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10/001/2005
25/02/2005 [India: Three years later still no justice for victims of violence in Gujarat](#) ASA
20/013/2005

Death penalty

Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority is poised to resume executions of death row prisoners, with 15 facing the firing squad later this month reports the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1320021.htm>

USA. On 1st March the US Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional to impose the death penalty on juvenile offenders. BBC, 1 March
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4308881.stm> See also Amnesty International press release:
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR510472005>

USA. CNN (11 March) citing the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, reports that the USA has withdrawn from a protocol that gives the International Court of Justice the right to adjudicate violations of the Vienna Convention regarding the incarceration of non-U.S. citizens. This follows an ICJ ruling that the cases of 51 Mexican nationals under sentence of death and who had been denied diplomatic contact with the Mexican authorities should have their cases reheard. See CNN:
<http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/03/11/vienna.convention/>
See also: *Washington Post* (10 March): <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21981-2005Mar9.html>

HIV/AIDS

Africa. Nearly 90 million Africans could be infected by HIV in the next 20 years if more is not done to combat the epidemic, the UN has warned, urging the international community to invest more money and effort to tackle the crisis. BBC 4 March
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4317019.stm>

USA. An open letter to delegates of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which will meet in Vienna next week, signed by AIDS organizations, human rights groups, researchers and policy analysts from 56 countries, has urged the UN to resist US efforts to force the United Nations to withdraw support for needle exchange programs. Human Right Watch, 3 March
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/02/global10250.htm> (news release)
Open Letter available here: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/02/global10244.htm>

Human rights

Nepal. The Royal Nepalese Army, which assisted King Gyanendra's seizure of power in February, is responsible for a widespread pattern of enforced disappearances, said Human Rights Watch in a new report, 1 March: <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/nepal0205/>

Sudan. The aid agency, Oxfam, says the world is still not doing enough to protect more than two million displaced people in the Darfur region of western Sudan, who continue to suffer atrocities on a "massive scale." BBC, 28 Feb
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4303129.stm>

Turkey. The European Union has expressed shock and concern at the "disproportionate force" used by Turkish police to break up a demonstration demanding equal rights for women. BBC, 7 March
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4325347.stm>

Humanitarian emergencies. Brutal conflicts in Congo, Uganda and Sudan are the world's three biggest "forgotten emergencies", each dwarfing the toll of the Asian tsunami but attracting scant media interest, reports Reuters Alertnet (10 March).
See:<http://alertnet.org/thefacts/reliefresources/11038817665.htm>

Right to health

China. The BBC reports (11 March) that growing numbers of workers in China are suffering ill health due to working conditions, See: 'China's poisoned workers fight back';
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4330333.stm>

Czech Republic. Roma women continue to claim that they were sterilised against their will, reports the *Lancet* (12 March):
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol365/iss9463/full/lan.365.9463.analysis_and_interpretation.32534.1

Germany. The German foundation, Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future, will distribute payments of approximately \$3,200 each to more than 7,000 victims of Nazi "medical" experimentation reports the website usinfo.state.gov 8 March
<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=March&x=20050308121539btruevecer2.308291e-02&t=dhr/hr-latest.html>

Paraguay. Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) have signed a settlement with the Paraguayan government to end the improper detention of hundreds of people in the country's state-run psychiatric hospitals, reports MDRI, 2 March
<http://www.mdri.org/>

Vietnam/USA. Judge Jack B. Weinstein of the United States District Court has rejected a suit by Vietnamese plaintiffs which asserted that American chemical companies committed war crimes by supplying the military with the defoliant Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. He sided with the chemical companies and the US Justice Department, which argued that supplying the defoliant did not amount to a war crime. See *New York Times* (10 March). Vietnamese have reacted with anger reports the BBC (11 March):
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4339419.stm>. The 233 page judgment is available here:
<http://www.nyed.uscourts.gov/pub/rulings/cv/2005/moj-04-cv-400-mdl381.pdf>.

Torture

European Commission. An evaluation of four torture treatment centres in Europe, commissioned by the European Commission, has now been published. It is available at:
<http://www.humanconsultancy.com/Torture%20Rehabilitation%20Europe.pdf>
See also the earlier review of torture treatment approaches in Nepal and Peru requested by the European Commission:

<http://www.humanconsultancy.com/Torture%20web.pdf> (2003)

Georgia. Torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials continues to exist, compounded by an apparent culture of impunity, the UN Commission on Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, Inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak, said. UN News Centre, 1 March
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=13490&Cr=Georgia&Cr1=>

Turkey. The European Union's enlargement commissioner, Olli Rehn, said the government must make sure its policy of zero-tolerance against torture is implemented and adhered to by security forces and warned against the negative impact of continued human rights violations on Turkey's bid to join the 25-nation bloc. *Turkish Daily News* 9 March
<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=7810>

USA. The American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights First, joined by former US military and government officials, have filed a lawsuit against US Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld on behalf of eight men who allege they were tortured and abused by U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.
<http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=17584&c=206>

USA. The Bush administration's practice of "rendering" detainees to countries cited in its own report on human rights practices with abysmal human rights practices runs the risk of turning the report into a guide to overseas torture subcontractors, according to Amnesty International USA. AIUSA, 28 February 2005.
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/document.do?id=569CFC5E8511F73585256FB60053F851>

USA. The executive summary of the report of Naval Inspector General, Vice Admiral Albert T. Church, III, into US Department of Defense (DoD) interrogation operations has been published on the DoD website on 10 March. It is available at:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2005/d20050310.exe.pdf>

Violence against women

Congo (Democratic Republic). In eastern Congo's conflict, government troops and rebel fighters have raped tens of thousands of women and girls, but fewer than a dozen perpetrators have been prosecuted, Human Rights Watch said in a report, 7 March
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/07/congo10258.htm> (press release)
report: <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/drc0305/>

Sudan. Women and girls are continuing to suffer a high incidence of rape and sexual violence in Darfur, according to a new report by Médecins Sans Frontières.
<http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=87E5F426-8A66-407E-B6E33C9E577F54CF>

Jordan. So-called "honour" killings - the murder of a woman who is accused of tainting family honour - account for one-third of all violent deaths in Jordan reports *Christian Science Monitor* (2 March)
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0302/p15s01-wome.html>

Pakistan. The Pakistan parliament rejected by a majority vote a bill which sought to strengthen the law against the practice of "honour killing" , declaring it to be un-Islamic, reports the BBC, 2 March: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4311055.stm

The World Organisation Against Torture (WOAT) has voiced its concern over the increasing violence against women worldwide. ABC newsonline 8 March
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200503/s1318619.htm>

Publications

R E Ashcroft. Standing up for the medical rights of asylum seekers. *J Med Ethics* 2005;31:125-126.

<http://jme.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/extract/31/3/125>

Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Matt Gordon. *The International Migration of Health Workers: A Human Rights Analysis*. London: Medact, February 2005; available at: <http://www.medact.org/content/Skills%20drain/Bueno%20de%20Mesquita%20and%20Gordon.pdf>

Richard Elliott et al. Reason and rights in global drug control policy. *CMAJ* March 1, 2005; 172 (5)

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/172/5/655>

Editorial. HIV, harm reduction and human rights. *CMAJ* March 1, 2005; 172 (5)

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/172/5/605>

Ö. Frans et al. Trauma exposure and post-traumatic stress disorder in the general population. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* 2005; 111 (4): 291 April 2005.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0447.2004.00463.x/abs/>

Freedman LP, Ronald J Waldman, Helen de Pinho, Meg E Wirth, A Mushtaque R Chowdhury, Allan Rosenfield . Millennium Project: Transforming health systems to improve the lives of women and children. *Lancet* 2005; 365: 997-1000: http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol365/iss946/full/llan.365.9463.review_and_opinion.32510.1

Labonte R, Ted Schrecker, Amit Sen Gupta. A global health equity agenda for the G8 summit *BMJ* 2005;330:533-536 (5 March)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/533>

Christine Lehmann. Tsunami Leaves Behind Mental Health Crisis. *Psychiatric News* March 4, 2005, Vol. 40, No 5 <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/40/5/25>

Magnus Linklater, What civilised society tolerates the terrible truth about torture? *Scotsman* 6 March

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion.cfm?id=246112005>

Kaveh Manavi, Philip D Welsby. HIV testing. *BMJ* 2005;330:492-493 (5 March)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/492>

Klim McPherson. Counting the dead in Iraq. Editorial. *BMJ* 2005;330:550-551 (12 March)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/bmj;330/7491/550>

US governments must monitor Iraq casualties. *BMJ* 2005;330:557

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<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7491/557>

N Y Oguz , S H Miles. The physician and prison hunger strikes: reflecting on the experience in Turkey. *J Med Ethics* 2005;31:169-172

<http://jme.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/abstract/31/3/169>

Bob Roehr. Abstinence programmes do not reduce HIV prevalence in Uganda. *BMJ* 2005;330:496 (5 March) <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/496-a>

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich. A fifth of elderly people in Israel are abused. *BMJ* 2005;330:498 (5 March) <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/498-c>

Z. Steel et al. Mental disorders, disability and health service use amongst Vietnamese refugees and the host Australian population. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* 111(4): 300, April 2005.
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0447.2004.00458.x/abs/>

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<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7491/590>

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