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Amnesty International reports & statements:

See the following selected recent AI reports and press statements. These and other press releases and reports are accessible at the following link under ‘News and Updates’:
http://www.amnesty.org/

8 May: Getting a glimpse of Guantanamo

7 May: Myanmar: Cooperate with international community to ensure appropriate aid for victims

2 May: India: Time to end the lethal lottery of India's death penalty system

30 April: Refugee camp trauma continues for Palestinians

25 April: Saudi Arabia: Secret video shows horror of beheading

**Children:**


**India:** Hundreds of children are still being born with birth defects as a result of the world's worst industrial disaster in Bhopal 23 years ago. *The Guardian* (30 April): [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/apr/30/india.pollution](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/apr/30/india.pollution)

**International:** UNICEF welcomes the spotlight on a major cause of childhood deaths in the latest *WHO Bulletin*. *UNICEF* (1 May): [http://www.unicef.org/media/media_43753.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_43753.html)

**International:** More than 6 million children could be saved from death every year if funding were increased to improve community-level health services in the developing world. *IRIN* (6 May): [http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=78087](http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=78087)


**Death Penalty:**

**Afghanistan:** By lifting the shroud of secrecy over the number of Afghans on death row, the government has ended up raising grave doubts about the trial procedures that led to the extreme sentences. *IPS* (30 April): [http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42180](http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42180)

**Cuba:** Cuban President Raul Castro announced that virtually all death sentences would be commuted to terms of 30 years to life. *Human Rights Tribune* (30 April): [http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Dissidents-in-Cuba-welcome,3061](http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Dissidents-in-Cuba-welcome,3061)

**Drugs:**

**Afghanistan:** Drugs are undermining Afghanistan's efforts to rebuild. *Reuters* (7 May): [http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSSP32789120080507?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0](http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSSP32789120080507?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0)

**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:**

**Afghanistan:** Poor diet is undermining the health of people in northern Afghanistan. *Reuters* (26 April): [http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSISL13156620080426](http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSISL13156620080426)

**DRC:** Malnutrition rates are at emergency levels in the Pinga health zone in northwestern Masisi Territory, North Kivu, due to the continued armed conflict in the region. *UNICEF* (7 May): [http://www.unicef.org/media/media_43849.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_43849.html)


South Africa: A landmark High Court ruling against a multimillion-dollar prepaid water scheme in South Africa’s largest township, Soweto, has been hailed as a global precedent in the struggle for the basic human right to water. Human Rights Tribune (7 May): http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Court-ruled-on-water-in-South,3081

Health Professionals:

Argentina: An ambitious new programme for training health professionals to help reduce infant mortality in small rural communities and indigenous villages has been launched by one of Argentina’s best-known human rights groups. IPS (28 April): http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42154

Germany: A German doctor is standing trial for forcibly administering an emetic to a police suspect who subsequently died. The deceased was alleged to have swallowed packets of drugs. BMJ (10 May): http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7652/1039-a.

South Africa: Cuban doctors have filled part of a gap left by South African doctors who in large numbers leave the country looking for better salaries and employment opportunities. IPS (28 April): http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=42156

Health Services:

Israel/OPT: Gaining treatment in Israel is a complicated process for sick Gazans. BBC News (30 April): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7375439.stm

Nigeria: The Lagos State government has shut down 184 private hospitals, clinics and laboratories for failing to meet basic standards of hygiene and staff training. IRIN (29 April): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=77981

HIV/AIDS:

Africa: The World Bank is backing an experiment aimed at halting the spread of AIDS. Financial Times (25 April): http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c391a1ce-12ee-11dd-8d91-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1

India: A new study says that Indians are more prone to HIV/AIDS than others. The Times of India (26 April): http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Indians_more_prone_to_HIV-AIDS/articleshow/2984007.cms

International: Funding for HIV prevention is being wasted on strategies which have little impact, say US researchers. BBC (9 May): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7391768.stm


Uganda: HIV cases are soaring among Kampala sex workers. allAfrica.com (9 May): http://allafrica.com/stories/200805090010.html

Malaria and Other Diseases:

Cambodia: Malaria is on the decline due to concerted awareness efforts. IRIN (29 April): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=77967

Mozambique: More people have died of cholera following recent floods in Mozambique than the number of those who perished in the rising floodwaters. IPS (2 May): http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=42207

Thailand: Thailand is winning the malaria battle but there are still some challenges remaining. IRIN (28 April): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=77949

UK: Drug-resistant TB is on the rise in Britain. Reuters (1 May): http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSL0180198220080501

Mental Health:

USA: The Iraq war is putting a strain on the US army mental health system. Reuters (6 May): http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN0539451520080506

USA: The mental health of detainees in Guantanamo has become the latest legal battle. The New York Times (26 April): http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/26/washington/26gitmo.html?_r=1&ei=5070&en=d3e4934a677e097e&ex=1209873600&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1210263004-TRe6lY6Fo+WubFFQluprGg

Sexual and Reproductive Health


Djibouti: Djibouti has become the first country to launch the joint UNFPA/UNICEF global program to accelerate the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation. UNICEF (8 May): http://www.unicef.org/media/media_43871.html


International: UN official stresses that investing in midwives is crucial to improving maternal health. UN News Centre (5 May): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26557&Cr=maternal&Cr1=health
**International:** Once a minute, somewhere in the world, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth. *The Guardian* (2 May): http://lifeandhealth.guardian.co.uk/women/story/0,,2277551,00.html#article_continue

**Torture:**

**EU:** Collusion between European Union governments and a secret U.S. torture and kidnapping programme has damaged the EU’s efforts to promote human rights throughout the world, an internal paper drawn up by Brussels officials has admitted. *Human Rights Tribune* (5 May): http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Renditions-ruin-the-EU-case-on,3072

**USA:** The US Central Intelligence Agency has refused to release more than 7,000 documents related to its programmes of secret detentions, renditions and torture. *Human Rights Tribune* (28 April): http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Groups-wrangle-with-CIA-over-ghost,3054

**Violence against Women:**

**Latin America:** Domestic violence makes it imperative to recover ethics as the core value for practices and efforts aimed at creating more equitable and just societies. *IPA* (30 April): http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42198

**USA:** The state government is taking action to provide help for victims of domestic violence. *The Columbus Dispatch* (25 April): http://dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2008/04/25/WorkplaceViolence.ART_ART_04-25-08_C12_F3A1BL0.html?sid=101

**Conferences/Seminars/Courses:**

**India:** A new International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights has been developed by WHO MIND in collaboration with the ILS Law College and will be launched in October 2008 in Pune, India. More information about the course can be found on the Diploma website: http://www.mentalhealthlaw.in/index.html

**Publications:**


You can also order print copy of the chart (laminated, 8.5 x 11 in.) at publications@fhi.org


http://www.cceia.org/resources/journal/22_1/features/003.html


National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, "Human Rights of Hurricane Survivors: Betraying an American Tradition - The Killing of Charity Hospital", May 2008:
http://www.nesri.org/Killing_Charity_Hospital.pdf

The Comparative Program on Health and Society, A Consultation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Health on 'Human Rights Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Companies in Relation to Access to Medicines', University of Toronto:
http://www.utoronto.ca/cphs/resources.hunt%20index.htm

UNICEF, "Tracking Progress in Maternal, New born and Child Survival* April 2008:

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