AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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Vacancies: PHR-USA: executive assistant to the executive director - Washington DC office.
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements
Colombia: Global action to support Colombian human rights defenders under attack. 19 May 2001 [AI Index: AMR 23/049/2001]. As Colombian human rights defenders on 19 May remembered those who had been killed for their work, Amnesty International members and human rights defenders all over the world took action in their support.

Indonesia: First execution in five years - a step back. 22 May 2001 [AI index: ASA 21/016/2001]. Amnesty International said that the resumption of executions clearly goes against the worldwide trend towards abolition.

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 - PHR report on Women's Health and Human Rights. Physicians for Human Rights (USA) has published a report on the extent to which Afghan women feel that their health is affected by human rights violations by the Taliban (17 May).
http://www.phrusa.org/campaigns/afghanistan/afghanreport/

Canada. La peine de mort - a Radio Canada web history of the death penalty in Canada to mark 25 years since abolition.
http://radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/dossiers/peinedemort/ [In French]

Israel/OT/PA - Palestinian hospital administrator detained. Samer Fawzi 'Awartani, the administrative director of Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, was arrested by Israeli Security Forces on 7 May as he returned from an international medical conference in Oxford, England, to the West Bank. He is now held in Petah Tikva detention centre inside the Occupied Territories and has not been allowed to see his lawyer of family. AI issued an urgent appeal on his behalf.
http://www.stoptorture.org/urgent/index.php?ua=12. The London Guardian reported that Mr Awartani made a presentation on the difficulties faced by his hospital in coping with those injured during the Palestinian uprising (24 May).
http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,495772,00.html

Mexico - training course to help reduce torture. The BBC reported that the Mexican authorities are organising a course for public prosecutors to reduce torture. The course includes legal definitions of torture and physical and psychological symptoms of torture (19 May).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_1338000/1338417.stm

Pakistan - doctor detained for blasphemy. Dr Younus Shaikh was detained in October 2000 for stating during a physiology class that “the Prophet's tribe did not practice circumcision”, the New York Times reported. Dr Shaikh remains in prison awaiting trial (12 May).
http://www.nytimes.com/2001/05/12/world/12PAK.html

Russian Federation, Chechnya - HRW report on mass grave investigation. Human Rights Watch have released a report documenting the investigation of a mass grave in Dachny containing 51 bodies. Human Rights Watch reported that a number of the bodies were buried without prior notice to relatives and without performing adequate autopsies and collecting evidence (15 May).
http://www.hrw.org/press/2001/05/chechnya0515.htm
Also see the BBC (Russia ‘covered up’ Chechnya abuses, 16 May):
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_1333000/1333262.stm

Turkey - prosecution for speaking out on torture. The Washington Post reported on the case of Nazli Top and other women who are being prosecuted after having spoken out about torture and sexual abuse in custody during a conference on sexual violence against women in June 2000 (21 May).
This case is also featured in an Amnesty International medical action:

Turkey - Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Committee on the Rights of the Child concluded on 23 May its consideration of an initial report of Turkey on how that country is complying with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. See the UN press release at:
http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/huricane.nsf/view01/5DC54F714B1C9B18C1256A5700274817?opendocument

Turkey - Turkish Medical Association to be prosecuted. The members of the Executive Committee of the Turkish Medical Association are due to be prosecuted in the Ankara Court of First Instance No.15 on 28 May 2001 for “activities not within the scope of its code of laws”. The prosecution is believed to relate to a TMA press release issued on 22 December 2001 concerning the hunger strikes in Turkey and the physician's role. The prosecutions have been criticised internationally by physician and human rights groups. This prosecution is the latest in a series of legal measures taken against doctors, human rights activists and organizations in Turkey.

USA, Virginia - moratorium on use of stun gun. The Roanoke Times reported that the Virginia Department of Corrections has declared a moratorium on the use of the Ultron II stun gun following an
autopsy report which left open the possibility that the stun gun may have contributed to a prisoner's death (17 May).

USA - retired death row warden reflects on his experience. Jim Willet supervised 89 executions in Huntsville, Texas: "I watched men being put to death for hideous crimes and wondered at that moment if we were doing the right things". The Washington Post and Guardian report on his experiences:
http://www.guardian.co.uk/elsewhere/journalist/story/0,7792,491222,00.html (15 May)

Conferences


International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) is organising an international medical conference on "Aiming for Prevention: Small Arms, Gun Violence and Injury". Date 28-30 September 2001. Venue: Pasaitorni Conference Centre, Helsinki, Finland. For information visit the web-site at: http://www.ippnw.org/Helsinki.html or contact Brain Rawson, Program Coordinator, 727 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139; tel: +1.617.868.5050 ext. 208; fax +1.617.868.2560; mailto:brawson@ippnw.org

Safe Horizon/Solace and Refuge is organizing a day meeting: The Embodiment of Resiliency: The Body's Call to Heal in the Face of Trauma, June 11th, 9:30-4.00
Safe Horizon Conference Center, 194 Joralemon, Brooklyn, New York.
The conference is open to refugees, torture survivors, refugee workers, clinicians and others. Registration is Free:
+1.718-899-1233, Ext. 145, or email lamaker@safehorizon.org

Vacancies

PHR-USA is looking for an executive assistant to the executive director in its Washington DC office. The position involves both administrative/clerical support and engagement in PHR's program work. For further information, contact Sandhya Gupta, Physicians for Human Rights, 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 1001, Washington DC 2005. Fax: +1.202.728.3053.
http://www.phrusa.org/

Publications

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7278/95?ijkey=nM/tVtSRswQs. This provoked a large number of responses available in this week's BMJ: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7297/1301


Chamberlain M. Human rights education for nursing students. *Nursing Ethics* 2001; 8 (3) (May 2001). [This article is part of a special May issue of *Nursing Ethics* on human rights].


Kaminer D, Stein DJ, Mbanga I, Zungu-Dirwayi N. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa: relation to psychiatric status and forgiveness among survivors of human rights abuses. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 2001; 178: 373-377. http://bja.rcpsych.org/cgi/content/abstract/178/4/373 Correspondence: Debra Kaminer, Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa. e-mail:dkam@psipsy.uct.ac.za


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