
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol 6, No. 7, 4 April 2003

AI Index: ACT 84/007/2003

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Summary

- **AI reports & statements:** Iraq / Myanmar / Zimbabwe
- **Further news:** Belgium: "softening" of war crimes law / Bosnia-Herzegovina: mass grave found / Guinea-Bissau - torture cases / Turkey: torture prosecutions / USA: 300th execution in Texas / Zambia: high HIV-infection rate among adolescent girls / Zimbabwe - torture accounts
- **Conferences:** Third European Academy of Forensic Science Triennial Meeting
- **Publications**

World Health Day

Monday 7 April is World Health Day. Click here for WHO's information on this year's theme 'Healthy Environments for Children': <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2003/en/>

Amnesty International reports & statements

Click here for Amnesty International's webpage on the situation in Iraq, including for example press releases, Amnesty International's concerns and recommendations and an opinion piece by the organization's Secretary General:

http://web.amnesty.org/pages/iraq_summary

Myanmar: Limited human rights improvements - serious concerns persist. 1 April (ADA 16/013/2003). <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA160132003>

Zimbabwe: Mass arrests signal new and dangerous phase of repression. 21 March (AFR 46/009/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAFR460092003>

This is a small selection of Amnesty International reports and statements. For a comprehensive overview, please check Amnesty International's website: <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Further news

Belgium - "softening" of war crimes law. The *BBC* reported (2 April) that Belgium is "softening" its war crimes law. In future a senior prosecutor will have to approve cases which are based on events outside Belgium, it says. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2909603.stm>

Bosnia-Herzegovina - mass grave found. The *BBC* reported that "forensic scientists believe they have found the largest mass grave ever discovered in Bosnia". <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2895801.stm>

Guinea-Bissau - torture cases. Several army officers and others have reportedly been tortured and have been denied medical care. Detainee Mussa Gassama died in police custody, allegedly as a result of torture. See:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAFR300062003?open&of=ENG-GNB> (19 March)

Also see: *BBC*, 'Bissau coup plotters 'tortured' (18 March):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/2860915.stm>

Turkey - torture prosecutions. Turkey's highest appeals court has upheld prison sentences against 10 policemen found guilty of torture, in what has been seen as a test case for human rights, reported the *BBC* (4 April). <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2917241.stm>

USA - 300th execution in Texas. Keith Bernard Clay was the 300th person to be executed in Texas since executions were resumed in 1977. He had been convicted for the murder of Tom Varghese, a convenience-store clerk. See:

http://www.cuadp.org/ev_reports/20030320-X-TX.html

Zambia - high HIV-infection rate among adolescent girls. According to the *International Herald Tribune*, the high HIV-infection rate among adolescent girls in Zambia and other parts of Africa reveal that "the AIDS epidemic is being fuelled by the abuse and subordination of young women" (2 April). <http://www.ihf.com/articles/91786.html>

Also see the Human Rights Watch report, 'Suffering in Silence: The Links between Human Rights Abuses and HIV Transmission to Girls in Zambia' (2002): <http://hrw.org/reports/2003/zambia/>

Zimbabwe - torture accounts. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on "rape camps" where girls are being held by youth militia and others supporting the present government (23 March).

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/03/22/1047749994019.html>

The *BBC* reported on the ordeal of Patricia, secretary of the MDC, which prompted a number of *BBC* readers to write in with their accounts of torture in Zimbabwe (25 March).

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/2881793.stm>

Conferences

The **Third European Academy of Forensic Science Triennial Meeting** will be held on 22-27 September 2003, in Istanbul, Turkey. For details of the program and registration, visit <http://www.eafs2003.org/> or contact secretariat@eafs2003.org

Publications

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Professor Paul Hunt, has submitted his preliminary report to the Commission on Human Rights (UN doc. E/CN.4/2003/58) and the advance edited version is available online at:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/pdf/chr59/58AV.pdf>

Further publications

Amankwaa A, Bavon AL and Amankwaa LC. Gaps between HIV/AIDS policies and treatment in correctional facilities. *J Health Hum Serv Adm* 2001 Fall;24(2):171-98 in PubMed.

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Baleta A. S Africa's AIDS activists accuse government of murder. *Lancet* 2003;361:9363 (29 March). <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9363/full/lan.361.9363.news.25134.1>

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http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9364/full/lan.361.9364.editorial_and_review.25184.1

DeLisi LE et al. A survey of New Yorkers after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. *Am J Psychiatry* 2003;160:780-783. <http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/abstract/160/4/780>

Freedman AM. Execution: an unwanted side-effect. *Lancet* 2003;361:9364 (5 April).
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Giacaman R and Halileh S. Maintaining public health education in the West Bank. *Lancet* 2003;361:9364 (5 April).

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9364/full/lan.361.9364.health_and_human_rights.25171.1
Two commentaries in response:

Shauer A and Ziv Hadas. Conflict and public health: report from Physicians for Human Rights-Israel. *Lancet* 2003;361:9364 (5 April).

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Leventhal A, Melville L and Berry EM. Public health education in a conflict area: a report from Israel. *Lancet* 2003;361:9364 (5 April).

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9364/full/lan.361.9364.health_and_human_rights.25201.1

Hargreaves S. The United Kingdom's Experience of Providing Health Care for Refugees: Time for International Standards? *J Travel Med* 2003 Mar-Apr;10(2):73-4 in PubMed.

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Hausman K. Court Allows State to Medicate Death-Row Inmate Forcibly. *Psychiatric News* 2003; 38:6 (21 March).

<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/38/6/2>

Kapp C. Relief crisis unfolds as Iraq war progresses - NGOs warn that Iraq is on the brink of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. *Lancet* 2003;361:9363 (29 March).

<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9363/full/lan.361.9363.news.25132.1>

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<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9363/full/lan.361.9363.news.25133.1>

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PHR-USA. *Dual Loyalty & Human Rights in Health Professional Practice: Proposed Guidelines and Institutional Mechanisms* (6 March).

<http://www.phrusa.org/healthrights/dl.html>

Singer PA. Strengthening the role of ethics in medical education. *CMAJ* 2003;168 (7) (1 April).

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/168/7/854>

The casualties of war (editorial). *Lancet* 2003;361:9363 (29 March).

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9363/full/lan.361.9363.editorial_and_review.25130.1

Yehuda R. Changes in the Concept of PTSD and Trauma. *Psychiatric Times* 2003; Vol XX:4 (April).

<http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/p030435.html>

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