
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

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Summary

AI reports & statements: Belgium: Semira Adamu case / Israel/Occupied Territories: current situation

Further news: Australia: asylum-seekers / CPT: Turkey / Geneva Conventions: ICRC rejects call for revision / ICTY: evidence on Kosovo / Israel/Occupied Territories: attacks on ambulances / Nigeria: punishments / Pakistan: attacks on physicians / UN Commission on HR / USA: death penalty, confessions

Conferences: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Belgium: Semira Adamu's case an opportunity to further review expulsion procedures. 15 March (EUR 14/001/2002). Amnesty International urges the Belgian government to thoroughly review its expulsion procedures in light of allegations of ill-treatment and inadequate medical attention for injuries incurred during aborted deportation operations.
<http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/DBCD6B110BE6146080256B7D003DC831>

Israel/Occupied Territories/Palestinian Authority: The perils of avoiding human rights. 19 March 2002 (MDE 15/025/2002). AI representatives held a press conference in Jerusalem during their current mission in the area:

<http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/BA2FAEBAB3A13D1B80256B810035ECE4>

Related press release:

<http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/8872BB2C49FAA17B80256B7600581535>

Medical action: *Israel/Occupied Territories: Attacks on health personnel and disrupted health care.* 14 March (MDE 15/018/2002). <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/MDE150182002> (Also see 'Further news' below).

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

Australia - asylum seekers. The Melbourne *Age* records the stories of asylum seekers held in detention in Woomera. See "Tales from behind the fence" (18 March) :

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2002/03/17/1015909915818.html>. Australia's doctors are expressing growing concern about the plight of children in detention centres, according to Australian Broadcasting Corporation television. See the transcript of the Lateline program (19 March)

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/s508624.htm> or watch the broadcast:

http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/av/2002/03/20020319ll_children.ram (requires free Real software

<http://www.real.com>)

CPT - Turkey. "Preliminary observations made by the delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) which visited Turkey from 2 to 14 September 2001 and Response of the Turkish authorities" (19 March) are available at the CPT website: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2002-03en.htm>

Geneva Conventions. Reuters reported yesterday (21 March) that the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross rejected suggestions that the Geneva Conventions and humanitarian law needed adapting to the international fight against extremist political violence. See: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L21282119>.

ICTY - evidence on Kosovo. On 13 March, Patrick Ball, deputy director of the Science and Human Rights Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, presented a report to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), in which he and colleagues analysed data on the deaths and refugee flow among Kosovar Albanians from March to June 1999. For the report see:

http://hrdata.aaas.org/kosovo/icty_report.pdf. An article about Dr Ball's work was published in the *Guardian* (London): "The calculus of cruelty", 21 March:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4378037,00.html>. The ICTY web-site is: <http://www.un.org/icty/>

Israel/OT - attacks on ambulances. The *BBC* reported on the recent attacks on Palestinian ambulances, resulting in a number of deaths and injuries. The International Committee of the Red Cross has provided the Palestine Red Crescent Society with bullet-proof vests (13 March).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1870000/1870703.stm. See also ICRC: "Red Crescent ambulance driver saved by bullet-proof vest".

<http://www.icrc.org/icceng.nsf/c1256212004ce24e4125621200524882/3ec4674e3b82247cc1256b830057a8ba>

Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) "strongly condemn[ed] the recent Israeli attacks on medical services in the Occupied Autonomous Palestinian Territories". See:

<http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=74253EB3-4C6A-4457-A5964062A6251AD9> (10 March). Two days later MSF and two other NGOs -- Médecins du Monde and Handicap International -- reiterated this call:

<http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=FF86EF4D-C975-4669-B4476DA5701F7C38>. Human Rights Watch also called for an end to attacks on ambulances.

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/03/medics030902.htm>.

Nigeria - punishments. Federal Justice Minister Kanu Agabi said in a letter to governments of northern states in Nigeria that Muslims should not be subjected to more severe punishments than other Nigerians. The states in question have introduced Sharia which provides for flogging and amputation as punishments. See:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_1885000/1885052.stm (21 March)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200203210408.html> (21 March)

Pakistan - attacks on physicians. The *Boston Globe* reported that a number of doctors have been killed, reportedly in religion-based attacks. Dr Tipu Sultan, president of the Pakistan Medical Association, said that doctors were scared to go to work (18 March).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/077/world/Doctors_on_hit_list_in_Pakista:.shtml

United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Commission on Human Rights will be in session from 18 March to 26 April. Reports considered by the Commission will include documents by the Secretary General on access to medication in the context of, for example, HIV/AIDS. See the UN press release here for an overview of the session.

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/0CDF236885ECF195C1256B7D002F335B>

USA - death penalty. Discussion on the rationale for the death penalty in the USA by a journalist from the London *Guardian*:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Columnists/Column/0,5673,670664,00.html>

USA - confessions to murder. ABC News discusses confessions in murder cases and how innocent people can end up on death row. See "Coerced confessions - why innocent people admit to murder" (15 March)

http://abcnews.go.com/sections/2020/2020/2020_020315_falseconfessions.html

Conferences

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies is organizing a conference on *Human Rights: Dynamic Dimensions*, Saturday 27 April in the Senate House, University of London. For the program and further information contact: belinda.crothers@sas.ac.uk or by mail to Belinda Crothers, Academic Assistant, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR, UK. Tel: +44 20 7862 5841 or fax: +44 20 7862 5850. The conference is free. Web-site: <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/> [Conference details not posted as of today.] U.S. and other non-UK residents should reply to: Center for International and Comparative Law, The Dickinson School of Law, The Pennsylvania State University, 150 South College Street, Carlisle, PA 17013, USA.; Phone: +1-717-240-5111; Fax: +1-717-240-5126; Email: lf2@psu.edu.

Publications

Bales K. The social psychology of modern slavery. *Scientific American*, April 2002 cover date: <http://www.sciam.com/2002/0402issue/0402bales.html>. See related editorial ("The peculiar institution"): <http://www.sciam.com/2002/0402issue/0402rennie.html>

Baleta A. South African doctor sacked for giving antiretrovirals to rape survivors. *Lancet* 2002 359:9310 (16 March). <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9310/full/llan.359.9310.news.20379.3>

Bouchet-Saulnier F. *The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2002, ISBN: 0-7425-1063-8. (Published in conjunction with Médecins sans Frontières) See: <http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com/Catalog/SingleBook.shtml?command=Search&db=^DB/CATALOG.db&eqSKUdata=0742510638>

Friedlander MM. *Lancet* 2002: 359: 971-73. The right to sell or buy a kidney: are we failing our patients. http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9310/full/llan.359.9310.editorial_and_review.20327.1

[Commentary on above paper]: Schlitt HJ. Paid non-related living organ donation: Horn of Plenty or Pandora's box? http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9310/full/llan.359.9310.editorial_and_review.20372.1

Kulwicki AD. The practice of honor crimes: a glimpse of domestic violence in the Arab world. *Issues Ment Health Nurs* 2002 Jan - Feb;(1):77-87 [PubMed]. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=11887612&dopt=Abstract

Peel M, Iacopino V (eds). *The Medical Documentation of Torture*. London: Greenwich Medical Media, 2002. This book supplements the Istanbul Protocol on the medical documentation of torture. For further information see: <http://www.greenwich-medical.co.uk/detail.asp?catalogID=279&CatalogDesc=Medical+Law%2C+Medical+Ethics%2C+History+and+Forensic+Medicine&categoryID=3> (or click: <http://www.greenwich-medical.co.uk> and click "books", then "medical law...")

Sidley P. Campaigners win ruling that antiretroviral drugs order be enforced. *BMJ* 2002;324:634 (16 March). <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7338/634/b>

Interview with Sandra Power, author of "*A Problem from Hell: American in the Age of Genocide*": In *Atlantic Monthly*: <http://www.theatlantic.com/unbound/interviews/int2002-03-14.htm> (14 March)

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