AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
AI Index: ACT 84/001/2007

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.

Summary
AI reports & statements
Asylum seekers/refugees
Children
Death Penalty
HIV/AIDS
Right to health
Torture
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements
See the following recent AI news releases [dates given in day/month/year format].

11/01/2007 Amnesty Recommendations to German Presidency: Guantanamo anniversary is a grim reminder for EU to clarify renditions IOR 61/001/2007
11/01/2007 India: Deaths in West Bengal during protest against new industrial project ASA 20/004/2007
10/01/2007 Egypt: protection of torture victim is key for justice to be done MDE 12/003/2007
10/01/2007 Five years Now! - No independent hearing; no family contact! Is This The American Way? AMR 51/009/2007
10/01/2007 India: Armed groups target civilians once again ASA 20/003/2007
10/01/2007 Somalia: Civilians must not be a casualty of the conflict in Somalia AFR 52/001/2007
09/01/2007 Bangladesh: Human rights under threat as election tensions intensify ASA 13/001/2007
08/01/2007 Guantánamo - Amnesty International global protests mark 5 year anniversary AMR 51/006/2007
02/01/2007 India: Kalinga Nagar police firing one year on - Orissa must ensure speedy justice for adivasi victims and address their concerns over displacement ASA 20/001/2007
02/01/2007 Thailand: Amnesty International's response to bombings in Bangkok ASA 39/001/2007

These and other press releases and reports are accessible at: http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/index

Asylum seekers/refugees

Netherlands. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that the Netherlands may not eject a Somali asylum seeker from the country, because it would be in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. See Radio Netherlands, 12 January; http://www.radionetherlands.nl/currentaffairs/dut070112mc

Children
Sudan. The UN says it will investigate allegations that some peacekeepers in southern Sudan have been involved in the rape and sexual abuse of children. BBC 3 January
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6226829.stm

Taiwan. Amendments to Taiwan's basic education law have come into force which ban corporal punishment in schools. BBC 29 Dec
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/6215949.stm

Death Penalty

Iraq. Saddam Hussein was executed by hanging in Baghdad on 30 December. Unofficial video of the hanging revealed the he had been taunted and verbally abused moments before he died. The chronology is given at the Wikipedia site:

USA. On Friday, the US Supreme Court agreed to set a new standard for when a death row prisoner is too mentally ill to be executed without violating the constitution. MSNBC 8 Jan
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16522083/

USA. One of the first inmates scheduled to be executed in 2007 is Ronald Chambers who has been on death row thirty-one years after he was first sentenced to death for murder. Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) 2 January

USA. Most executions in ten states are effectively on hold as aspects of their capital punishment laws are examined. DPIC 29 December;

HIV/AIDS

Libya. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has rejected calls for the release of six foreign medics sentenced to death for infecting children with HIV/AIDS. BBC 30 December
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6219027.stm

Bulgarian liberal deputies have proposed a resolution calling for a special European Parliament rapporteur for the case of the six medics sentenced to death in Libya and also for a revision of EU policy towards Tripoli should there be further negative developments, reports the EU Observer, 11 January; http://euobserver.com/9/23235.

The science journal Nature has a special web feature on this case. See http://www.nature.com/nature/focus/aidsmedicslibya/index.html

Right to health

Africa. The African continent is facing 25% of the world's morbidity rate with only 3% of its healthcare personnel, report Karl Blanchett and Regina Keith in Le Monde Diplomatique December 2006, http://mondediplom.com/2006/12/12africa

Iraq. The number of civilians killed in political violence in Iraq reached record levels in December, according to Iraqi government figures. The interior ministry says 1,930 Iraqis died last month, 3.5 times the number killed in January 2006. BBC 2 Jan
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/6224047.stm

UK. Two UK-based academics have devised a way to invent new medicines and get them to market at a fraction of the cost charged by big drug companies. Guardian 2 Jan
http://www.guardian.co.uk/medicine/story/0,,1981199,00.html
UK. A transplant surgeon has warned against selling body parts, after a report suggested organs are for sale online. BBC 8 Jan
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6240307.stm

Torture

Argentina. A witness in a human rights trial was abducted and tortured using methods reminiscent of Argentina’s military dictatorships reported Associated Press. Mercury Times, 31 December; http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/world/16356625.htm

Turkey. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture has published for the first time reports of its visits to Turkey from 1990-1996. See: http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/tur/2007-01-11-eng.htm

USA/Guantanamo. A 244 page report released by the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act provides details of treatment of prisoners at Guantánamo. See http://foia.fbi.gov/guantanamo/detainees.pdf. The contents of the report are summarised in the Guardian 3 January; http://www.guardian.co.uk/guantanamo/story/0,,1981955,00.html

Publications


Exworthy T. Commentary: UK Perspective on Competency to Stand Trial. J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2006;34(4):466-71


http://www.internationalbreastfeedingjournal.com/content/1/1/27

Kuan-Teh Jeang . Libya, HIV, and open communication. Retrovirology 2006, 3:99 , 28 December 2006;

Lalit Dandona , Vemu Lakshmi , G Anil Kumar and Rakhi Dandona. Is the HIV burden in India being overestimated? BMC Public Health 2006, 6:308, 20 December 2006;


Okie S. Sex, Drugs, Prisons, and HIV. *NEJM* 2007; 356:105-108,

http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/356/2/105.

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to health@amnesty.org

---------

Health and Human Rights Team
Amnesty International - International Secretariat
Tel: +44 20 7413 5522
Fax: +44 20 7956 1157
AI web-site: [http://www.amnesty.org/](http://www.amnesty.org/)
AI Health Professional web-site: [http://www.amnesty.org/health](http://www.amnesty.org/health)