AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
AI Bulletin Vol 5, No. 18, 20 September 2002
AI Index: ACT 84/018/2002

To subscribe or unsubscribe from the bulletin or to contact AI please write to mailto:medical@amnesty.org. Visit the AI web-site: http://www.amnesty.org and the AI Health Professional web-site at: http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf

Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. NOTE: Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

Summary
AI reports & statements: International Criminal Court / Eritrea
Robert Kirschner MD
Further news: China / CPT / Israel / Russia / Rwanda / Trauma / UN / WHO
Bullet points
Meeting
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements


For a comprehensive overview of Amnesty International's news and publications, please check Amnesty International's website: http://www.amnesty.org/

Obituary

Robert Kirschner MD. We were very saddened to learn of the death of Dr Robert Kirschner on 15 September 2002. Bob was one of the first forensic pathologists to become systematically engaged in human rights documentation, fact-finding missions and advocacy. His expertise, commitment and warm humour contributed much to the work of human rights organizations, particularly Physicians for Human Rights whose International Forensics Program he directed from 1995-1997. He provided interpretative comment to AI and was always ready to give useful advice. He will be sadly missed. For PHR's tribute see: http://www.phrusa.org/research/forensics/history_kirschner.htm. See also the tribute from the University of Chicago where Dr Kirschner was a founding member of the faculty board of the University's human rights program: http://www-news.uchicago.edu/releases/02/020916.kirschner.shtml.

Further news

China - report on AIDS in Henan Province. The Guardian reported that the Chinese authorities have admitted that unhygienic blood collection and recycling of blood has led to a dramatic increase in the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Henan Province. http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,788999,00.html

Also see the web-site of the organization Human Rights in China: http://iso.hrichina.org:8151/iso/news_item.adp?news_id=941

Late news: Several sources are now reporting the release of Dr Wan. See http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asial-pacific/2271035.stm

CPT: Two forensic specialists and two legal experts have been appointed to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture. The CPT announced that it carried out another visit to Turkey 1-6 September. For details see the CPT web-site: http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/

Israel/OT - trauma due to terrorism. Ha'aretz has a feature on the psychological impact of terrorist attacks on adolescent victims (18 September). http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=209250&contrassID=2&subContrassID=5&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y&itemNo=209250

Russian Federation - mass grave in Chechnya. The BBC reported on the discovery of a mass grave on the Chechen-Ingush border (9 September). http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2247059.stm

Rwanda - "A Woman's Work". The New York Times Magazine (15 September) published an article on Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, former national minister of family and women's affairs, which describes how she allegedly ordered the rape and killing of Tutsis in the town of Butare. (This article contains particularly disturbing cases). http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/15/magazine/15RWANDA.html


UN - Revised AIDS guidelines. Updated guidelines on HIV/AIDS and human rights have been issued to reflect significant political and legal developments relating to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, according to a joint press release by UNAIDS and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (10 Sept). See press release: http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/3948FA4BAD7ABD85C1256C30002AA859.

WHO Europe report on health. "The European health report 2002 shows a clear relationship between life expectancy and gross domestic product (GDP) per head," says the WHO. "The most striking example is the widening gap in life expectancy between and within high- and low-income countries. The gap between the highest and lowest life expectancy is only 2 years in Sweden but as much as 15 in the Russian Federation." The report is available in one (huge) pdf file (1.6 Mb) at: http://www.euro.who.int/europeanhealthreport/20020903_3 (it may be very slow to download) or by chapter at: http://www.euro.who.int/europeanhealthreport/20020903_2

Bullet points
Brazil: Brazil's biggest prison has been closed down. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/2259848.stm
Netherlands: Doctors resist government's wish to force feed Fortuyn murder suspect http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7365/615
Sudan: Sudan's media laws frustrate drives on AIDS and genital mutilation http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7365/618

Meetings
Failed States, Countries in Crisis and Global Security: How Health Can Contribute to a Safer World
The Director General of the WHO, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, will be talking on the role of health in promoting global security at the Brookings Institute Washington DC, USA.
Thursday, September 26, 2002
9:30am-11:30am
Falk Auditorium
The Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Further details are available here: http://www.brook.edu/comm/events/20020926.htm or tel: +1 202 797 6105 or communications@brookings.edu

Publications

Dudley, Michael & Gale, Fran. Psychiatrists as a moral community? Psychiatry under the Nazis and its contemporary relevance. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry 36 (5), 585-594. (Correspondence: m.dudley@unsw.edu.au )


http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9336/full/llan.360.9336.health_and_human_rights.22433.1

http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/india2/

http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7363/513/b
http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/37/17/1

Stone AA. Supreme Court Decision Raises New Ethical Questions for Psychiatry Psychiatric Times September 2002 Vol. XIX Issue 9
http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/p020901b.html

http://bostonreview.mit.edu/BR27.3/tilly.html

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9336/full/llan.360.9336.health_and_human_rights.22431.1


=====================================================================  
This newsletter may be freely distributed in unrevised form. For free subscription contact the Al Medical Program at Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. (mailto:medical@amnesty.org)  
AI web-site: http://www.amnesty.org/  
Newsletters are archived at: http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf/bull?openview