

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol 3, No. 17, 25 August 2000

AI Index: ACT 84/17/00

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Summary

AI reports & statements: Guatemala & past abuses / USA - Williams case

Death penalty: Guatemala: 6 year old gives key evidence / USA: Florida (Hauser); Georgia (Williams); Texas (Satterwhite); Texas (Jones)

International tribunals & Impunity: Bosnia / Chile / Sierra Leone

Further news: Correction (MSF) / Afghanistan / Australia / Guatemala / Kenya / Kosovo / Pakistan / Saudi Arabia / South Africa / Tanzania / USA

Conferences: Peru: Health and Human Rights

Publications

Amnesty International statements and reports

Guatemala - Government accepts responsibility for past human rights violations.

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/23403300.htm>

USA - The scheduled execution of Alexander Williams, juvenile offender and learning disabled

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/25113300.htm> [see also under death penalty below]

Death penalty

Guatemala - evidence of 6 year old key to death sentence. The testimony of the 6 year old son of two murder victims was considered as key by the Court in arriving at a death sentence according to *Siglo Veintiuno* (21 August - in Spanish)

<http://168.234.153.31/cgi-bin/calciint.asp?codigo=jhuena04>

USA - Florida - Dan Hauser. Hauser's lawyer contended that the prisoner sought suicide by execution see the *Los Angeles Times* (22 August):

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/20000822/t000078947.html> . Hauser's sentence was later suspended by Governor Jeb Bush: <http://www.herald.com/content/today/digdocs/012024.htm> (*Miami Herald*, 22 August)

USA - Georgia - Alexander Williams, a mentally ill juvenile offender.

For the AI report on the case see <http://www.amnesty.org/> and scroll down to "Abandoning justice". [Oops! It is no longer there. We will provide the link next newsletter.]

The *Guardian* London covered the story (18 August):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,355655,00.html>

Discussion of issues in *Atlanta Journal Constitution* (21 August)

http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/@issue/death_row.html

American Bar Association document on Williams case:

<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/deathpenalty.html> [site updated to include news of the stay in Williams's execution]

For the Georgia Dept of Corrections press release on Williams see:
<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/publicRelations/pressrelease/August112000.htm> . In a statement of immediate relevance the UN Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights called for an end to the execution of juvenile offenders (18 August): Document E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/L.0029 (not yet online)

For Human Rights Watch's press release on the case see:
<http://www.hrw.org/press/2000/08/gadeath0821.htm>

The execution was subsequently deferred. See *Boston Globe* 23 August:
http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/236/nation/Mentally_ill_man_gets_execution_stay+.shtml

USA - Texas - John Satterwhite. Satterwhite was executed on 16 August. See the appeal from the European Union:
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/pr-EUSatterwhite.html> (10 August)

USA - Texas - Richard Jones. Texas reached its 30th execution for the year, denying Jones a DNA test and executing him (Reuters 22 August). In June, the execution of Ricky McGinn was deferred so he could take DNA tests. These did not exculpate him and he is scheduled to be executed next month. (no link)

International tribunals & impunity

Bosnia - further graves found

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/europe/08/18/bosnia.pit/index.html>

Chile / USA - release of Pinochet documents. The US has told the Chilean govt it would release as many documents as possible on human rights abuses in Chile. See:
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/08/17/albright.chile.reut/index.html>

Sierra Leone/UN - tribunal approved. The UN Security Council has approved the proposal for international court to try those charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200008150138.html> . For Human Rights Watch comment see:
<http://www.hrw.org/press/2000/08/s10814.htm>

Further news

Correction: Sudan/MSF. In the last newsletter our item about MSF being forced to leave southern Sudan was not entirely correct. MSF has suspended operations in part of southern Sudan (Akuem) but continues to work in other parts of southern Sudan. [See also AI press release on bombings in Sudan: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/23403300.htm>]

Afghanistan - portrait of the Taliban. Interview with Ahmed Rashid, author of *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*. See *Atlantic Monthly* (August):
<http://www.theatlantic.com/unbound/interviews/ba2000-08-09.htm>

Australia: cover up of "torture" alleged. Six soldiers from the Third Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) have been charged with assault, reports the London *Independent* (17 August) in connection with ill-treatment of fellow soldiers. See <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/World/Australasia/2000-08/austroops170800.shtml>

Guatemala - massacre survivors speak. *Prensa Libre* presents interviews with two child survivors of one of the most notorious massacres of the long Guatemalan civil war -- the massacre at Los Dos Erres in 1982. See 'Hablan niños de la guerra', (23 August)
<http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias1491691058.htm> [in Spanish]

Kenya - KMA workshop on rape. The Kenyan Medical Association held a 3 day workshop on the subject of rape attended by doctors, lawyers, police officers, nurses, social workers and NGO representatives (*Daily Nation*, 20 August):
<http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/20082000/News/News11.html>

Kosovo - exhumations. The Guardian (London) reports on exhumations in Kosovo (18 August). <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,355732,00.html>

Kosovo - "botched investigation"? *Newsweek* reports on the murder trial of Serbs Miroslav Momcilovic and his two sons. See (Guilty until proven innocent?, 22 August) <http://www.msnbc.com/news/449682.asp> . See AI's press release on the case: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/47003500.htm>

Kosovo - problems with justice alleged. See the *Los Angeles Times* report (23 August) http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/updates/lat_justice000823.htm

Pakistan - allegations of abused child prisoners. AFP reported (24 August) that a court in Pakistan on Thursday (24 August) heard evidence that boys in custody at Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, were being systematically sexually abused and threatened by prison staff. The Lahore High Court summoned the jail's superintendent and medical officers after hearing the petition from local lawyer MD Tahir, AFP said, citing court officials. (no link).

Saudi Arabia to sign CEDAW. UN officials have given a cautious welcome to Saudi Arabia's decision to sign the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, according to a BBC report (22 August) http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_891000/891544.stm

South Africa - gays in military. An investigation into the treatment of gay men in the SA Defence Forces during the apartheid era has been published. To see a description of the project see: <http://www.mask.org.za/sections/AfricaPerCountry/aversion.html>
A 116 page pdf file of the project report is available at: <http://www.mask.org.za/sections/AfricaPerCountry/aversion.pdf>

Tanzania - FGM. Pan African News reported (12 August) that the practice of female genital mutilation in Tanzania is "going underground" following the introduction of laws prohibiting its practice. See <http://allafrica.com/stories/200008130005.html> (AI supports legal reforms aimed at the abolition of FGM).

USA - New Jersey. *Bergen Record* editorial on treatment of New Jersey's mentally ill inmates. <http://www.bergen.com/editorials/pris2200008179.htm>

Conferences/courses

EDHUCAS: Educación en Derechos Humanos con Aplicación en Salud.
Latin American Workshop "Health and Human Rights: Making the link"
28 February to 4 March 2001 in Lima, Peru.
For more information contact: Jaime Miranda, Project Coordinator
E-mailto: 03725@upch.edu.pe

Publications

Cambodia - Prescriptions to End Torture. AHRC Publications - Human Rights SOLIDARITY - August 2000 Volume 10 No. 8
http://www.oneworld.net/anydoc2.cgi?url=http://www.ahrchk.net/solidarity/200008/v108_10.htm

For a discussion for and against proposed revisions of the Declaration of Helsinki (WMA) see: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7258/442>

Kluft RP, Bloom SL, Kinzie JD. Treating traumatized patients and victims of violence. *New Directions in Mental Health Services* 2000 Summer;86:79-102. Abstract:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=10885268&dopt=Abstract

Mollica RF. Waging a new kind of war. Invisible wounds. *Scientific American* 2000 Jun;282(6):54-7 (no link).

Human Rights and Biomedicine, by George P. Smith II

The eight chapters within this volume are structured around an exploration of the fundamental issues in the field of biomedical human rights. ISBN 90-411-1447-5, August 2000, 244 pp. NLG 175.00 / USD 86.00 / GBP 54.00

See: <http://www.wkap.nl/book.htm/90-411-1447-5>

NEJM review (24 August) of *Bodies of Evidence: Medicine and the Politics of the English Inquisition, 1830-1926* by Ian Burney. The book discusses the history of the English coroner system. See <http://www.nejm.org/content/2000/0343/0008/0588b.asp>

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