
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL **NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

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Dear Friends,

We would like to inform you about plans for this bulletin. Following restructuring within the International Secretariat, there will no longer be the resources to produce this kind of general health and human rights bulletin.

Between now and the end of the year we will progressively be re-focusing the bulletin on matters relating to detention and ill-treatment with an emphasis on health. The newsletter will cease in December 2010.

Amnesty International will maintain and develop its network of health professionals campaigning on human rights cases and issues. Subscribers interested in this network can contact us (health@amnesty.org) or the AI office in your country (contact details here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/join>).

Please do continue to check the Amnesty International website www.amnesty.org for general news and updates.

We thank you for interest and subscription.

You might be interested in looking at the following links to external health bulletins.

Harvard World Health News
<http://www.worldhealthnews.harvard.edu/>

Medical News Today
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/>

Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

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Publications

Amnesty International Reports & Statements:

18 August: Philippines: The Philippine government should ensure that police officers responsible for torture shown in a recent video broadcast in the national media are brought to justice, Amnesty International has said. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/philippine-police-responsible-torture-must-be-prosecuted-2010-08-18>

6 August: Syria: Amnesty International is urging the Syrian authorities to release or charge a Kurdish man who has been detained for almost two years. Reports from exiled Kurdish activists have raised fears that 'Abdelbaqi Khalaf has been tortured at the hands of State Security. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/fears-grow-kurdish-man-held-syrian-custody-2010-08-06>

Children

DRC and CAR: Human Rights Watch says a rebel group has killed more than 250 adults and children in Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic during the past 18 months. In a report, it says the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has abducted almost 700 people in the two countries. Human Rights Watch says more than one-third of those abducted in the past 18 months have been children. Many, it says, are forced to work as soldiers or are used as sex slaves. *Voice of America* (12 August) <http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Ugandan-Rebel-Group-Accused-of-Mass-Abductions-Killings-100535724.html>

Turkey: After recent legislation passed by Parliament on 21 July, which lowers sentences, provides for minors to be tried in juvenile courts and no longer considers participation in demonstrations as proof of membership in a terrorist organization, children are trying to rebuild their lives after prison. *Today's Zaman* (16 August) <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-218989-101-children-released-from-prison-trying-to-rebuild-their-lives.html>

USA: Omar Khadr was only 15 when he was captured by U.S. forces in 2002 in Afghanistan. Now, eight years later, the 23-year-old is on trial in Guantanamo Bay, in the first military commission trial since the beginning of the Barack Obama administration. The Pentagon-appointed defence attorney, Lt. Colonel Jon Jackson, has called the case "the first one against a child soldier in history". *IPS* (10 August) <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52448>. Amnesty International is observing the trial and accounts by AI's observer, Alex Neve, of AI Canada, can be found here: <http://livewire.amnesty.org/2010/08/09/omar-khadr-trial-no-se/> ; <http://livewire.amnesty.org/2010/08/09/omar-khadr-trial-no-se/#more>

Zimbabwe: Children living with their mothers in Zimbabwean jails face diseases such as tuberculosis and kwashiorkor, which affects mainly children and is caused by severe protein malnutrition, and pellagra, a vitamin deficiency disease. *IRIN* (11 August) <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90137>

Extrajudicial Killings

Guatemala: The authorities in Guatemala have ordered the arrest of 18 former senior officials and policemen over the killing of seven prisoners in 2006. The arrest orders followed an investigation by the UN-backed international commission against impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). *BBC News* (10 August) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-10931471>

Transmissible Diseases

Russia: Some 90 percent of Russian prisoners have diseases such as tuberculosis or are infected with the virus that causes AIDS, the Prosecutor General's office said. Russian prisons last year registered 1.2 million cases of illness, including tuberculosis, hepatitis and HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, the prosecutor's office said. *UPI* (12 August) http://www.upi.com/Top_News/International/2010/08/12/Most-Russian-prisoners-said-to-be-diseased/UPI-72081281620962/ ; See also:

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/prosecutors-say-90-of-prisoners-are-ill/412192.html>

If you read this article you see that the prison service is “considering” this proposal – it is not a done deal.

USA: South Carolina is the only state that prohibits prisoners with HIV from participating in work release and, with Alabama, holds HIV positive prisoners in “HIV units” reports *Salon* (14 August)

http://www.salon.com/life/aids/?story=/news/feature/2010/08/14/prison_segregations_aids

Mental Health

Afghanistan: Former Deputy Health Minister Faizullah Kakar recently completed a study (published in Dari) indicating that rising numbers of women and girls aged 15-40 are attempting suicide in Afghanistan. His findings were presented at a news conference in Kabul on 31 July. The study, based on Health Ministry records and hospital reports, said an estimated 2,300 women or girls were attempting suicide annually - mainly due to mental illness, domestic violence and/or socio-economic hardship. *IRIN* (6 August)

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90083>

Global: According to WHO, mental and neurological disorders represent the leading causes of global health disabilities. The organization estimates that over 80 percent of people with mental and psychosocial disabilities live in developing countries and have little to no access to any form of psychological or psychiatric treatment. *Media Global* (14 August)

<http://mediaglobal.org/article/2010-08-14/mental-illness-as-a-silent-predator-in-the-developing-world>

Ireland: Irish mental health services are in crisis, psychiatric nurses have claimed. According to the Psychiatric Nurses Association (PNA), these services have been ‘continually starved of adequate resources’, with the result that hundreds of staff are opting for early retirement. See publications for report. *Irish Health* (12 August)

<http://www.irishhealth.com/article.html?id=17723>

UK: Prisons fail to address the needs of inmates with mental health issues, and reforms should focus on more community-led alternatives to short jail terms, a charity has said. *UKPA* (19 August)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5iEki5jz1Yd49g27tcxJGkSw9bi7A>

USA: Across the state of Mississippi, county and law enforcement officials say the disjointed mental health system is forcing them to lock up people who are sick alongside criminals for weeks, or more than a month. *Clarion Ledger* (16 August)

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20100816/NEWS/8160321/Mentally-ill-jailed-awaiting-therapy>

Prisons and Detention Centres

Bangladesh: Bangladesh is set to free nearly 1,000 long-serving prisoners to ease pressure on the country's crammed jails, a home ministry official said. Bangladesh's 67 prisons currently accommodate three times their capacity, with 77,000 prisoners in facilities designed for a maximum of 28,000 people. *Associated Press* (18 August)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ji6V8XUvXTSXBD8IPki-Vb3kccTg>

Ghana: Overcrowding in the country's prisons has reached an alarming proportion, posing challenges to the accommodation and health needs of the inmates, the Chairman of the Prisons Council, Air Marshal John Asamoah Bruce, has stated. The situation, he said, had been compounded by the high number of remand prisoners who were awaiting trial and the closure of the James Fort and the Frafraha Camp prisons which served as remand homes.

PeaceFM (13 August) <http://news.peacefonline.com/news/201008/70112.php>

Kazakhstan: In the past few months dozens of prisoners across Kazakhstan have injured themselves to protest against prison conditions and their treatment. "The situation in Kazakh

prisons has reached a critical point," says Vadim Kuramshin, a former prisoner who is now a human rights activist. *BBC News* (12 August) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-10952054>

UK: The number of prisoners in England and Wales is predicted to rise by a further 3,500 to a record 88,500 by 2016 unless there are major changes in sentencing policy, according to new Ministry of Justice projections. *Guardian* (10 August) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/aug/10/prison-population-record-numbers>

USA: Statement by the New York Nurses Association on the privatization of prison health care. *New York Nurses Association* (10 August) <http://www.nysna.org/news/press/081010.htm>

Torture

Kyrgyzstan: Security forces in Kyrgyzstan have detained hundreds of people and used torture on some of them following unrest in the south, UN human rights commissioner Navi Pillay says. *BBC News* (20 July) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-10699893>

USA: A 27-page report by Physicians for Human Rights draws on heavily redacted US government documents to conclude that medical personnel did more than monitor the detainees, as has been previously reported, and crossed the line into human experimentation by collecting and analyzing data that were then used to refine harsh interrogation techniques, including sleep deprivation and water-boarding, in which water is poured into the breathing passages of captives, causing them to feel as if they are drowning. *CMAJ* (10 August) <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/182/11/E497?maxtoshow=&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=torture&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=date&resourcetype=HWCIT>

Report at Physicians for Human Rights: <http://phrtorturepapers.org/>

Sexual Violence

Haiti: Haitian women live in fear in post-quake camps. Some are ambushed as they return from washing themselves or in their flimsy tents in the middle of the night; others are confronted by two or three attackers at a time. *Reuters Alertnet* (12 August) http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/59877/2010/07/12-151111-1.htm

Mali: Despite some resistance, the fight against female genital mutilation has recorded significant progress in Mali, with over 400 villages putting a stop to the practice, according to a press report citing the Ministry of Women, Child and Family. *Afrique en Ligne*, (16 August) <http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/mali:-400-malian-villages-stop-female-genital-mutilation-2010081354394.html>

USA: Inmate advocacy groups are urging US Attorney General Eric Holder to adopt prison standards against sexual assault. The guidelines, which generally are supported by Texas officials, call for reviewing inmates to see if they are particularly vulnerable or likely to be a predator; screening staff for past sexual misconduct; and treating prison rape as a crime scene by sealing off the area to collect evidence and witness statements. *Dallas Morning News* (18 August) http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/nation/stories/DN-prisons_18nat.ART.State.Edition1.35ebe17.html

Courses and Conferences

Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2011

Cape Town, South Africa, 10-13 October 2011

In 2009, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) held its first international conference on evidence based approaches for sexual violence, with emphasis on developing countries. People from around the world came together to debate, discuss and share new ideas and innovations for research on sexual violence. An important output of the SVRI Forum 2009 was the identification of some key research priorities. Building on the research priorities identified

at this event, the SVRI invites researchers, policy makers, funders, survivors, gender activists, service providers and others to network, share ideas and exciting strategies, and to feed into important international campaigns currently underway to prevent and respond to sexual violence globally at its second international conference, the SVRI Forum 2011.

To visit the Forum 2011 website, go to: <http://www.svri.org/forum2011/>

International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) Conference and Istituto Don Calabria.

9-10 November 2010 Rome, Italy

Fourth IJJO International Conference will take place under the title "Building integrative juvenile justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drugs misuse", taking as its central theme the study of the treatment of minors who are in conflict with the law and who suffer from mental disorders or some kind of addiction to drugs or toxic substances. For more information: http://www.oiji.org/roma2010_en.html

Vacancies

Disability Rights Promotion International

There is an immediate opening for a full-time position of Asia-Pacific Regional Officer for the Disability Rights Promotion International (D.R.P.I.) project. Deadline 8 September. For more info see: <http://www.yorku.ca/dрпи/files/AsiaPacificRegionalOfficerPosting.pdf>

Publications

Cash R, et al eds. (2009), 'Casebook on Ethical Issues in International Health Research', *World Health Organization*, Full report:

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241547727_eng.pdf

Garrett B. (2010) 'What is in a name? Nursing education and human rights legislation', *Nurse Educ Pract.* [Epub ahead of print]

Irish Psychiatric Nurses Association (2010), 'A Mental Health Service in Crisis: A Report by the Psychiatric Nurses Association'

http://www.pna.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=322:report-crisis-in-mental-health-services&catid=51:latest-news&Itemid=110

Johnson K, et al (2010), 'Association of Sexual Violence and Human Rights Violations with Physical and Mental Health in Territories of the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo' *Am Med Assoc JAMA*; 304(5): 553-62, Full abstract:

http://www.safetylit.org/citations/index.php?fuseaction=citations.viewdetails&citationIds%5B%5D=citjournalarticle_205189_20

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LSE Health (2010), 'Migration and health: a dynamic challenge for Europe', *EuroHealth*, 16 (1), 2010, Available online PDF [48p.] at: <http://bit.ly/9hzyLs>

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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19551496>

Rubenstein LS, Xenakis SN.'Roles of CIA physicians in enhanced interrogation and torture of detainees. *JAMA*, 2010 Aug 4;304(5):569-70.

<http://jama.amaassn.org/cgi/content/extract/304/5/569>

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