

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Amnesty International statements and reports

Amnesty International's *Report 2000* -- reviewing human rights in 1999 -- was published on 14 June

Regional summaries and the whole report can be accessed here:

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/ar2000web.nsf/>

NATO violations of the laws of war during Operation Allied Force must be investigated

Press release 7 June 2000 [EUR 70/25/00]: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/47002500.htm>

Report [EUR 70/18/00]: <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/EUR/47001800.htm>

Summary report June 2000 : <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/SUM/47001800.htm>

See also: *BBC*, 7 June: http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_780000/780547.stm

[For ICTY's report on this subject see below]

Togo. Truth and justice demanded for victims [AFR 57/07/00]. 9 June 2000.

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/15700700.htm>

Beijing Plus Five

From 3 - 10 June a follow up to the 1995 World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China took place at the UN in New York. The UN Beijing Plus Five page is at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5.htm>

Amnesty International said that the gains of the last five years for women's rights were still being challenged by some governments in the final hours of the Beijing Plus Five review process (9 June):

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/A7701000.htm>

Please see below a selection of articles on the conference:

Panafrican News Agency, 3 June: <http://www.africanews.org/PANA/news/20000603/feat6.html>

CNN, 7 June: <http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/US/06/07/womens.conference/index.html>
Associated Press, 10 June: <http://news.excite.com/news/ap/000610/22/news-un-womens-conference>
OneWorld has a number of reports on their website with cases of individual women in various parts of the world including Mexico, Nepal and Ethiopia (7 June): <http://www.oneworld.net/>
The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women began hearings on 12 June.
Click to see the CEDAW [press release](#) (or click the following link and navigate:
<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/>)

Death penalty

China - The *International Herald Tribune* (15 June) reports on the transplantation of kidneys from executed prisoners in China. The article is available at:
<http://www.iht.com/IHT/TODAY/THU/FPAGE/organ.2.html>

Guatemala - The group *Madres Angustiada* [Anxious Mothers], a victim support group, has called for an execution date for two men sentenced to death (*Prensa Libre*, 6 June).
<http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias145350980.htm>
The execution date for two men was initially set for 21 June (*Prensa Libre*, 7 June)
<http://www.prensalibre.com.gt/noticias.asp?seccion=1&idnoticia=45397&showdate=981> but subsequently the date was fixed for 29 June.

USA - Debate on the death penalty in the USA continues to increase. Please find below a selection of articles on the issue.

Two-thirds of death penalty cases that were appealed from 1973 through 1995 were successful according to a study by Columbia University, reported the *Chicago Tribune*. The main reasons for errors during the trial leading to a death sentence conviction appear to be incompetent defence lawyers and misconduct by prosecutors.

<http://cnews.tribune.com/news/tribune/story/0,1235,tribune-nation-65838,00.html>
Also see the *Tampa Tribune*, 11 June: <http://www.tampatrib.com/MGIGDBZKD9C.html>
The *Washington Post*, 12 June: <http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A39349-2000Jun11.html>
Death Penalty Information Center, 13 June: <http://www.essential.org/dpic/whatsnew.html>

The *Chicago Tribune* published a major two part report on the death penalty in Texas:
Intro <http://chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ws/0,1246,45186,00.html>
Part 1 <http://chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ws/item/0,1308,45186-0-45184,00.html>
Part 2 <http://chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ws/item/0,1308,45186-0-45185,00.html>
The paper reported George Bush as saying that Texas has "adequately answered innocence or guilt" in its death penalty cases (11 June).
<http://cnews.tribune.com/news/tribune/story/0,1235,tribune-nation-65812,00.html>

The *New York Times* reported on 14 June that Vice President Al Gore suggested that recent studies showing drastic error rates in court appeals of death penalty cases could prompt a fresh evaluation of the nation's use of capital punishment.
<http://www.nytimes.com/library/politics/camp/061400wh-gore-death.html>

"The United States is executing prisoners at a faster rate than ever before. But the doubting voices are getting louder": the *Economist* looks at the death penalty in the USA (14 June). See :
Dead man walking out: <http://www.economist.co.uk/editorial/freeforall/current/sf9156.html>
America's death penalty lottery: <http://www.economist.co.uk/editorial/freeforall/current/ld9184.html>

The *Christian Science Monitor* reviews the recent critiques on the death penalty (14 June).
<http://www.csmonitor.com/durable/2000/06/14/p1s1.htm>

The *Washington Post* reports on Gary Graham's case whose execution has been set for 22 June. Gary Graham was convicted for murder after a two-day trial, based on the testimony of one witness.
<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A39238-2000Jun11.html>

The *Florida Times-Union* reported that Florida's third lethal injection execution had complications that resulted in a 33-minuted delay as the execution team at Floriday State Prison struggled to insert

intravenous needles into Bennie Demps (8 June). A line was finally established in his groin.
http://jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/060800/met_3258825.html
Also see the *Miami Herald*, 8 June: <http://www.herald.com/content/today/docs/089297.htm>
Miami Herald, 9 June: <http://www.herald.com/content/today/docs/044433.htm>
Florida Times-Union, 9 June: http://jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/060900/met_3268778.html
The Gainesville Sun, 9 June: <http://www.sunone.com/news/articles/06-09-00c.shtml>
For background on Bennie Demps' case, see the *Gainesville Sun* (9 June):
<http://www.sunone.com/news/articles/06-07-00d.shtml>

American Medical Association discusses death penalty: Associated Press reported (13 June) that a resolution drafted by the American Association of Public Health Physicians, asking the AMA to recommend a moratorium on executions until current problems with the penalty are resolved, was rejected by AMA Delegates and a watered-down substitute resolution adopted. The amended resolution asked the AMA simply to "support the availability and use of all appropriate medical forensic techniques in the criminal justice system."

International tribunals & impunity

Chile - Thirteen judges voted in favor of revocation of General Pinochet's immunity from prosecution, nine voted against, *CNN* reported on 5 June.
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/06/05/pinochet/index.html>

On 12 June *CNN* reported that Chile's military is prepared to seek information among its ranks on the fate of more than 1,000 people who disappeared under the dictatorship of General Pinochet if those coming forward are granted anonymity.
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/06/12/chile.humanrights.ap/index.html>

On 9 June defense lawyers for General Pinochet appealed a court ruling that lifted his immunity (*CNN*, 9 June).
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/06/09/chile.pinochet.ap/index.html>

ICTY

Witness No. 105 was the last victim to testify in the wartime rape trial on the "rape camps" in the southeastern Bosnian city of Foca from 1992-1995, reported the *Boston Globe*, while prosecutors wound up their case (13 June).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/165/world/Bosnian_Muslim_woman_at_landma:.shtml
ICTY home page: <http://www.un.org/icty/>

The ICTY report on NATO bombing of Yugoslavia is available at:
<http://www.un.org/icty/pressreal/nato061300.htm>

ICC

On 1 June Nigeria became the 97th state to have signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. On Wednesday 7 June Venezuela ratified the Rome Statute, followed by France on 9 June. A total of 12 states have now ratified the Rome Statute. The ICC will be formally established after 60 countries have ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. See the web-site of the Coalition for an ICC <http://www.igc.org/icc/>

Further news

Algeria - The Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) said that Algerian security forces executed suspects as they were looking for Muslim rebels still active in various parts of the country (*CNN*, 13 June).
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/africa/06/13/bc.rights.france.algeria.reut/index.html>
The FIDH web-site is: <http://www.fidh.org/index2.htm> [In French with link to English language page]

Argentina - President Fernando de la Rúa apologized for Argentina's role in offering refuge to Nazi war criminals after World War II (*Miami Herald*, 14 June).
<http://www.herald.com/content/today/news/national/digdocs/056048.htm>

Burundi - Nelson Mandela continued his mission to try to bring peace to Burundi and was expected to visit one of Burundi's "regroupment camps" mid-June. Burundi president Pierre Buyoya agreed that the country's two ethnic groups would be equally represented in the army and that all Hutus in the camps would be released by the end of July (*CNN*, 13 June).
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/africa/06/13/bc.burundi.mandela.reut/index.html>

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - Dr Flora Brovina's conviction and 12-year sentence have been overturned by the Serbian Supreme Court, who referred the case back to the District Court. See Lawyers Committee for Human Rights statement, 7 June: <http://www.lchr.org/media/kosovo0700.htm> (Also see Jonathan Mann award for Flora Brovina below).

Iraq - The *BBC* reported that the United Nations Security Council has for the first time unanimously approved a far-reaching study of the humanitarian situation in Iraq (9 June).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_783000/783769.stm

Russian Federation (Chechnya) - The *Lancet* reports that the Chechen republic's demolished health care infrastructure still suffers (*Lancet* 2000; 355:2067 - 2070).

http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9220/menu_NOD999.html

CNN reported that three doctors were killed and three others wounded when the ambulance they were travelling in came under gunfire in Grozny (9 June).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/europe/06/09/bc.russia.chechnya.reut/index.html>

Saudi Arabia - Since Amnesty International have launched their Saudi Arabia campaign, more debate has been generated on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. For further information on Saudi Arabia and human rights, see *CNN*, 11 June:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/meast/06/11/saudis.rights.ap/index.html>

Amnesty International's site on the Saudi Arabia campaign is

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/saudi/index.html>

Sierra Leone - The *Lancet* presented the main findings of an assessment of traumatic stress by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Freetown, Sierra Leone. During 9 years of conflict, civilians have repeatedly been subjected to extreme and long-lasting hardships (*Lancet* 2000; 355: 2067 - 2070).

http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9220/body.news_hhr2067.html

South Africa - South Africa's Statutory registration body for health professionals, the Health Professions Council, has started an inquiry into the conduct of Wouter Basson, the head of the apartheid regime's chemical warfare programme (*Lancet* 2000; 355: 2056 - 2060).

http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9220/body.news_pp2058.html#southafricasdoctorscouncilstartsinquryintoapartheidregimedocto

Sri Lanka - The *Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture* in the UK has reviewed records of all Sri Lankan men who had been referred to the Foundation between January 1997 and December 1998 to estimate the frequency and consequences of the sexual abuse of men in detention in Sri Lanka (*Lancet* 2000; 355: 2067 - 2070).

http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9220/body.news_hhr2067.html#thesexualabuseofmenin detentioninsrilanka

Uganda - The *East African* reported that some Ugandan pathologists may be delegating their work to mortuary attendants, following postmortem reports which contained information contrary to the actual evidence observed on the body (29 May).

<http://www.nationaudio.com/News/EastAfrican/29052000/Regional/Regional2.html>

Zimbabwe - *CNN* reported that members of the ruling party have attacked health workers and teachers, forcing many to flee their clinics and schools in the wake of pre-election violence. The militants have also barred many of those injured from entering medical clinics, the Community Working Group on Health said (6 June).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/africa/06/06/zimbabwe.violence.ap/index.html>

Amnesty International mission delegates in Zimbabwe said that there seemed to be deliberate planning of human rights violations in the run-up to the parliamentary elections this month (*BBC*, 8 June).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_783000/783375.stm

Vacancy

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Award

According to the *Humanitarian Times* (15 June), Dr Flora Brovina and Dr Vyovsa Dobruna, two Kosovar physicians, have been awarded the Jonathan Mann Award for Health & Human Rights 2000 for setting up clinics for women and victims of violence and for providing assistance to Albanians. The Mann award is jointly given by the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center of Harvard, MDM (Doctors of the World) and the Global Health Council.

(To subscribe to the HT, send an email to: <mailto:HTimes@MSN.com>)

Doctors of the World: <http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org/>

Global Health Council: <http://www.globalhealthcouncil.org/>

FXB Center: <http://www.hri.ca/partners/fxbcenter/>

The Polio Eradication Initiative and Inge Genefke, MD, became the first recipients of the AMA Dr. Nathan Davis International Awards in Medicine and Public Health. Dr Genefke is Secretary-General of the IRCT. (From AMA News <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/article/2873.html>)

Publications

IRCT Annual Report 1999 (June 2000 Copenhagen).

Contact details International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims: Borgergade 13, PO Box 2107, DK-1014 Copenhagen K, Denmark. Tel: +45 33 76 06 00; Fax: +45 33 76 05 00; E-mail: <mailto:irct@irct.org>; Website: <http://www.irct.org>

Prisons in the Gambia. Report on a Visit by the Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention in Africa. African Commission on Human and People's Rights (1999).

World Refugee Survey. U.S. Committee for Refugees (June 2000).

For article by Miami Herald, 14 June:

<http://www.herald.com/content/today/news/world/digdocs/042192.htm>

The Essex University *Torture Reporting Handbook* is available at the University web-site for downloading in English in Word 6 format, Rich Text Format (RTF) and Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. An online version is under development. Visit: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/torturehandbook/english.htm>

Meetings & courses

The University of the Western Cape Public Health Programme is organising courses from 3-21 July 2000. The closing date for applications is 23 June. For further information, please contact Marlene Petersen, Public Health Programme, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville 7535, South Africa. Tel: +27 21 959 2121; Fax: +27 21 959 2872; E-mail: <mailto:mpeterse@uwc.ac.za>; Website: <http://www.uwc.ac.za/comhealth>

PHR-UK will organise a talk by Yuval Ginbar, Senior Advisor to the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel: "Legitimising torture: legal torture in Israel 1987-99 and the struggle for its abolition". Venue: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1 (off Gower Street). Date: Monday 26 June, 18:30hrs.

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