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NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Amnesty International Reports & Statements:

14 October: India: AI has urged the Indian government to help end the routine torture of those held by police and prison authorities by ensuring the new Prevention of Torture Bill in India, 2010 meets international standards before adopting it. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/indian-government-should-ensure-torture-law-meets-international-standards-2010-10-1>

8 October: USA: Ahead of World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October, AI urged the USA, the only country that carried out executions in the Americas in 2009, to end its use of this cruel and inhumane punishment. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/usa-increasingly-isolated-world-turns-against-death-penalty-2010-10-08>

8 October: Global: 10 Key Facts on the Death Penalty
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT50/009/2010/en>

8 October: Global: On the eve of World Day Against the Death Penalty, AI has welcomed President Álvaro Colom's public commitment to veto proposed legislation that would lead to the reapplication of the death penalty. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/guatemalan-president-move-veto-death-penalty-legislation-welcomed-2010-10-08>

5 October: Guatemala: AI has called on the Guatemalan Congress to abolish the death penalty instead of regulating it as parliamentarians debate legislation that would allow its use for the first time since 2000. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/guatemalan-congress-urged-resist-attempts-reapply-death-penalty-2010-10-05>

Death Penalty

Guyana: Guyana's parliament has voted to abolish the mandatory death penalty for people convicted of murder unless they have killed members of the security forces or the judiciary. Lawyers for some 40 death row inmates appealed to officials to commute their sentences after the National Assembly vote. *The Straits Times* (1 October)
http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/World/Story/STIStory_591545.html

Ethics

Guatemala: A high-level commission has been set up to look into medical experiments carried out by U.S. researchers on hundreds of Guatemalans in the 1940s. *IPS* (11 October)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53131>

USA: President Obama apologized for medical experiments funded with U.S. taxpayer money during the 1940s in which American scientists infected Guatemalans with sexually transmitted diseases without their consent. Today these studies would be illegal. Even so, the current U.S. regulations governing research review are full of gaps. *The Republic* (11 October)

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/MED-ETHICS-COMMENTARY_3429037/MED-ETHICS-COMMENTARY_3429037/

Mental Health

Bermuda: The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Home Affairs and Housing, and Bermuda Hospitals Board announces the signing of a Statement of Intent with the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT), UK, to provide services for people serving prison sentences who require access to mental health services at a specialist, secure setting. *BernNews* (8 October) <http://bernews.com/2010/10/gov-mental-health-services-access-in-prison/>

USA: North Carolina's prisons house more than six times as many people with serious mental illnesses as the state's psychiatric hospitals. *Charlotte Observer* (15 October)

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/10/15/1762149/state-hasnt-come-to-grips-with.html#ixzz12RIG3R2o>

USA: A U.S. citizen of Puerto Rican descent with mental disabilities is suing the U.S. government for wrongfully deporting him to Mexico and forcing him to endure over four months of living on the streets and in the shelters and prisons of Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala. *IRIN* (15 October)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53175>

Prisons and Detention Centres

Cambodia: This link provides a letter to the editor of the Phnom Penh Post from a member of Cambodian Human Rights Centre regarding options for easing overcrowding in prisons. *Phnom Penh Post* (6 October) <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2010100643853/National-news/options-for-easing-prison-overcrowding.html>

Mozambique: Robert Allen, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies at Kings College, London, launched in Maputo the second edition of the Manual for Prison Management, which provides guidance on prisons can be run on a human rights basis *AIM* (6 October)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010060924.html>

Zimbabwe: The Zimbabwe Prison Service has partnered with Unicef, Save The Children (Norway) and the International Committee of the Red Cross to improve living conditions of female inmates in all prisons. *The Herald* (8 October) <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010080387.html>

Refugees and Migrants

Japan: An Iranian asylum-seeker describes the negative health-effects he has suffered from being held on and off in detention centres in Japan over a period of 10 years while he waits for a decision to be made on his status. *Japan Times* (5 October)

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/member/member.html?mode=getarticle&file=fl20101005zg.html>

Torture

Afghanistan: A report issued by a U.S. foundation, the Open Society Foundations, details allegations of detainee abuse — some as recent as this year — from Afghans who say they were held at a secret detention centre inside the main American military base in Afghanistan. *Associated Press* (14 October)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h7TyD15XfXei0jnAb8xOnNwqpdnD9IRFM200?docId=D9IRFM200>

Report at: http://www.soros.org/initiatives/mena/articles_publications/publications/confinement-conditions-20101014

Europe: The CIA used a secret prison in Poland to detain and torture its most important 9/11 suspect, a former top human rights official alleges in a new BBC documentary. *BBC News* (6 October)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-11469369>

Indonesia: Indonesian police said they would investigate fresh reports of torture by security forces against civilians in the Papua province, after a graphic video was posted online. *AFP* (18 October)
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ipmuv99EM4S0wgrUqf-b24sCA4ng?docId=CNG.d4d0f825ef3d6854a8a802b54eb17116.971>

Kyrgyzstan: "Only three of 73 tortures cases, discovered in 2009, are being investigated in Kyrgyzstan," Kyrgyzstan's Ombudsman Tursunbek Akun stated at a roundtable discussion of a draft law on preventing torture. *24 News Agency* (4 October)
<http://eng.24.kg/community/2010/10/04/13900.html>

Pakistan: Commentary on the use of torture in Pakistani prisons. *The Guardian* (8 October)
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/oct/08/pakistan-torture-prison>

Conferences

6th World Congress on the Promotion of Mental Health and the Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders

17-19 November 2010, Washington, D.C.

For more information - <http://wmhconf2010.hhd.org>

Fellowships

Scholarship Opportunity: Young African Scholars

Deadline: 1 December 2010

The H.F. Guggenheim Foundation makes grants for scholarly research into problems of aggression and violence. One program is reserved for African Scholars under the age of 35, educated and living on the African continent. For more information, contact: kjcolvard@aol.com

Apply or Nominate for the Oak Human Rights Fellowship

Deadline: 15 December 2010

All Countries

The Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights at the Colby College in Maine, USA offers the Oak Human Rights Fellowship.

<http://www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/apply-or-nominate-for-the-oak-human-rights-fellowship/>

Human Rights Advocates Program: Opportunity for Grassroots Activists to gain tools, knowledge and networking

Deadline: 19 November 2010

All Countries

The Human Rights Advocates Program for human rights activists, NGOs, lawyers etc in affiliation with Columbia University and located in New York City...the program provides skill-building, capacity development, tools and networking for participants...apply now...

<http://www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/human-rights-advocates-program-tools-and-knowledge-for-grassroots-leaders-working-for-the-promotion-of-human-rights/>

Front Line Fellowships for Human Rights Defenders to take some time off their normal work

Deadline: 30 November 2010

All Countries

Human rights defenders can apply for the Front Line Fellowship Program, which offers them an opportunity to take some time out from their normal work...

<http://www.fundsforgos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/front-line-fellowships-human-rights-defenders-time-normal-work>

Australia's Endeavour Awards 2011

Deadline: 31 January 2011

Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas

The Australian Government is accepting applications for its Endeavour Awards 2011 – a variety of grant awards for undertaking study, research and professional development (both long-term as well as short-term in Australia or in any of the participating countries...

<http://www.fundsforgos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/australias-endeavour-awards-2011-now-open/>

Publications

Fayeulle S et al (2010), 'Management of the hunger strike in prison (Article in French)', *Presse Med.* 2010 Oct;39(10):e217-22. <http://www.em-consulte.com/article/267808>

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Data and Trends. Population Reference Bureau, Update 2010: <http://www.prb.org/pdf10/fgm-wallchart2010.pdf>

Mental Health and Development: Targeting People with Mental Health Conditions as a Vulnerable Group. WHO, 2010: Full document:

http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/mhtargeting/en/index.html

Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence against Women: Taking Action and Generating Evidence. World Health Organization and London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2010: Full document: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241564007_eng.pdf

Silberman, M (2010), 'Sexual Abuse in Childhood and the Mentally Disordered Female Offender', *International Journal of Offender Therapy Comparative Criminology*, 54: 783-802, <http://ijo.sagepub.com/content/54/5/783>

Steadman, Henry J et al (2010), 'Effect of Mental Health Courts on Arrests and Jail Days: A Multisite Study', *Archives of General Psychiatry*, Published online 4 October, 2010. <http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/archgenpsychiatry.2010.134>

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