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Summary

Death penalty: Guatemala sentences confirmed / Kenya death row / Pakistan death row / Russia ex-death row / Saudi Arabia further executions / USA: Georgia; Texas; Washington DC

International tribunals & Impunity: Bosnia/USA - women sue Karadzic / Chile - Pinochet case

Further news: Angola landmines / China psychiatric abuse alleged / Europe autopsy rules / European court and sexual rights / FGM clarification / Guatemala: killings admitted / ICRC people on war survey / Kosovo: suffering continues; portrait of B. Kouchner / Sudan: MSF suspends activities / UN right to health / USA refugee children

Conferences: 2nd Congress of Social Psychology of Human Rights / Diploma in Mental Health on Political Violence / ICN pre-conference

Publications

Amnesty International statements and reports
Guatemala. Further Executions Loom. AMR 34/22/00.
http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/AMR/23402200.htm . (See also report on Guatemala below.)


Death penalty


Pakistan - death row. According to the Asian Age (6 August) there have been 4000 people sentenced to death in Pakistan [no time frame given]. Last year 49 were hanged according to the article. It cites a Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Report as speculating that Pakistan’s death row may be the biggest in the world. See: http://www.asianage.com/asianage/06082000/detsou02.htm

Russia - life on (ex-)death row. The London Sunday Times (6 August) reports on the situation of ex-death row inmates now serving life sentences following the ending of the death penalty in Russia. (“Living hell of Russia’s death row”.) http://www.sunday-times.co.uk:80/news/pages/sti/2000/08/06/stifgnrus02001.html
**Saudi Arabia - further executions.** Two further executions on Sunday 6 August bring to at least 82 the number of men executed in Saudi Arabia this year. Both were beheaded, one for drug smuggling and the other for murder. See:
See AI's Saudi Arabia campaign site at: http://www.amnesty.org/campaign/index.html#saud

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http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/epaper/editions/sunday/news_93c87f12025852e00023.htm

**USA - Texas: Mental retardation.** Oliver Cruz (Latino) was executed by lethal injection on 9 August. His lawyer argued that he was mentally retarded. For a review of the issues see New York Times (7 August): http://www.nytimes.com/library/national/080700death-mental.html (NY Times requires free registration. See: http://www1.nytimes.com/auth/login?URI ). For an account of the execution of Cruz (and a second prisoner, Brian Roberson [black]) see:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2183-2000Aug10.html. For American Bar Association letter from ABA president, Martha W Barnett, to Governor George W Bush raising mental retardation issues concerning the execution of Oliver David Cruz (written before Cruz’s execution) see:
http://www.abanet.org/poladv/congletters/106th/dp080700-1.html

**USA - Washington, DC.** Federal prosecutors are urging that a man accused of the murder of two security officers be forcibly treated with drugs for schizophrenia in order that he can be tried. See Washington Post (24 and 27 July)
Background on case:

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**International tribunals & impunity**

**Bosnia/USA - women sue Karadzic.** A group of Bosnian women sued former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in a New York court using the Alien Tort Claims Act of 1789. See the Washington Post ("War crimes trials find a US home", 9 August)

**Chile: Pinochet.** Augusto Pinochet has been stripped of his immunity from prosecution.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1106-2000Aug9.html. El Mercurio reports (10 August in Spanish) that Sen. Pinochet was not informed personally of the decision and that medical examinations for Sen. Pinochet are being discussed. See http://www.elmercurio.cl/diario_elmercurio/portada_v/7018019010110082000001A0100196.asp . See also: La Tercera (11 August): http://www.tercera.cl/diario/2000/08/11/t-11.03.3a.POL.LAGOSS.html ; For an article discussing bringing Pinochet and former Chad leader Hissene Habre to justice, see: Bosco D. Dictators in the Dock, American Prospect (14 August):
http://www.prospect.org/archives/V11-18/bosco-d.html

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**Further news**

China - psychiatric abuse alleged. The American Psychiatric Association’s Committee on the Abuse of Psychiatry and Psychiatrists passed a resolution in May at the APA’s annual meeting in Chicago recommending that the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) investigate the alleged wrongful detention of Falun Gong practitioners in psychiatric hospitals. See: http://www.psych.org/pnews/00-06-16/chinese.html

Prior documentation on harmonisation of autopsy rules can be found at: http://www.coe.fr/cm/ta/rec/1999/99r3.htm

European Court defends sexual activity in private. Judges at the European Court of Human Rights have decided that the prosecution of a British man for sexual activity in private with other men had violated fundamental principles by breaching the man's "right to respect for a private family life". See 'Landmark ruling means gay sex law must change': http://www.independent.co.uk/news/UK/Legal/2000-08/gay010800.shtml . See also London Times court report 'UK law on group male sex violates privacy [ADT v United Kingdom (Application No 35765/97)]' : http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/news/pages/tim/2000/08/08/timlawech01001.html (8 August). The judgement has not been posted as of today but will be accessible via this site: http://www.echr.coe.int/eng/Judgments.htm

FGM Clarification. In the last newsletter we included a link to a BMJ item on (and against) female genital mutilation. The link ( http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7256/262 ) was accompanied by a quotation from a surgeon suggesting that FGM was different from "conventional child abuse" and that those who carried it out thought that they were doing the right thing. Our use of this quote appears to have been open to the interpretation that AI supported tolerating FGM on cultural grounds. AI (and the surgeon quoted) both oppose female genital mutilation unconditionally. For AI's position see: http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/femgen/fgm1.htm.

Guatemala - killings admitted. The Guatemalan president, Alfonso Portillo, has admitted that the Guatemalan authorities had been responsible for killings during the country's civil war. See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_8730000/873943.stm

ICRC - People on War reports. The International Committee of the Red Cross has published several reports arising from an international consultation on conflict. The available reports -- including on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Lebanon, Russian Federation, Somalia, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Georgia-Abkhazia, Israel /occupied and autonomous territories, Nigeria, El Salvador, Philippines, and South Africa -- are available online at the following web site and can be downloaded: http://nt.oneworld.org/cfdocs/icrc/pages/reports/reports.html

Kosovo - suffering continues. Newsweek (11 August) reviews the experiences of women abused during the 1999 war in Kosovo. See 'A war's hidden tragedy': http://www.msnbc.com/news/437981.asp

Kosovo - portrait of Bernard Kouchner. Dr Kouchner founded MSF 30 years ago and is currently UN-appointed chief in Kosovo. See NY Times Magazine ('The Reluctant Imperialist', 6 August) http://www.nytimes.com/library/magazine/home/20000806mag-kouchner.html

UN. Right to health. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has adopted an interpretive comment on Article 12, the right to the highest attainable level of health. (See Bulletin 14, 14 July). Their comment is now available online at: http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/MasterFrameView/40d009901358b0e2c1256915005090be?OpenDocument

USA - refugee children. According to a Miami Herald report (‘A Conflict of Interest?’), 30 July) refugee children are vulnerable to deportation without representation. See: http://www.herald.com/content/archive/specialreport/docs/003971.htm

Conferences/courses

2nd Congress of Social Psychology of Human Rights, 8-10 November, Mexico City. II CONGRESO DE PSICOLOGÍA SOCIAL DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
Serapio Rendón 57-b Colonia San Rafael.
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
CP 06470, México, D.F.
Tel/Fax Fax : (5)535 68 92; Tels: (5)546 82 17; (5)566 78 54
For further information write to E-Mailto:visitas@jsocial.org or visit: http://www.jsocial.org/PRODH

Diploma in Mental Health on Political Violence and Catastrophes, 2000-2001. [For health professionals in Latin America]. The course, organized by the Grupo de Acción Comunitaria and the Instituto Universitario Rafael Burgaleta, attached to the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, will be conducted through the "virtual classroom" of the Institute. For details see: http://www.eurosur.org/~gac/presenta/index.html or write to mailto:gac.org@arrakis.es

ICN 2001 Pre-conference: Human Rights and Nursing. A one-day Conference with Discussion-Forums on subjects from Anti-discrimination to Torture and Punishment. Copenhagen, Friday 8 June 2001. For details and application form please contact: Verena Tschudin, Nursing Ethics Editorial Office, 26 Cathcart Road, London SW10 9NN, United Kingdom.
Tel & Fax: +44 20 7351 1263. E-mail:vtscudin@fastnet.co.uk or visit: http://www.freedomtocare.org/page120.htm

Publications


Drumbl MA. Sclerosis: Retributive justice and the Rwandan genocide. Punishment & Society 2000, 2(3):287. ...argues that genocide trials, and the extensive incapacitation that necessarily precedes them, may do little to promote justice, regime legitimacy, or national reconciliation in Rwanda. See: http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/issue/abstract/ab013134.html


**Links**

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