

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol 3, No. 8, 19 April 2000

AI Index: ACT 84/08/00

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AI reports & statements / Saudi Campaign: death penalty / Europe / Niger / Nigeria / China / India / Saudi Arabia

Death penalty: debate death penalty Philippines / ratification European Protocol Poland / execution Tarver USA / death sentence Illinois USA / execution Robert Coe USA / performing executions Texas USA

International tribunals & Impunity: mass grave Argentina / Belize ratifies ICC / UN trial Cambodia / rise criminal complaints Pinochet / hearing immunity Pinochet / mass grave El Salvador / information Guatemala massacres to Spain / ICTY update

Further news: mandatory sentencing Australia / call investigation Chechnya / Falun Gong arrests China / deterioration human rights Colombia / investigation East Timor massacre / sanctions Iraq / rape camps Sierra Leone / death first black surgeon South Africa / rape South Africa / medicine shortage Sri Lanka

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements / Saudi campaign

Amnesty International releases statistics on worldwide executions for 1999, calls for moratorium, 18 April [ACT 50/09/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/A5000900.htm>

Concerns in Europe. July - December 1999, March 2000 [AI index EUR 01/01/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/EUR/40100100.htm>

Niger. The Right to Justice, April 2000 [AI index AFR 43/01/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/AFR/14300100.htm>

Nigeria. At Least One Dead as Tensions Increase in Ogoniland, 13 April [AI index AFR 44/04/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/14400400.htm>

People's Republic of China. The Crackdown on Falun Gong and Other So-called "Heretical Organizations", March 2000 [AI index ASA 17/11/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/ASA/31701100.htm>

Persecuted for Challenging Justice: Human Rights Defenders in India, April 2000 [AI index ASA 20/08/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/ASA/32000800.htm> (full text)

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/SUM/32000900.htm> (summary)

Also see:

Saudi Arabia, Riyadh - Saudi Arabia has invited Amnesty International to visit the country and investigate its human rights record (*Boston Globe*, 16 April).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/107/world/Report_Saudi_Arabia_invites_Am.:shtml

Death penalty

Philippines - Recently the Philippines announced a moratorium on the death penalty, but on 12 April the Philippine transport minister said the government will consider imposing the death penalty on shipowners who overload their vessels, the *BBC* reported (14 April).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/newsid_711000/711478.stm

Poland, Warsaw - Poland's ratification of Protocol Six of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights had the effect of confirming that Poland, which halted executions by hanging in 1988, would never reinstate the death penalty, *CNN* reported (14 April).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/europe/04/14/poland.deathpenalty.reut/index.html>

USA, Alabama - Robert Tarver was executed in Alabama's electric chair in the first few minutes of 14 April 2000. He had been sentenced to death for the 1984 robbery and shooting a 63-year old Hugh Kite at his grocery store in Russel County [AI index AMR 51/60/00].

Death Penalty Information Center: <http://www.essential.org/dpic/whatsnew.html>

USA, Illinois - Another death sentence has been imposed despite a moratorium on executions in the state (*Chicago Tribune*, 18 April).

<http://chicagotribune.com/news/metro/dupage/article/0,2669,SAV-0004180121,FF.html>

USA, Tennessee - Robert Coe was executed by lethal injection on 19 April, the first execution in Tennessee in forty years.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_719000/719113.stm

USA, Texas - "It's a strange craft, performing executions, and Texas, many wardens say, performs it best. Drawn by the state's record pace of executions, wardens from California, Alabama and New Mexico - among others - are quietly paying visits here to watch the experts work", the *LA Times* reported on 11 April.

http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/updates/lat_death000411.htm

International tribunals & impunity

Argentina, Buenos Aires - Forensic experts found the marks of a bullet delivered at close range on 90 corpses buried by the Argentine army in 1976, 28 miles south of Buenos Aires (*Guardian* [London], 18 April).

<http://www.guardianunlimited.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,211036,00.html>

Belize - On 5 April Belize came the 8th state to have ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 96th state to have signed it [AI index AMR 16/01/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/21600100.htm>

Cambodia - UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Cambodian Prime Minister have met to discuss issues blocking a UN backed tribunal judging crimes against humanity in a Cambodian court (*Boston Globe*, 12 April).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/103/world/Cambodian_U_N_diplomats_seek_p:.shtml

In the mean time, the 25th anniversary of "Year Zero" - when the Khmer Rouge's rule in Cambodia began - has been marked by criticism of the slow pace of efforts to prosecute the group's leaders (*BBC*, 17 April).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/newsid_716000/716349.stm

Chile, Santiago - As a court prepares hearings on lifting General Augusto Pinochet's congressional immunity, the 83rd criminal complaint was filed against the former dictator, the *Boston Globe* reported (13 April).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/104/world/Number_of_criminal_complaints_:.shtml

Le Monde reported that Judge Guzman is optimistic regarding the lifting of General Pinochet's immunity (12 April).

<http://www.lemonde.fr/article/0,2320,seq-2037-50382-QUO,00.html>

A court hearing to decide whether General Pinochet's immunity can be lifted has been rescheduled for 26 April (*CNN*, 17 April).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/04/17/bc.pinochet.chile.reut/index.html>

El Salvador, San Salvador - For the first time in seven years, forensic anthropologists have resumed the search for bodies on 12 April at the massacre site of El Mozote (*Boston Globe*, 11 April).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/102/world/Digging_to_resume_at_site_of_SP.shtml

Guatemala - *CNN* reported that Julio Arango, Guatemala's prosecutor for human rights, will provide a Spanish court with all the information he has collected during investigations into massacres detailed in a criminal complaint filed by Rigoberta Menchu (12 April).
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/04/12/guatemala.rights.ap/index.html>

International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia

A witness told the UN war crimes tribunal that he was among a group of up to 2,000 refugees who were rounded up as the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica was overrun by Serb troops. He was witness to the subsequent massacre (*Boston Globe*, 11 April).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/102/world/Survivor_describes_mass_execut:.shtml

More details on women's experiences in "rape camps" in Kosovo and their lives afterwards are being reported (*Women Scarred by Kosovo Atrocities*, *BBC*, 17 April).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_716000/716701.stm

Further news

Afghanistan - The UN Expert on Violence against Women said that the outside world cannot tolerate the mistreatment of women by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and must force it to improve its human rights record (*Boston Globe*, 10 April).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/101/world/U_N_expert_Taliban_treatment_o:.shtml

Australia, Northern Territory - Juveniles arrested on minor charges will not face mandatory sentencing, *The Australian* reports on 11 April.
http://www.theaustralian.com.au/common/story_page/0,2294,556057%5E601,00.html

Chechnya - The European Union and the US have repeated calls for an investigation into atrocities in Chechnya at the session in Geneva of the UN Commission on Human Rights, the *BBC* reported on 11 April.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_710000/710015.stm

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said in a joint statement that only an international commission of investigation established by the UN will provide the necessary resources and strong guarantees for a thorough, independent and transparent process of systematic collection of evidence [AI index EUR 46 / 26 /00, 11 April].
<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/44602600.htm>

On 13 April Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said that Russia is actively seeking a political settlement to the war in Chechnya, the *Washington Post* reported (14 April).
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/europe/A9902-2000Apr13.html>

China, Beijing - The *BBC* reported that the Chinese police have detained at least 100 members of the banned Falun Gong movement for protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square (13 April).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/newsid_711000/711838.stm

Colombia - The UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, has said that the situation in Colombia has deteriorated greatly in the past year with the majority of alleged extrajudicial executions, torture and death threats were attributed to paramilitary groups (*BBC*, 14 April).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_713000/713408.stm

Indonesia, Jakarta - The government has named a 79-member team to investigate human rights violations in East Timor during the last days of Indonesian rule in the province (*Boston Globe*, 19 April).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/110/world/Investigation_team_on_East_Tim:.shtml

Iraq, Bagdad - *The Economist* reports that almost ten years of sanctions have left Iraqis desperate and Saddam Hussein as defiant as ever (*When Sanctions Don't Work*, 11 April).
<http://www.economist.co.uk/editorial/freeforall/current/sf7472.html>

According to the *BBC*, the UN Security Council has said it will set up a special group to recommend ways of making sanctions more effective and less harmful to civilians (18 April).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/newsid_717000/717736.stm

Sierra Leone, Blama Camp - Thousands of women were raped by insurgent forces and other armed groups during the nation's eight-year civil war, according to the Washington Post. While statistics are not yet available, rights workers said the rebels' rape campaign was as widespread and systematic as similar assaults in the 1992-1995 Bosnian war (A War against Women, 11 April).
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A50884-2000Apr10.html>

South Africa - The first black surgeon general of the South African Military, who worked as a doctor at ANC camps in Angola, has died age 60. (Boston Globe, 16 April).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/107/world/South_African_military_s_first:.shtml

South Africa - "Every 26 seconds in South Africa, a woman gets raped. It was my turn last Thursday night". Journalist Charlene Smith put the issue of rape in the spotlight in April 1999 and has continued to campaign since. Smith also urged the South African Medical Association to sensitize doctors, and the group is putting together a "rape protocol" (*Christian Science Monitor*, 12 April).
<http://www.csmonitor.com/durable/2000/04/12/p1s4.htm>

Sri Lanka - The organization Medecins Sans Frontieres has warned of a serious shortage of medicine in parts of northern Sri Lanka, where Tamils are fighting for a separate Tamil homeland (BBC, 17 April).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/newsid_714000/714749.stm

Publications

Giffard, C. *The Torture Reporting Handbook* (University of Essex, March 2000).
<http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/TestFrame/fda77707cc9206c4802568ba004b47b1?OpenDocument>

Hidden Crimes, World Organization Against Torture (Geneva, April 2000).
The Boston Globe reports that this reports documents cases of child abuse and torture in more than 30 countries (10 April).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/101/world/Group_says_it_fears_child_abus:.shtml

Reed J.L. and Lyne M. Impatient care of mentally ill people in prison: results of a year's programme of semistructured inspections. *BMJ* 2000; 320:1031 - 1034 (15 April).
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/320/7241/1031>

Urquhart, B. *In the Name of Humanity* (New York, April 2000).
<http://www.nybooks.com/nyrev/WWWfeatdisplay.cgi?20000427019R>

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