
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Amnesty International Reports & Statements

28 January: Bangladesh: [UK-trained security forces urged to stop extrajudicial executions in Bangladesh](#). Amnesty International has called on the UK government to raise concerns about reports of torture, extrajudicial executions, and excessive use of force by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina.

28 January: Egypt: [Egyptian authorities urged to rein in security forces](#). Amnesty International has urged the Egyptian authorities to rein in security forces to prevent further deaths of protesters, amid continuing nationwide protests.

27 January: Tunisia: [Disturbing New Evidence of Tunisian Security Forces Brutality](#). Amnesty International has revealed disturbing new evidence of the brutal methods used by Tunisian security forces to try to quell anti-Government protests in recent weeks.

26 January: Venezuela: [Venezuela urged to release judge held without trial for a year](#). Amnesty International has urged the Venezuelan authorities to release a judge held for over a year without trial for provisionally releasing a banker accused of corruption. Her family have raised concerns that her physical condition appears to be deteriorating and yet the authorities are reported to have delayed or even ignored requests for medical treatment.

24 January: USA: [US accused of inhumane treatment over Wikileaks soldier case](#). Amnesty International has urged the US authorities to alleviate the harsh pre-trial detention conditions of Bradley Manning, the soldier accused of leaking information to Wikileaks.

24 January: Indonesia: [Indonesian soldiers' sentence for Papua abuse video too light](#). Amnesty International has criticised the trial and sentences handed to Indonesian soldiers who were filmed abusing Papuan prisoners.

20 January: Kenya: [Triple killing by Kenyan police must be investigated](#). Amnesty International has called on the Kenyan authorities to properly investigate the apparently unprovoked killing of three men by police on a busy Nairobi highway.

14 January: Kuwait: [Investigation Into Kuwait Death In Custody Welcomed](#). Amnesty International has welcomed the Kuwaiti government's announcement that a full investigation is being conducted into an alleged death as a result of police torture.

12 January: USA: [Illinois one step away from ending executions](#). Amnesty International has urged Governor Pat Quinn of Illinois to bring an end to executions in his state by signing a bill to abolish the death penalty newly passed by the state legislature.

11 January: Egypt: [Egypt must stop police intimidation of dead detainee's family](#). Sayed Bilal was detained in Alexandria on 5 January by State Security Investigations (SSI) officers, and was dead by the next day. His family filed a complaint with the public prosecutor in Alexandria alleging that he was tortured to death, and have since been reportedly threatened by the SSI officers with detention of further family members.

6 January: Haiti: More than 250 cases of rape in several camps were reported in the first 150 days after January's earthquake, according to data cited in the Amnesty International report, [Aftershocks: Women speak out against sexual violence in Haiti's camps](#).

Children

Indonesia: [Over Half of Child Prisoners Are in Adult Jails, Officials Admit](#). "Fifty-seven percent of the more than 6,000 children incarcerated across the country are locked up alongside adult offenders rather than in juvenile detention centers, according to child welfare officials." [Jakarta Globe](#) (23 December)

Death Penalty (Special on USA)

[States with trouble finding execution drugs](#). "Records show several states that use sodium thiopental for lethal injections have scrambled to find enough of the drug because of manufacturing issues." [The Washington Post](#) (18 January)

[Pentobarbital, Euthanasia Drug, Used in Oklahoma Execution: Was It Inhumane?](#) "When the time came to execute John David Duty on Thursday [16 December], Oklahoma put the convicted killer down like a dog. That is, they gave him pentobarbital, a sedative used to euthanize pets. Duty, who was 58, is thought to be the first person in the U.S. whose execution involved the drug. But he may not be the last: pentobarbital could become more popular because of a nationwide shortage of a key ingredient in several states' lethal injection formulas, death penalty experts say." [CBS News](#) (17 December)

[End of Lethal Injection Drug in US Leaves Death Penalty in Flux](#). "Now that the one U.S. company [Hospira] that made a main ingredient used in lethal injections has decided to end production, where does that leave the executions planned in death chambers across the country?" [AOL News](#) (25 January)

[Execution Drug Halt Raises Ire of Doctors](#). "Doctors and pharmacists are criticizing a U.S. drug company's decision to permanently halt production of an anesthetic used in carrying out the death penalty, saying the drug was still needed for some surgical procedures." [Wall Street Journal](#) (25 January)

Ethics

Global: [Sale of human organs should be legalised, say surgeons](#). "Leading surgeons are calling for the Government to consider the merits of a legalised market in organs for transplant. A public discussion on allowing people to sell their organs would, the doctors say, allow a better-

informed decision on a matter of such moral and medical significance.” [The Independent](#) (5 January)

USA: [From Slammer to Surgery: Kidney-Sharing Sisters Released from Mississippi Prison.](#) “Two sisters serving a life sentence for armed robbery are released on the condition that one of them donates her kidney to the other who suffers from a debilitating kidney disease and is costing the state of Mississippi nearly \$200,000 a year.” [Time](#) (No Date Given)

USA: [Texas board probing psychologist who used harsh techniques against terror suspects for CIA.](#) “The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has scheduled a Feb. 8 hearing to consider the case of Jim Mitchell, who former U.S. intelligence officers say was involved in waterboarding two suspected terror suspects in overseas prisons.” [Canadian Press](#) (11 January)

Forensics

UK: [Post-mortem rates in England and Wales 'should be cut'.](#) “The number of post-mortem examinations in England and Wales could be cut by 60% if the system in Scotland was used, a leading pathologist has said.” [BBC](#) (4 January)

Health Workers

Canada: [Prison nurses overworked, understaffed and bullied, report says.](#) “Nurses working in prisons feel they have less control over their practice because of security restrictions and their limitations lead to conflict with corrections officers, Canadian researchers say in a report they believe is the first in the nation to study jailhouse nurses.” [Vancouver Sun](#) (6 January)

Mental Health

Canada: [Prisons grapple with increase in mentally ill female inmates](#) “A wave of mentally ill women is flooding into the Canadian penitentiary system, sparking calls for reform and the creation of treatment facilities that already exist for male offenders.” [Globe and Mail](#) (26 January)

Cuba: [Shock at Deaths and Corruption in Psychiatric Hospital.](#) “The trial of staff at the Havana Psychiatric Hospital for the deaths of 26 patients who died of cold and neglect revealed a dark chapter in an institution that was once a shining symbol of Cuba's much lauded health care system, and drew reactions of shock and criticism.” [IPS](#) (25 January)

Netherlands: [Case of young man tied to wall sparks national debate in Netherlands](#) “A Dutch documentary about a mentally ill and potentially dangerous 18-year-old has prompted lawmakers in the Netherlands -- amid national outrage -- to re-examine the treatment of those in psychiatric care.” [CNN](#) (23 January)

USA: [Examining Mental Illness in America.](#) Video link available at [CNN](#)

[Living with Schizophrenia.](#) “Dr. Fred Frese, himself a schizophrenic, and author Pete Earley, whose son has been diagnosed, share their stories.” [CNN](#)

Policing

USA: [N.R.A. Stymies Firearms Research, Scientists Say.](#) “Scientists in the field and former officials with the government agency that used to finance the great bulk of this [firearm] research say the influence of the National Rifle Association has all but choked off money for such work.” [New York Times](#) (25 January)

Prison Conditions

Chile: [Deadly Chile prison fire puts heat on Latin America's crowded jails.](#) “Many critics say prison conditions are a time bomb in Latin America, with space growing tighter as prison populations grow, leaving fewer guards to organize systems inside. Drug laws and the use of preventive jail, they say, have also exacerbated the problem. The tragedy in Chile has leaders

and human rights organizations calling for immediate reform, while casting a spotlight on subpar conditions across the region.” [The Christian Science Monitor](#) (17 December)

India: [Karnataka's prisons are worse than pigsties, finds study.](#) “Prisoners in Karnataka have been jailed in inhumane conditions that would shame any civilised society. According to a study by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, an international non-partisan, non-governmental organisation, the prisons in the state flouted norms set by the model prison manual and prisoners have been locked up in stinking cells for 23 hours a day due to inadequate staff strength.” [Daily News Analysis](#) (11 January)

Malta: [Unpublished reports may hold truth behind prison conditions. Request to visit prison denied.](#) “Two crucial reports which may shed light on whether Malta’s prison is “inhumane” or “luxurious” remain unpublished as the debate on prison conditions is rekindled.” [Times of Malta](#) (10 January)

Sudan: [Southern Sudan Rebuilding Prisons After Years of War, Neglect.](#) “Years of neglect and civil war virtually destroyed the region's infrastructure and social services, including its prison system...Women do have separate facilities at Juba Prison, but at the other prisons they are incarcerated with the men...Southern Sudan has no facilities for the mentally ill. As a result, dangerous individuals are sent to the prisons. The Public Health Ministry should be caring for them, but staff, funds and drugs are lacking.” [Voice of America](#) (26 January)

Switzerland: [Conditions in Swiss prisons criticised.](#) The National Commission for the Prevention of Torture has issued reports criticising the conditions in certain Swiss prisons. [Swiss Info](#) (11 January)

USA: [Prisoners Coordinate Statewide Strike via Cellphones.](#) “In what some are calling the largest prison strike in U.S. history, inmates in the state of Georgia coordinated a strike across multiple prison facilities using pre-paid cell phones. Demands included better medical care and nutrition, more educational opportunities, payment for the work they do in the prisons, better access to their families, reducing overcrowding in the prisons, and more opportunities for exercise.” [IPS News](#) (20 December)

Torture and Ill-treatment

Iraq: [Iraq minister denies prisoner abuse.](#) “The minister in charge of Iraqi prisons on Monday denied that a security force linked to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has been holding detainees for months without access to lawyers or their families.” [AFP](#) (24 January)

Indonesia: [Torture seen as norm: Report.](#) “A 2010 report says law enforcers see torture as part of the normal procedure in dealing with suspects, leading to a persistently high violence rate among the police.” [The Jakarta Post](#) (21 January)

USA: [The lonely battle against solitary confinement.](#) “The punitive incarceration of alleged WikiLeaks source Bradley Manning is cruel, certainly, but far from unusual in the US.” [The Guardian](#) (19 January)

Transmissible Diseases

Trinidad and Tobago: [Practices in Trinidad and Tobago prisons raise concerns about HIV transmission.](#) “There are no sex education programmes within the prison, and condom distribution activities do not exist leaving inmates vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases...Inmates also complain bitterly about the poor state of healthcare, which sees prisoners being treated for ailments days and sometimes weeks after their initial complaint.” [The Tribune](#) (23 December)

Conferences

[2011 World Mental Health Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, 17-21 October 2011, Cape Town, South Africa.](#) The theme “African Footprint in Global Mental

Health” invites participants from across the globe to explore and demonstrate how mental health challenges are being addressed in both developing and developed countries.

[Sexual Violence Conference, 8 September 2011, London, UK.](#) The Forensic Psychological Services at Middlesex University invites abstract submissions addressing topics in all areas of Sexual Violence. Empirically based papers and those that involve new and emerging topics within Sexual Violence are especially welcome. Abstract submission closing date: 15 April 2011.

[32nd Congress of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, 17-23 July 2011, Berlin, Germany.](#) Every other year, the IALMH holds an International Congress on Law and Mental Health, bringing together the international community of researchers, academics, practitioners and professionals in the field whose wide-ranging perspectives provide for a comprehensive look at important law and mental health issues.

[9th International Capacity Building Workshops and Conference on "Health and Human Rights: Doing Justice, Building Capacity"](#) 6-7 October 2011, Tbilisi Georgia

[International Council of Nurses Conference 2-8 May 2011 Malta.](#) The 2011 Conference of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) will present strong evidence demonstrating how nurses, as key members of the health services team, promote and contribute to quality and accessible health care. The Conference will provide opportunities to disseminate nursing knowledge and leadership across specialities, cultures and countries. The three ICN pillars – Professional practice, Regulation and Socio-economic Welfare – will frame the scientific programme and the dynamic exchange of experiences and expertise.

Publications

[Challenge and collusion: health professionals and immigration detention in Australia.](#) Briksman L. et al. *International Journal of Human Rights*, 14(7), 2010, pp. 1092 - 1106:

“This article describes the impact of immigration detention on the health of asylum seekers. Drawing on specific examples, it explores the roles of professional staff working within the detention system and/or challenging the practices as advocates.” (Login required)

[Children’s Allegations of Sexual Abuse: A Model for Forensic Assessment.](#) O’Donohue W, Benuto L, Fanetti M. *Psychol. Inj. Law*; 3(2): 148-154, 2010: “This study proposes there are two major pathways to false allegations of child sexual abuse: (1) the child is lying and (2) the child has a false memory due to his or her problems in information processing.”

[Error Rates in Forensic Child Sexual Abuse Evaluations.](#) Herman S, Freitas T.R. *Psychol. Inj. Law*; 3(2): 133-147, 2010: “In this article, a novel approach was used to estimate individual error rates for professionals (psychologists, physicians, social workers, and others) who conduct or participate in forensic child sexual abuse evaluations.”

[Experiences of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in the Military among OEF/OIF Veterans: Implications for Health Care Providers.](#) Bell M.E, Reardon A. *Soc. Work Health Care*; 50(1): 34-50, 2011: “This article provides an overview of clinical care with survivors of sexual trauma in the military, particularly those who are OEF/OIF Veterans.”

[Human rights and mentally disordered offenders.](#) Shah A. *International Journal of Human Rights*, 14 (7), 2010 , pp. 1107 - 1116: “This article will examine the human rights of defendants, the incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights into UK legislation, the effect that this has had on the care and diversion of mentally disordered defendants from the criminal justice system, and finally the limitations to the Human Rights Act 1998.” (Login required)

[PTSD Symptoms and Sexual Harassment: The Role of Attributions and Perceived Control.](#) Larsen S.E, Fitzgerald L.F. J. *Interpers. Violence*; ePub, 2010: “The authors discuss a study involving a path model that used data from 189 women involved in sexual harassment litigation.”

[Rape/Sexual Assault: National Guidelines on Referral and Forensic Clinical Examination in Ireland. National SATU Guidelines Development Group, 2nd edition 2010:](#) “The purpose of this document is to facilitate all aspects of a responsive and coordinated service for men and women over the age of 14 years who have been raped or sexually assaulted.”

[The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Coordinator's Handbook. Carman, R.W. New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2010:](#) “Designed for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner coordinators, examiners, and Emergency Department personnel, this Q & A handbook uses case studies and other practical tools to provide concrete guidance related to all aspects of SAFE program operations.”

[Sterilisation of Women and Girls with Disabilities - An Update on the Issue in Australia. Women with Disabilities Australia, December 2010:](#) “The right to bodily integrity and the right of a woman to make choices about her reproduction are enshrined in a number of international human rights treaties and instruments to which Australia is a party. This article gives an update on the current situation in Australia.”

[Tuberculosis Incidence in Prisons: A Systematic Review. Baussano I. et al, *PLoS Medicine* 7\(12\), 2010:](#) “A systematic review has been performed to assess the risk of incident latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) and TB disease in prisons, as compared to the incidence in the corresponding local general population, and to estimate the fraction of TB in the general population attributable (PAF%) to transmission within prisons.”

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