
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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<http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/index>

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15/08/2007 [Uganda: Proposed national framework to address impunity does not remove government's obligation to arrest and surrender LRA leaders to the International Criminal Court](#) (NEWS) AFR 59/002/2007
15/08/2007 [Egypt: Rights of Individuals intercepted at the border with Israel must be protected](#) (NEWS) MDE 12/027/2007
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14/08/2007 [Nepal: Draft Truth and Reconciliation Bill risks undermining justice](#) (NEWS) ASA 31/007/2007
11/08/2007 [Poverty and impunity undermine human rights in a divided world](#) (NEWS) ORG 50/040/2007

Asylum seekers / Refugees / Internally Displaced People (IDPs):

Kenya: Religious leaders in Mount Elgon say people who have fled from violence and are now camping in Chepkitale National Reserve face imminent death as a result of a lack of basic services, according to *East African Standard* (13 August):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200708130813.html>

Children:

Ghana: Article outlining human rights implications of child marriage, including the fact children are forced to assume responsibilities and handle situations which they are often physically and psychologically unprepared for. *Public Agenda* (13 August):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200708131062.html>

Iraq: Health workers in Iraq have expressed concern that the conflict and the measures being taken by parents to protect children from violence are having a negative impact on children's mental health. *IRIN* (15 August):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73741>

Death Penalty:

Japan: Three prisoners on death row were hanged according to Japan's justice ministry, bringing to 10 the number of executions carried out since December 2006. *BBC* (23 August):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/6959685.stm>

USA: The US administration is preparing to speed up the executions of criminals on death row across the United States, in effect, cutting out several layers of appeals in the federal courts, according to *The Independent* (15th August):

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/article2864190.ece>

Elder Abuse

UK: Vulnerable elderly people are being subjected to neglect, abuse, discrimination and ill-treatment in the UK hospitals and care homes that should be looking after them, according to a recent report published by a UK parliamentary committee. *The Guardian* (23 August)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,,2149018,00.html>

UK: Opinion piece by Andrew Dismore, a UK Member of Parliament, discussing the issue of elder abuse from a human rights perspective. *The Guardian* (16 August):

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/andrew_dismore/2007/08/human_rights_and_the_nhs.html

Health Services:

Israel: Human rights groups are campaigning to improve access to health for Bedouins in unrecognised settlements in the Negev desert. The existing clinics can be hard to reach, and are not connected to the main power grid and so are unable to store some drugs and vaccines. *IRIN* (20 August):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73813>

Nigeria: An editorial discussing access to adequate healthcare in Nigeria, and considers who is responsible for ensuring health provision. *Vanguard* (14 August):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200708140089.html>

Swaziland: The government has finalised its National Health Policy but health non-governmental organisations and grassroots healthcare workers have expressed concerns over whether the promised improvements will be implemented, according to *IRIN* (15 August): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200708160006.html>

UK: Military charities have accused the British government of neglecting its obligations to its armed forces, including its duty to provide for those injured in conflict. *The Guardian* (15 August): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/military/story/0,,2148917,00.html>

HIV/AIDS:

Madagascar: Activists hope that a recently introduced law will help combat stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS. *PlusNews* (24 August): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73819>

Nigeria: 60% of trafficking victims repatriated to Nigeria test positive for HIV, according to the head of the National Agency for the Prohibition and Trafficking in Persons and other Related Matters. *Daily Champion* (16 August): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200708160019.html>

South Africa: President Thabo Mbeki sacked his deputy health minister Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, causing controversy amongst HIV activists and commentators, who allege that the minister was fired for her views on HIV. *IRIN* (10 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73675>
See <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607612641/fulltext> for The Lancet's opinion.

South Africa: Following an analysis of all scientific research on the links (if any) between improved nutrition and the treatment of both HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, the Academy of Science of South Africa has found no evidence that healthier eating is any substitute for correctly-used medical drugs.
See: Press release: <http://www.assaf.co.za/press.html>
Report summary: <http://search.sabinet.co.za/images/ejour/assaf/Study%20HIV%20TB%20and%20Nutrition%20condensed%20final%20doc.pdf>
Full report (2MB): <http://search.sabinet.co.za/images/ejour/assaf/Study%20%20pdf%20final%20ASSAf%20HIV%20TB%20and%20Nutrition%20doc.pdf>

Sri Lanka: Women from around the world related how they were dispossessed of their inheritance and property rights as a result of their 'positive' status, at the 8th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP). *The Sunday Times (Sri Lanka)* (19 August): <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/070819/News/nws18.html>
Further details on the event: <http://www.icaap7.jp/>

World: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) launched the 'Handbook on HIV and Human Rights for National Human Rights Institutions'. See: Press release <http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/C39C855239F6C1F0C125733F003659DA>
Report: <http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/C39C855239F6C1F0C125733F003659DA?opendocument>

Mental Health:

Japan: The Japanese Ministry of Health has launched a programme to train family doctors to recognise the early symptoms of depression, with the hope of reducing the Japanese suicide rate. *The Japan Times* (22 August):

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20070822a5.html>

USA: Suicide rates amongst American soldiers have reached the highest level for 26 years, according to a military report. *The New York Times* (16 August):

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Army-Suicides.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Prisoners:

South America: Prisons in Latin America are in 'an appalling condition', according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in a soon to be released report. *La Jornada* (19 August).

Las cárceles en América Latina 'están en pésimas condiciones' según La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) en un avance a un informe que se presentará en breve. *La Jornada* (19 agosto):

<http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/08/19/index.php?section=politica&article=014n1pol>

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

Philippines: The US programme to provide contraception to the Philippines is due to end this year, prompting family planning groups to express concern that this may result in a rise in abortions and maternal deaths. *IPPF* (15th August):

<http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Rise+in+births+abortion+in+Philippines+feared+with+phase+out+of+US+birth+control+programme.htm>

South Africa: A South African NGO has argued that pregnant HIV positive women are not adequately informed of their options regarding termination. *Business Day* (10 August):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200708100250.html>

Torture:

USA: The American Psychological Association has voted against a proposal to ban psychologists from taking part in any interrogations at Guantánamo Bay and other U.S. military detention centres. *The Guardian* (20 August):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,-6862208,00.html>

Events:

August/September funding deadline

UN Trust Fund for Violence Against Women

The UN Trust Fund has launched its call for proposals for the 2007 grant cycle related to one of the following areas:

1. Implementation of existing laws, policies and plans of action to address violence against women; or
2. Reducing the twin pandemics of HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/trust_fund_guidelines.php

21- 22 September 2007

9th Seminar of the European Society of Contraception "From abortion to contraception"

Details: European Society of Contraception, Mrs. Nancy Habils
Opalfeneweg 3 , 1740 Ternat, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 582 08 52
Fax: +32 2 582 55 15
E-mail: congress@contraception-esc.com;
esccentraloffice@contraception-esc.com

Publications:

Amir Singh, J. et al, 'Do human rights really matter to health?' *The Lancet*, Vol. 370, Number 9586, 11 August 2007
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607612367/fulltext>

Chetty, K.S. 'Equity promoting healthcare policies in South Africa'. Case study commissioned by Health Systems Knowledge, March 2007
http://www.who.int/social_determinants/resources/csdh_media/chetty_equity_2007_en.pdf

Gruskin, S. et al., 'History, principles, and practice of health and human rights' *The Lancet*, Vol. 370, Number 9585, 4 August 2007
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607612008/fulltext>

Laurell, A. S. 'Granting Universal Access to Health Care: The experience of the Mexico City Government'. Case study commissioned by Health Systems Knowledge, March 2007
http://www.who.int/social_determinants/resources/csdh_media/mexico_universal_access_2007_en.pdf

Ranos, K. et al, 'Promoting Health Equity in Conflict-Affected Fragile States'. *World Health Organisation*, 3 February 2007
http://www.who.int/social_determinants/resources/csdh_media/promoting_equity_conflict_2007_en.pdf

Siever, L. J. Book review of 'Shunned: Discrimination Against People with Mental Illness', by Graham Thornicroft. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, Vol. 164, Issue 8, August 2007
<http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/164/8/1272-a>

'The world health report 2007 – A safer future: global public health security in the 21st century' *World Health Organisation*, 2007
http://www.who.int/whr/2007/whr07_en.pdf

World Health Organisation 'right to health' materials, including factsheets and a video. 21 August 2007
<http://who.int/en/>

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