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Amnesty International reports & statements:

See the following selected 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/


25 July: Zimbabwe: As the Zimbabwean government and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) prepare to enter power-sharing talks, Amnesty International called on both parties
to ensure there are no pardons for those who committed human rights violations in the post-election period.


28 July: China: (Hong Kong) The Chinese authorities have broken their promise to improve the country's human rights situation and betrayed the core values of the Olympics.


29 July: Iran: Amnesty International is appalled by the mass execution of 29 men in Tehran's Evin Prison on 27 July 2008. Their deaths brought the number of executions carried out so far this year to 187.


Children:


Haiti: Haitian children remain the target of kidnappings, killings, sexual violence and child trafficking, and they have also been active participants in recent public protests. *UN News Centre* (22 July): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27451&Cr=&Cr1=

Indonesia: Dozens of Indonesian children under five died of malnutrition in the first six months of 2008, according to the health authorities. *IRIN* (29 July):

Uganda: Acute poverty is forcing girls as young as 14 into early marriage and sex work in parts of northern Uganda affected by the war. *IRIN* (21 July):

Uganda: Child neglect and maintenance topped the list of human rights abuses, followed by torture, despite a 25 percent decline in complaints registered by the Uganda Human Rights Commission last year. *The New Vision* (22 July):
http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/640486

UK: British children are being denied the right to a cultural life guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. *The Telegraph* (21 July):

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwean children are being drawn to South Africa to run errands and perform piecemeal jobs for shoppers from their own country - who are heading south because of the unavailability of basic goods in their own country. *IRIN* (31 July):

Death Penalty:

Iran: The European Union denounced Iran's recent execution of 29 convicts as "an affront to human dignity" and said it was deeply concerned about Tehran's increasing use of the death penalty. *Reuters* (29 July): http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL9303671
Indonesia: Chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), Hidayat Nur Wahid, has asked the government to immediately impose a death penalty on the country's big-time corrupters. Antara News (28 July): http://www.antara.co.id/en/arc/2008/7/28/mpr-chief-asks-govt-to-impose-death-penalty-on-big-time-corrupters/


USA: The Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Tuesday said the state may force two death row inmates to take anti-psychotic medication in order to render them mentally competent to proceed with their cases. Examiner (22 July): http://www.examiner.com/a-1500256-Pa__court_OKs_forced_drugging_of_death_row_inmates.html

Health Services:

UK: Campaigners and community leaders have welcomed calls for the removal of all innocent DNA from the national criminal DNA database after its rapid expansion has effectively criminalised a generation of Black Britons. BMH UK (30 July): http://blackmentalhealth.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=390&Itemid=117

HIV/AIDS:

Africa: The persistent and increasing outbreaks of violence against members of the gay community in Africa are jeopardising efforts undertaken to combat HIV. IRIN (23 July): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79397

Europe: Poverty and social displacement, increased availability of drugs, and chaos in the healthcare systems that accompanied transition from state socialism to the market economy have contributed to the spread of HIV in Eastern Europe. IPS (31 July): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43389

International: New books show that while billions of dollars are being spent on treating HIV, prevention is being overlooked. Action aid (29 July): http://www.actionaid.org/main.aspx?PageID=1128

Kenya: Keeping Kenyan girls in school and ensuring they have access to HIV prevention formation and sex education has a dramatic effect on lowering future levels of HIV, according to experts. IRIN (25 July): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79456
South Africa: While the government has made major strides in ensuring there is more prevention of mother to child transmission facilities in the country, there are not enough people visiting the centres. BuaNews (1 August): http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/08/0808112151001


South East Asia: They may be known in South-east Asia for their poverty, but that has not stopped Cambodia and Laos from caring for people living with HIV/AIDS. Both countries have increased the supply of the life-prolonging anti-AIDS drugs at home. IPS (30 July): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43375

Swaziland: NGOs are warning that circumcision does not remove the need for men to use condoms for the prevention of HIV. IRIN (31 July): http://allfrica.com/stories/200807311102.html


Uganda: Community engagement and grass-roots level activism and demand for TB/HIV services can be developed with a little encouragement, according to presentations at the HIV Implementers’ Meeting held in Kampala in June. Aids Map (23 July): http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/9159BE12-6271-444B-8165-B74C41987D0C.asp


Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

Africa: East African researchers have found that most of the breeding sites of malaria-carrying mosquitoes are man-made and can be dealt with by effective environmental management. IOL (23 July): http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=vn20080723113221663C93626

International: Sanofi-aventis and the non-profit Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative welcome the agreement announced by Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative to reduce the volatility and the price levels of Artemisia in-based Combination Therapies, which are used to fight malaria. DNDi (21 July): http://www.dndi.org/cms/public_html/insidearticleListing.asp?CategoryId=166&SubCategoryId=167&ArticleId=496&TemplateId=1

International: Lauding the United States Government for its massive funding boost to fight AIDS, the head of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said today that the new investment will inject fresh hope for the future. UN News Centre (31 July): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27545

Kenya: Kenya is stepping up the fight against tuberculosis, other lung diseases and leprosy as infections continue to rise. The Daily Nation (28 July): http://www.nationmedia.com/dailynation/nmgcontententry.asp?category_id=1&newsid=127877
Latin America: Children infected by chagas disease, endemic in 21 countries in Central and South America, will soon have access to a treatment tailored to their needs. *DNDi* (21 July): http://www.dndi.org/cms/public_html/insidearticleListing.asp?CategoryId=166&SubCategoryId=167&ArticleId=493&TemplateId=1


Prisons:

Benin: Prison conditions in Benin are so deplorable that they were, alongside police brutality, one of two reasons that compelled the international human rights watchdog Amnesty International to list the country in its annual State of the World's Human Rights report for the first time in 2008. *IRIN* (30 July): http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=79523

Kenya: Human Rights Watch said in a report they released that the Kenyan government should account for dozens of missing people detained during the security operation in Mt. Elgon. *Newswire* (28 July): http://www.webnewswire.com/node/445182

Nepal: Many of Nepal's jails are in need of repair. Kapilvastu District Jail is one of a number of places of detention where the water and habitat unit of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been busy bringing basic infrastructure up to international standards. *ICRC* (21 July): http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/nepal-news-210708

Palestine: The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights condemned the detention of Muna Mansour (46) a Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council from the pro-Hamas Change and Reform Party, who has been detained by the Israeli Occupation Forces. *The Palestine News Network* (27 July): http://english.pnn.ps/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3259&Itemid=1


Right to Water:

International: The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation published a report last week highlighting the fact that 2.5 billion people, nearly 40% of the world's population, still lack access to improved sanitation. *WaterAid* (23 July): http://www.wateraid.org/international/about_us/newsroom/6850.asp

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

Brazil: An estimated one million illegal abortions occur in Brazil each year, yet very few women have ever been imprisoned for seeking abortion care. That may be about to change. ICMA (29 July): http://www.medicalabortionconsortium.org/news/crime-and-punishment-illegal-abortion-in-brazil-325.html

Ethiopia: Ipas has announced that it will expand its work in Ethiopia — sub-Saharan Africa’s second most-populous country — with a strong focus on comprehensive abortion care (CAC), post abortion contraception and youth. The program promises to reach thousands of men and women with critical reproductive health services. Ipas (28 July): http://www.ipas.org/Library/News/News_Items/Ipas_exps_its_work_in_Ethiopia_in_training_contraceptive_care_youth.aspx


International: The UN has called for increased support for breastfeeding mothers since the practice has been shown to slash deaths by more than 10 per cent in infants in developing countries. UN News Centre (31 July): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27552&Cr=Mother&Cr1=health

Nicaragua: In November 2006, Nicaragua became one of only four countries worldwide to ban abortion under any circumstance, including when a woman’s life is at risk. Ipas (21 July): http://www.ipas.org/Library/News/News_Items/Nicaraguan_ban_on_therapeutic_abortion_goes_into_effect.aspx

Philippines: A growing and heated debate in this predominantly Catholic country revolves around the church’s uncompromising stance against the use of contraceptive devices that is said to be contributing to poverty and affecting the quality of life for many Filipinos. IPS (1 August): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43412

Torture:

Australia: The Committee Against Torture (CAT) has concluded its review of Australia's report to the committee and recommended that the State party should ensure the right to appoint a fully independent medical practitioner, preferably of the arrested person’s choice; ensure education and training of health service providers seeing refugees; and provide adequate mental health care for all persons deprived of their liberty. See: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/cats40.htm


Mexico: A Mexican police chief was fired on Friday following the release of two police training videos that show officers practicing torture techniques. The Dallas news (19 July): http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/stories/071908dnint.50011d4.html
Palestine: Human rights groups have accused rival Palestinian security forces in the West Bank and Gaza of making politically motivated arrests and torture. *BBC* (29 July): [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7530700.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7530700.stm)

UK: Britain can no longer believe what Americans tell the World about torture, an MPs' report claims. *The Guardian* (20 July): [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/20/humanrights.uksecurity](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/20/humanrights.uksecurity)


Violence against Women:


Israel: Israel's Arab women face high levels of harassment at home and in the workplace, but - thanks partly to some very public scandals - the number of women reporting crimes against them is on the rise. *IRIN* (30 July): [http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79518](http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79518)


South Africa: A march has been called for women by women of all races and creeds to protest against a common enemy - violence and crime, and particularly abuse against women. *Hermanus Times* (24 July): [http://www.news24.com/Regional_Papers/Components/Category_Article_Text_Template/0,2430,486,2363127~E,00.html](http://www.news24.com/Regional_Papers/Components/Category_Article_Text_Template/0,2430,486,2363127~E,00.html)


USA: The Reverend Catherine Roskam, Suffragan Bishop of New York, said domestic violence is deemed acceptable in some parts of the world and that "even the most devout Christians* are guilty of it. *The Telegraph* (30 July): [http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/2474383/Woman-bishop-claims-church-leaders-from-ethnic-minorities-beat-their-wives.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/2474383/Woman-bishop-claims-church-leaders-from-ethnic-minorities-beat-their-wives.html)

Women Rights:

South Africa: A number of activities have been lined up to mark Women's Month which kicks off today, in the run up to national Women's Day on 9 August. *BuaNews* (1 August): [http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/08/08080111151001](http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/08/08080111151001)
UK: Ground rules for tens of thousands of women to claim more than £2bn in compensation for unequal pay from the NHS and local authorities were set out in a landmark judgment. The Guardian (30 July): [http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jul/30/equality.gender](http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jul/30/equality.gender)

Conferences/Seminars/Courses:

The 6th Annual World Health Care Congress will take place on 14-16 April 2009 in Washington, DC. For more information, you can download a brochure at the following link: [http://cmpgnr.com/r.html?c=1277297&r=1276213&t=1438282058&l=1&d=89875197&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eworldcongress%2ecom%2frequest%5fbrochure%2efcm%3fconfCode%3dHRO9000&g=0&f=1](http://cmpgnr.com/r.html?c=1277297&r=1276213&t=1438282058&l=1&d=89875197&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eworldcongress%2ecom%2frequest%5fbrochure%2efcm%3fconfCode%3dHRO9000&g=0&f=1)

The International Forensic Program at Physicians for Human Rights’ annual Forensic Laboratory and Medical Examiner’s Office Operations Course for Human Rights Investigators will be held on 20-31 October 2008 in Fort Worth, Texas. The two week course is designed for human rights investigators and forensic specialists working in the field of human rights who are unfamiliar with forensic laboratory and medical examiner systems. The objective of this course is to train human rights investigators to make sound decisions when it comes to the collection, documentation, analysis and reporting on forensic evidence in international scenarios. For more information visit: [http://www.physiciansforhumanrights.org/forensic/courses.html](http://www.physiciansforhumanrights.org/forensic/courses.html)

Publications:


Brooks-Gordon B, "State violence towards sex workers". BMJ 2008;337:a908, 30 July 2008. Available at: [http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/jul30_2/a908](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/jul30_2/a908) (subscription only).


Hanefeld J, "How have Global Health Initiatives impacted on health equity?", Health Policy Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Promotion & Education, Vol. 15, No. 1, 19-23 (2008). Available at: http://ped.sagepub.com/cgi/content/short/15/1/19


World Health Organization, "Maximizing positive synergies between health systems and Global Health Initiatives" Report on the expert consultation on positive synergies between health systems


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