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
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World Health Day


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](http://web.amnesty.org/pages/iraq_summary)


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/](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](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](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/evReports/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.iht.com/articles/91786.html


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


Two commentaries in response:


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


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