
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
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Summary

NEW: AI Health professionals network online
AI reports: USA: Abu-Jamal
Death penalty: Papua New Guinea ; Ukraine ; USA (several)
General: Afghanistan punishments ; UK/Spain/Chile: Pinochet ; India: centre for victims ; Int'l
Criminal Court; Jordan: honour killing ; PRI ; Russia (Chechnya)
Publications: Tribe/Bicultural workers; Fraunfelder/CS gas; Scheck et al/Death penalty and
innocence
Meetings: AI-UK
Bullet points: US prison population ; WMA ; Honduras ; Morocco

NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Amnesty International today launches a 'test' online site for its health professional network. Click here
to investigate: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/test/medical2.nsf> . This page will soon be linked to the
Amnesty online site (<http://www.amnesty.org>). Comments are welcome.

RECENT AI STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Amnesty International launched a new report (17 February) on the care of journalist and death row
inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal., *A Life in the Balance - The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal* [AMR
51/001/2000] is available at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/abolish/reports/mumia/>
The full press release can be found at <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/25102000.htm>

DEATH PENALTY NEWS

Papua New Guinea. The National (25 February) reports that the president of the PNG National
Doctors' Association has given support to calls by senior police for the introduction of the death
penalty. See: <http://www.wr.com.au/national/000225a5.htm>
Ukraine. AI has welcomed the decision of the Ukraine Parliament to abolish the death penalty. See:
<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/45000200.htm>
USA. Alabama. The Supreme Court has ruled that Alabama's electric chair is not cruel or inhuman.
See: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/20000222/aponline103032_000.htm
USA, Florida. The state of Florida carried out its first two lethal injection executions in the space of two
days. See: <http://www.herald.com/content/today/docs/006357.htm> and
<http://www.herald.com/content/today/docs/lethal24.htm>
USA. Georgia. The state of Georgia voted on 22 February 2000 to introduce lethal injection executions
to replace electrocutions. See:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/20000222/aponline023621_000.htm
USA: Texas. A 62-year-old woman, Betty Lou Beets, has been executed by lethal injection in Texas.
See: http://dallasnews.com/texas_southwest/39949_BEETS25.html
http://news2.thls.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_655000/655686.stm Executed the day
before, with virtually no publicity, was Cornelius Goss, a 38 year old black man.

AFGHANISTAN: PUNISHMENTS

According to the newsagency AFP, thousands of spectators gathered in a dusty soccer ground on 13
February to watch a 10-year-old boy execute his father's murderer and an armed robber have a hand
and foot chopped off by two men described as surgeons.

UK/SPAIN/CHILE: PINOCHET

The Lancet's report (26 February) is available at:

http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9205/body.news_pp732.html#jackstrawchallengeovergeneralpinochetsmedicalreport [may require registration]

The BBC Pinochet dossier is at:

http://news2.thls.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/special_report/1998/10/98/the_pinochet_file/newsid_198000/198306.stm

The Pinochet dossier of the Spanish daily ABC is available (in Spanish) at:

<http://abc.es/especial/documentos/pinochet/index.asp>

El Pais's Pinochet dossier (in Spanish) is at: <http://www.elpais.es/p/d/debates/debates.htm#6>

The High Court of Justice decision on Pinochet (15 February) is available online at:

[http://wood.ccta.gov.uk/courtser/judgements.nsf/6ff876ba66f8361a8025683c00411386/2d2e19772986f48a8025688d005a2466/\\$FILE/pinoch_220200.htm](http://wood.ccta.gov.uk/courtser/judgements.nsf/6ff876ba66f8361a8025683c00411386/2d2e19772986f48a8025688d005a2466/$FILE/pinoch_220200.htm)

AI's page on the Pinochet hearings: <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/pinochet/index.html>

INDIA: CENTRE FOR TORTURE VICTIMS

According to the Hindustan Times (16 February), a new centre for the care of victims of torture has been established in India. See:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/nonfram/160200/detCIT11.htm>

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

On 16 February Norway became the 7th state to ratify the ICC Rome Statute. The Court will become operational after 60 countries have ratified the statute. For details and analysis see:

<http://www.igc.org/icc/>

JORDAN: "HONOUR" KILLING

Associated Press reports the killing by a 15-year-old of his 14 year-old sister for reasons of family "honour". He is reported to have (incorrectly) believed her to be involved in a sexual relationship. See:

<http://www.herald.com/content/today/digdocs/073636.htm>

PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL

Penal Reform International (RPI), a world-wide movement to improve prison conditions and to promote constructive ways of dealing with offenders, has opened a sub-Regional Office for Latin-America based in San José, Costa Rica. For further details contact the Director, Dr Morris Tidball-Binz at: PRI, Sub-Regional Office for Latin America, Apartado Postal 484- 2050 San Pedro de Montes de Oca, Costa Rica. Tel/fax: (506) 2258129 and 2257231

E- mailto:mtidball@sol.racsa.co.cr and mailto:pricrica@sol.racsa.co.cr

There is also a general web-site for PRI: <http://www.penalreform.org>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (CHECHNYA)

Torture continues to be reported in Chechnya according to the Boston Globe. See:

http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/049/nation/Torture_of_Chechens_cited_by_rights_groups+.shtml.

The London Independent reported today (25 February) that Russian television broadcast footage suggesting Russian troops had committed atrocities against Chechens. See:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/World/Russia/2000-02/APwarcimes250200.shtml>

For AI's last report see: <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/chechnya/index.html> . The Human Rights Watch report is at: <http://www.hrw.org/hrw/press/2000/02/chech0218.htm>

PUBLICATIONS

Tribe Rachel. Bridging the gap or damming the flow? Some observations on using interpreters/bicultural workers when working with refugee clients, many of whom have been tortured. British Journal of Medical Psychology, 1999,72(4):567-76.

e - mailto:R.J.N.Tribe@uel.ac.uk

Fraunfelder FT. Is CS gas dangerous? BMJ, 2000; 320:458-459:

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/320/7233/458>

Scheck B, Neufeld P, Dwyer J. Actual Innocence: Five Days to Execution, and Other Dispatches From the Wrongly Convicted. New York: Doubleday, 298 pages. For reviews see:

<http://www.observer.com/cgi-win/homepage.exe?nyo1/bk022100> and

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/books/022500dwyer-book-review.html>

MEETINGS

The AI-UK Medical Network will be holding its AGM on Saturday 4 March 2000 at Red Lion Square, London WC1. Speakers will include Dr Evan Harris, MP, Geoffrey Bindman, human rights lawyer and Mark Chamberlain, Psychiatric Nurse, author of a recent study on human rights education for nurses. For more information, please call Beverley Duckworth at AIUK on +44 20 7 417 6364 or e - <mailto:bduckwor@amnesty.org.uk>

BULLET POINTS

The US prison population has risen to above 2 million (10 times the level 30 years ago). See: <http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0008/gonnerman.shtml>

The World Medical Association is seeking views on the updating of the Declaration of Helsinki on biomedical experimentation. See: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/320/7234/585#resp2>

The Honduran government announced that it will pay \$2.1 million to the families of 19 of the 184 political activists kidnapped and killed by an army death squad in the 1980s. See <http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/20000224/t000017875.html>

Reuters, citing the Moroccan newsagency MAP, reported that a court in Tanger sentenced three police officers on 23 February to up to ten years in prison for killing Mohammed Feddaoui in detention in 1996.

Information on anti-impunity initiatives in the USA can be found at:

<http://www.herald.com/herald/content/thu/news/dade/digdocs/083898.htm>

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