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Summary

AI reports & statements: Colombia / Council of Europe / Guinea / Israel/OT
Further news: harsh conditions in Shibarghan camp, Afghanistan / death threats against anthropologists, Guatemala / physician on mission for IMC detained, Israel/OT / UN Committee against Torture criticised judicial amputations / execution of Lynda Block, Alabama USA

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Colombia: Amnesty International fears the risk of civil war if the population are brought further into the armed conflict. 9 May (AMR 23/054/2002). Amnesty International's Secretary-General Irene Khan recently visited Colombia, meeting with victims of human rights violations, main candidates for presidency, UN representatives and others.
http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AMR230542002

Council of Europe: Amnesty International welcomes the opening for signature of instrument banning the death penalty in all circumstances. 3 May (IOR 30/001/2002). Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is now open for signature, giving a clear signal that the death penalty is unacceptable in all circumstances.
http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/IOR300012002

Guinea: contempt for the right to life. 17 May (AFR 29/003/2002). During a number of demonstrations security forces used excessive armed force in circumstances where neither their lives, nor the lives of anyone else, were in imminent danger. Following instructions by the authorities, some doctors reportedly have refused to treat injuries or provide death certificates.
http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AFR290032002

Israel/Occupied Territories: Soldiers imprisoned for refusing to take part in human rights violations. 14 May (MDE 15/081/2002). A rising number of Israeli soldiers and reservists are imprisoned for refusing to perform their military service in the Occupied Territories. School students sent an open letter to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, explaining their refusal to perform military service: "Land expropriation, arrests, executions without a trial, house demolition, closure, torture and the prevention of health care (...) is in violation of international conventions (...)".
http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/MDE150812002

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

Afghanistan - harsh conditions in Shibarghan camp. The BBC reported that a European Union delegation compared conditions in Shibarghan camp, where former Taleban soldiers are held, to the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz (13 May).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/newsid_1984000/1984306.stm

Guatemala - death threats against anthropologists. Four forensic anthropologists, who have been involved in exhumations of victims of human rights abuses, continue to receive death threats. The New York Times reported that they have decided to leave the country (3 May). See abstract at:

Israel/OT - physician on mission for IMC detained. The Palestine Chronicle reported that Dr Riad AbdelKarim, an American physician of Palestinian descent, has been detained in Israel. Dr Abdelkarim, on mission for the International Medical Corps (IMC), had reported on the destruction of Jenin camp (6 May).

Saudi Arabia - UN Committee against Torture criticised judicial amputations. The BBC reported that the United Nations Committee against Torture said that judicial amputations and floggings amount to cruel and degrading treatment. Saudi delegates responded by saying that torture was prohibited under Sharia law (16 May).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1992000/1992027.stm

USA - execution of Lynda Block, Alabama. Lynda Block, sentenced to death for the killing of police officer Roger Motley died in the electric chair on 10 May. From 1 July 2002 the means of execution in Alabama will change to lethal injection unless requested otherwise by the death row inmate. See CNN (10 May):
http://www.cnn.com/2002/LAW/05/10/alabama.execution.ap/

Publications

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9318/full/llan.359.9318.news.21063.5

Eaton L. WMA protests at claim that it planned to expel Israeli doctors. BMJ 2002;324:1114 (11 May).
http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7346/1114/a

Nakajima N. Participation of psychiatrists in execution: a review. Seishin Shinkeigaku Zasshi 2002;102(3):229-40 [PubMed: abstract in English] [Full article is in Japanese].

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9318/full/llan.359.9318.news.21063.1

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