

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Summary

AI reports & statements: Afghanistan / Turkey

Further news: Afghanistan: mental health, faction / Israel/OT/PA: injured Palestinians, mental health in custody / Jamaica: autopsies / Kenya: FGM injuries / Mexico: POCs released / South Africa: rise in child rape, circumcision deaths / Turkey: CPT report, intervention against hunger strikers / USA: Georgia execution, Oklahoma execution, TB, torture debate, supermax reform

Publication: Hayner. *Unspeakable Truths* / Nurses' code of ethics.

Amnesty International reports and statements

Afghanistan: Making human rights the agenda. Report available at:
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/ASA110232001> (See also below)

Turkey. New report on torture. See press release: *Turkey: Endemic torture must end immediately*; Report: *Turkey: An end to torture and impunity is overdue!* (EUR 44/072/2001, 8 November)
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/EUR440722001> (See also below)

Further news

Afghanistan - mental health. Aid workers are at risk of stress-related illnesses, including mental health problems, according to an article in the *Lancet* ('Aid workers in Afghanistan: health consequences', 3 November). See: <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9292/full/lan.358.9292.news.18288.1>

Afghanistan - factions. The *Village Voice* (7-13 November) discusses human rights and the various factions involved in the conflict in Afghanistan. See: <http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0145/adams.php>. The article draws on a short report by Human Rights Watch. See: <http://www.hrw.org/backgrounder/asia/afghan-bck1005.htm>.

Israel/OT/PA - medical response to injured Palestinians. The London *Observer's* account of medical care of the wounded following the Israeli raid on Beit Rima.
<http://www.observer.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,582210,00.html>

Israel - mental health in custody. *Ha'aretz's* account of recent work of Physicians for Human Rights (Israel) on mental health of detainees. [Link to Ha'aretz not working this afternoon]
<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=88533>

Jamaica - autopsies. The visit of AI delegate, Dr Peter Leth, to Jamaica in DATE in connection with alleged extrajudicial executions, raised questions about the state of Jamaica's morgues, according to a commentary in the *Jamaica Observer* ('The state of local morgues and autopsies', 5 November)
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/columns/html/20011104T200000-0500_16565_OBS_THE_STATE_OF_LOCAL_MORGUES_AND_AUTOPSIES.asp.

Kenya - FGM injuries. 21 girls have been admitted to hospital with serious infections resulting from female circumcision rituals reports the BBC (30 October). See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_1628000/1628714.stm

Mexico - release of two POCs. Two environmental activists, Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera, have been released early by President Vicente Fox. The two were the focus of international campaigning, including by AI health professionals. See the BBC report (9 November): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_1646000/1646181.stm. AI expressed concern at the granting of a limited appeal to the two prisoners in May 2001. <http://web.amnesty.org/802568020035E61A/0/E3543B10E019B82E80256A4E004F1FB5>. AI's most recent medical action on the two men's behalf is available at: <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/AMR410502000>

South Africa - rise in child rape levels. The *Los Angeles Times* reports, 7 November, on the high level of sexual violence against young children in South Africa. <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-000088976nov07.story>

South Africa - traditional practices. A new law in the Eastern Cape is intended to reduce deaths and injuries following circumcision. See: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7321/1090/b>

Turkey - CPT report. The Committee for the Prevention of Torture published, 8 November, its most recent report on Turkey. See - Press release: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20011108en.htm>; the CPT report: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2001-25en.htm>; Government's response: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2001-26en.htm>. At the same time the Turkish government has approved the publication of all previously unpublished CPT reports on Turkey. See: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20011109en.htm>

Turkey - violent intervention against hunger strikers. Four people died after police raided the home of people hunger striking over changes in the Turkish prison system (5 November) http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_1639000/1639686.stm

USA - Georgia - execution. José High was executed by lethal injection on 6 November, 25 years after conviction. A doctor was reported to have assisted in the execution. See the report in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* ('Gang leader executed by injection', 7 November): http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/epaper/editions/wednesday/metro_b38efe34b5093232000c.html

USA- Oklahoma - doubts about trial of executed man. The Los Angeles Times reports on the case of a man executed in January 2000 who claimed up to his execution that he was innocent. ('Executed Man's Voice Echoes in New Probe', 4 November) <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-000088241nov04.story?>

USA - tuberculosis: from jail to community. The crowded conditions make jails -- like other institutions -- vulnerable to outbreaks of tuberculosis. Reuters Health draws attention to a new report which shows that if tuberculosis does occur in a prison, the bacteria can spread to the surrounding community. http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20011029/hl/tb_2.html (29 October)

USA - is torture really all that bad? In the wake of the 11 September attack, speculation has appeared in some press quarters that torture might have to be re-examined. See: Media Stoke Debate on Torture as U.S. Option (Jim Rutenberg, *International Herald Tribune*, 6 November) <http://www.iht.com/articles/37992.htm>; Time to think about torture (Jonathan Alter, *Newsweek*, undated [accessed 7 November]). <http://www.msnbc.com/news/648868.asp?cp1=1#BODY>
Should we use torture to stop terrorism? (Steve Chapman, *Chicago Tribune*, 1 November) <http://chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-0111010225nov01.column>

USA - supermax reform. A judge has ordered the state of Wisconsin to remove all prisoners with serious mental illness from the "supermax" (supermaximum security facility) in Boscobel. This followed arguments by, amongst others, mental health experts that supermax facilities were inappropriate places of detention for the mentally ill. *Capital Times* (Madison), 21 September. (No link).

Publications

Priscilla Hayner. *Unspeakable Truths: Confronting State Terror and Atrocity*. Routledge, pp 340. Review by Derek Summerfield at: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7321/1135/a>

White G. The code of ethics for nurses. *Am J Nurs* 2001 Oct;101(10):73-5.