Summary

AI reports & statements: Bulgaria / Israel/OT / Turkey / Executions 2001

Further news: call for humanitarian assistance for Jenin refugee camp, Israel/OT / PHR-IL report, Israel/OT / public hearings by Truth Commission, Peru / policy change on anti-retroviral medication, South Africa / Dr Wouter Basson acquitted, South Africa / surgeon leads campaign against FGM, Sudan / conviction quashed following stun-belt use, USA / medicating mentally ill for execution, USA / death penalty in Illinois, USA

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Bulgaria: residents of Dragash Voyvoda are dying as a result of gross neglect. 15 April (EUR 15/004/2002). Amnesty International is concerned that a number of residents of a Home for Adults with Mental Disorders in Dragash Voyvoda have died because of lack of adequate medical treatment.

http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/F87FC41CBB941D0A80256B98003CE634

Israel/OT: Jenin Refugee Camp: Amnesty International calls for immediate international humanitarian assistance. 17 April (MDE 15/052/2002).

http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/1C8E8F5F8969B2A280256B9E0046214E

Amnesty International calls on UN Security Council to immediately deploy a team of independent investigators to Jenin. 16 April (MDE 15/049/2002)

http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/BCFAF390AA30EDE980256B9C005E0836

(Also see Further News)

Turkey: Call for immediate steps against isolation in "F-type" prisons. 16 April (EUR 44/024/2002). Amnesty International reiterated its concerns about isolation in a letter to the Turkish Justice Ministry. The hunger strike protesting isolation in "F-type" prisons has already resulted in the death of 50 people and hundreds suffer from serious and long-term health problems.

http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/989E6F38266001DB80256B9D004D5D60

Worldwide executions doubled in 2001. 9 April (ACT 50/005/2002).

During 2001 over 3,048 people were executed in 31 countries. This figure was more than twice the total of executions recorded by Amnesty International in 2000.

http://web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/082CC4C8975834180256B910031DB6B

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

Israel/OT - call for humanitarian assistance for Jenin refugee camp. The ICRC and Amnesty International have called for more humanitarian assistance to be provided to those in Jenin camp:

The Guardian, 18 April, 'Shock at lack of rescue efforts in Jenin':


ICRC News, 18 April, 'ICRC calls on Israeli Authorities to allow foreign rescue teams into Jenin camp':
http://www.wma.net/e/press.html

Mr Roed-Larsen, the UN Special Coordinator for the occupied territories, said that it was "morally repugnant" that Israeli authorities had not allowed humanitarian aid to be provided sooner, the BBC reported (18 April):
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1937000/1937387.stm

Professor Derrick Pounder, Professor of Forensic Medicine and Amnesty International delegate, has undertaken a number of post-mortem examinations of victims of Jenin camp. See the Independent, 18 April, 'Fresh evidence of Jenin atrocities':
http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/story.jsp?story=286197

The World Medical Association (WMA) called for protection of health workers. Dr Human, secretary general of the WMA, also said he was concerned about the growing fear of epidemics resulting from dead bodies lying unburied (10 April):
http://www.wma.net/e/press.html

Also see BMJ 2002;324:937 (20 April), 'World Medical Association condemns harassment of health workers in West Bank and Gaza':
http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7343/937/c

Israel/OT - PHR report. Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHR-IL) has published a report on the Israeli Prisons Service Medical Centre. Haaretz comments in 'Wards and Warden' (Haaretz Magazine, 19 April):
http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=153421

Peru - public hearings by Truth Commission. The Boston Globe reported that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru held its first public hearings on 8 April, hearing stories on torture and murder by police, military and para-military groups. The Truth Commission has estimated that there are over 150 mass graves in the country (9 April).

South Africa - policy change on anti-retroviral medication. The South African cabinet has signalled a change of policy with regard to the provision of anti-retroviral medication to rape survivors for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) (Reuters, 17 April).
On a related issue, following a recent Constitutional Court order that nevirapine be provisionally provided to HIV-positive pregnant women by all public health facilities with the capacity to do so, provincial governments are expected to soon issue guidelines to hospital and clinic superintendents. See Sunday Times online:
http://www.suntimes.co.za/zones/sundaytimes/newsst/newsst1019058071.asp

South Africa - Wouter Basson acquitted. The BBC reported that cardiologist Dr Wouter Basson, in charge of a chemical warfare program during apartheid, was acquitted on charges which included murder and fraud. Witnesses had testified that Dr Basson's Project Coast had tried to create poisons which would affect only black people (11 April).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/health/newsid_1916000/1916917.stm

Also see BMJ 2002;324:938 (20 April), 'Dr Wouter Basson cleared of murder of apartheid opponents':
http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7343/938/a; and Lancet 359 (20 April):
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9315/full/llan.359.9315.news.20822.6

Sudan - surgeon leads campaign against FGM. Dr Nahid Toubia, the first female surgeon in Sudan and president of the Research, Action and Information Network for the Bodily Integrity of Women, spoke to the BBC about her campaign against female genital mutilation (8 April):
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/health/newsid_1916000/1916917.stm

USA - conviction quashed following stunbelt use. The Washington Times reported that Jeffery S. Durham's conviction and sentence was quashed because he was made to wear a stunbelt in court (8 April).
USA - medicating mentally ill for execution. The Philadelphia Enquirer reported that the Philadelphia District Attorney wants death row inmate Thavirak Sam to receive medication, in order for him to be competent to continue his appeal or to be executed (15 April).
http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/living/community/states/pennsylvania/3066889.htm


Publications

http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7343/975

Elphick D. Zambia needs basic medicines and HIV education. BMJ 2002; 324:895 (13 April)
http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7342/895

Hausman K. Court may reverse on executing retarded persons. Psychiatric News 37: 7 (5 April)
http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/37/7/20


http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9315/full/lilan.359.9315.correspondence.20809.1

http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/current.shtml

Web-site: Web-site of the International Programme for Ethics, Public Health and Human Rights at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/hpru/ipeph/home.html

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