployment and poverty, the Zimbabwe Sexual Rights Centre is educating sex workers on their rights. *Times Live* (2 April)

Health Services

Bahrain: [Hospital Is Drawn Into Bahrain Strife](#). "To many doctors at Salmaniya Medical Complex, the hospital has been converted into an apparatus of state terrorism, and sick people have nowhere to go for care." *New York Times* (12 April)

Libya: [In a Medical Tent in Libya, a Grim Procession](#). In clinical terms, this triage tent has seen a catalog of the effects of modern weapons on human life — gunshot wounds, blast wounds, shrapnel wounds, the occasional burns. People arrive with wounds as mild as a bullet's graze, to wounds as life-changing as a severed spinal cord. A few arrive dead. On average, 50 or 60 wounded people pass through this tent each day. About 10 of them die, according to the medical staff and the flow of patients observed. *New York Times* (17 April)

South Africa: [Shukumisa Press Release: Forensic Nurses Vital to Providing Proper Care for Rape Survivors](#). With nursing in the spotlight following last week's national summit convened by the Department of Health and DENOSA's upcoming conference this week, organizations forming part of the Shukumisa campaign call on the Department, nursing bodies and unions to ensure forensic nursing is placed high on the list of priorities. Victim Empowerment South Africa (11 April)

Mental Health

Laos: [Mental health still neglected, underfunded](#). "Three years after the Lao government adopted its first mental health policy, there is still no national plan of action or implementation strategy, say mental health experts." *IRIN* (5 April)

South Africa: [The Invisible People](#). Since psychiatric care was decentralised last year in South Africa, patients have been moved from hospitals into community day hospitals that don't have the appropriate resources to deal with mental illnesses. As a result, many of society's most vulnerable have slipped through the cracks in the system and now walk the streets like invisible people. *Inter Press Service* (4 April)

USA: [Criminal Minds: A Psychiatrist's View from Inside Prison](#). Prison is a tough place to be, says prison psychiatrist David Krassner. Krassner helps inmates deal with mental health problems ranging from schizophrenia to the stress of a life sentence. *Live Science* (21 April)

Prisons and Detention Centres

DRC: [Congo: new prison, old problems](#). Funded by the Netherlands, the recently reopened Ndolo military prison in Kinshasa was to be a model prison in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the prison system has often been criticised. But shortly after the inauguration, the ambitious

project is already being confronted with the Congolese penitentiary reality. *Radio Netherlands WorldWide* (5 April)

Ireland: [Ireland not meeting its obligations under the UN Convention Against Torture](#). “The Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) today published its report to the UN Committee Against Torture on the examination of Ireland's first National Report to the Committee. The IHRC is calling for a comprehensive policy to protect the rights of people in detention and a complete overhaul of penal policy.” *IHRC* (12 April)

Kenya: [Conjugal rights introduced in Kenya's prisons](#). “Sources within the Home Affairs Ministry said this [conjugal visits] could be implemented as early as next week, as part of the campaign to combat the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in prisons, especially due to the prevalence of same sex-relations in prisons. The sense of urgency is also spurred by the current lack of free condoms.” *The Standard* (31 March)

Liberia: [Liberia: Harsh Prison Conditions Highlighted](#). “There are life-threatening conditions in the country's 15 prisons, with prisoners being under-fed and forced to fend for themselves, along with being subjected to inhabitable prison conditions, according to the US State Department 2010 Human Rights Report on Liberia.” *New Democrat* (14 April)

UK: [Prisoners 'should be given drug binge kits when they leave prison'](#). “Prisoners should be handed an anti-overdose drug when they leave jail in case they binge on heroin in their first days outside” say Government’s drug advisers. *The Telegraph* (13 April)

UK: [Prison health to improve as result of national IT system](#). “Healthcare staff in prisons will be better placed to tackle the challenging health needs of prisoners as a result of a national prison healthcare IT system now installed in all prisons and young offender institutions across England.” *Hc2d* (13 April)

Zambia: [Government Fights Prison Congestion](#). “Overcrowding has been the biggest challenge facing a number of prisons across Zambia. The congestion in prisons has become a breeding ground for the cross pollination of viral diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB) and other airborne contaminated diseases associated with poor hygiene.” *All Africa* (12 April)

Refugees and Migrants

Haiti: [Deportations to Haiti: Still a Death Sentence](#). “In the year since, the crisis in Haiti has gone from bad to worse: a cholera epidemic rages throughout the country, the Haitian government is deeply compromised, and sexual assaults and forced evictions are well-documented in the tent camps. The situation is particularly bad in Haitian detention centres--where deportees are locked up and where cholera has already claimed approximately 60 lives.” *Huffington Post* (8 April)

Italy: [MSF Provides Medical and Psychological Care to Migrants](#). “MSF is offering psychological support to migrants who have survived the shock of a long and arduous voyage and whose futures in detention remain uncertain.” *Doctors Without Borders* (12 April)

Malaysia: [Poor conditions led to rioting](#). Insufficient food supply and cramped living conditions may be the reason why illegal immigrants rioted at the Lenggeng Immigration Detention Depot in Negeri Sembilan on Monday, resulting in a building at the facility burnt down and 109 detainees escaping on Monday. *The Malay Mail* (6 April)

Mexico: [Mexican immigrants to U.S. at risk for mental-health problems](#). “A new study finds Mexicans who migrate are far more likely to experience significant depression and anxiety than people who stay in Mexico.” *CNN* (4 April)

USA: [Prison Sexual Assault Reforms Won't Cover Immigrant Detention Centers](#). “Time is running out for the public to weigh in on a proposed Department of Justice rule that would not include immigrant detention centers in corrections-system standards designed to prevent rape and other forms of sexual assault.” *Huffington Post* (3 April)

Torture and Ill-treatment

Turkey: [Turkey improves anti-torture record, problems remain](#). A report on Turkey by anti-torture monitors has revealed that the country’s “downward trend in both the incidence and the severity of ill-treatment by law-enforcement officials” is continuing, but some problems still exist. *Hürriyet Daily News* (31 March)

South Africa: [Prison brutality caught on video](#). Video surveillance footage shot in the new Kimberley prison and leaked to the *Mail & Guardian* appears to show prison security personnel assaulting prisoners and making them bend over after stripping them naked in an apparent bid to humiliate them. *Mail and Guardian* (1 April)

USA: [Review of medical files for Guantanamo Bay inmates finds evidence doctors were complicit in torture](#). “A new review of the medical records and case files of nine Guantanamo Bay detainees backs the prisoners’ claims they were tortured while in custody. The analysis... also found prison doctors were complicit in the ill-treatment.” *The Australian* (27 April). (See paper by Iacopino and Xenakis listed under Publications below.)

Transmissible Diseases

Latin America: [New monitoring centre helps tackle HIV in prisons in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). Mounting an effective challenge to HIV in prison settings is a key part of the AIDS response at national, regional and global levels. To define standards for HIV prevention and treatment and the protection and promotion of prisoners’ human rights, it is important to consolidate as much data as possible about the epidemic in this environment. The newly established *Monitoring Centre for HIV and Prisons in Latin America and the Caribbean* is set to become the key regional repository for such vital information. UNAIDS (20 April)

Uganda: [Sick inmates deserve humane treatment](#). “Inmates living with HIV/AIDS in Mubuku government prison in Kasese district have asked the Government to improve their condition of work at the prison. They complained to members of the Judicial Service Commission who visited Mubuku that the prison officials subject them to long hours of work and stigmatise them.” *New Vision* (5 April)

USA: [Prisons to offer inmates HIV testing](#). Virginia prison inmates will be offered HIV testing within 60 days of their scheduled discharged from a correctional facility. *The Virginia Gazette* (3 April)

Conferences and Courses

[Summer School on Health Law and Ethics 27 June- 8 July 2011, Rotterdam, The Netherlands](#). The Erasmus Observatory is proud to announce the Annual Summer School on Health Law and Ethics in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In a two-week period, from the 27th of June until the 8th of

July, various aspects of health law and ethics will be taught. The course is designed to enhance the preparation of health professionals confronted with legal and ethical issues. Master students in this field are also welcome to participate. The course focuses on both theoretical and practical aspects of health law and ethics.

[6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, 17 – 20 July 2011, Rome, Italy.](#) This conference provides a unique opportunity for the world's leading scientists, clinicians, public health experts and community leaders to examine the latest developments in HIV-related research, and to explore how scientific advances can – in very practical ways – inform the global response to HIV/AIDS. Registration now open. [Source: AWID].

[7th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry, 19 – 22 October 2011, Prague, Czech Republic.](#) This conference invites psychiatric clinicians, psychiatrists, practitioners, psychiatric mental health nurses, psychologists, health scientists, educators, trainers, researchers, managers, and policy makers engaged in the management, study or treatment of aggressive behaviour of psychiatric patients and/or persons with intellectual disabilities and serious behavioural problems. Abstract submissions close: 1 August 2011.

Publications

Potter S.J, Laflamme D.J. [An Assessment of State Level Sexual Assault Prevalence Estimates. *Matern. Child Health J*; 15\(1\): 77-86, 2011:](#)

Baelani I and Dünser M. W. [Facing Medical Care Problems of Victims of Sexual Violence in Goma/Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Conflict and Health* 5:2, 2011:](#)

Potts, Alina; Myer, Kathleen; Roberts Les., [Measuring Human Rights Violations in a Conflict - Affected Country: Results from a Nationwide Cluster Survey in Central African Republic. *Conflict and Health* 5/4, 2011:](#)

Iacopino V, Xenakis SN. [Neglect of Medical Evidence of Torture in Guantánamo Bay: A Case Series. *PLoS Med* 8\(4\): e1001027. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001027, 2011:](#)

Steel Z, Momartin S, Silove D, Coello M. [Two year psychological and mental health outcomes for refugees subjected to restrictive or supportive immigration policies. *Social Science and Medicine*; 72\(7\):1149-1156, 2011:](#)

Zarocostas J. [UN recommends reparation funds to help those who were raped in the Congo. *British Medical J*; 342:d1501, 2011:](#)

[McClain L. Women, Disability and Violence: Strategies to Increase Physical and Programmatic Access to Victims' Services for Women with Disabilities. Barbara Faye Waxman Fiduccia Papers on Women and Girls with Disabilities. Center for Women Policy Studies, March 2011:](#)

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