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Amnesty International reports & statements

See the following recent AI news releases [dates given in day/month/year format].

23/03/2005 Israel/Occupied Territories Removing unlawful Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories: Time to act MDE 15/021/2005
23/03/2005 Colombia: Justice is the only way forward for the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó AMR 23/004/2005
23/03/2005 Turkey: Concerns about new Penal Code should be addressed EUR 44/011/2005
22/03/2005 Serbia and Montenegro: A wasted year. The continuing failure to fulfil key human rights commitments made to the Council of Europe EUR 70/005/2005
22/03/2005 Council of Europe: Last chance to advance the rights of trafficked people IOR 41/015/2005
20/03/2005 UK: The Inquiries Bill - the Wrong Answer EUR 45/008/2005
21/03/2005 Amnesty International welcomes UN Secretary-General’s bold steps to strengthen human rights in major new report IOR 41/014/2005
18/03/2005 Cuba: Prisoners of conscience: 71 longing for freedom AMR 25/002/2005
18/03/2005 2005 UN Commission on Human Rights: Information for journalists IOR 41/014/2005
18/03/2005 Cote d’Ivoire: Stop the use of child soldiers AFR 31/003/2005
17/03/2005 Somalia: Urgent need for effective human rights protection under the new transitional government AFR 52/001/2005
17/03/2005 Kosovo/Kosova (Serbia and Montenegro): The March Violence - One year on EUR 70/006/2005
17/03/2005 China: Rebiya Kadeer release welcome, but tactically timed ASA 17/010/2005
17/03/2005 Sudan: Proposal against ICC role in Darfur undermines justice for victims AFR 54/030/2005
16/03/2005 Zimbabwe: Free participation in election process impossible AFR 46/004/2005
Croatia: Impunity for war crimes must end EUR 49/003/2005
OAS: Election of the Secretary General - where are the commitments and proposals? MDE 22/001/2005
Zimbabwe: An assessment of human rights violations in the run-up to the March 2005 parliamentary elections AFR 46/003/2005
Open letter to the candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Organization of American States IOR 62/001/2005
Ecuador: Threats and violence against government critics increases AMR 28/006/2005
Brazil: Continuing the fight against torture will break the cycle of violence MDE 23/002/2005
Myanmar: Time for justice as human rights defender spends 75th birthday in prison ASA 16/015/2005

Children

Nigeria. An orphanage has been closed down and its owner, a female pastor, arrested after allegations that it was at the heart of a baby-selling scam reports the BBC, 14 March: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4346873.stm

UAE. A new law will crack down on the trafficking of Asian boys - some as young as four - for camel jockeys, a practice which has been internationally condemned as a form of slavery. Indian Express, 15 March http://www.indianexpress.com/full_story.php?content_id=66502

Death penalty

China. Lethal injections, carried out in mobile execution vans, may be carried out by doctors, reports the Sunday Times, 20 March. http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1533087,00.html


Malaysia. The country's 50 executioners and floggers are to get a pay rise. Specially selected prison staff will see their bonuses for each stroke they inflict rise by over 300%. BBC, 23 March. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4374263.stm

USA. Derrick Jamison, a prisoner under sentence of death in Ohio, has had all charges against him dismissed and been released from prison after prosecutors elected not to retry him for the crime for which he was sentenced to death. Jamison, whose conviction was overturned in 2002 following evidence that the prosecution at his trial had withheld critical eyewitness statements and other evidence, become the 119th person to be freed from death row since 1973 and the first to be exonerated in 2005. Death Penalty Information Center, 14 March. http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1372&scid=64

Female Genital Mutilation

Netherlands. The Dutch Health Minister, Hans Hoogervorst, promised to raise the issue of female circumcision in the Cabinet again following a call to implement regular examinations of school children in a bid to stamp out the practice. See Expatica (23 March): http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=19&story_id=18353

Sierra Leone. Female genital mutilation is a vote winner in Sierra Leone, reports the UN news agency IRIN (17 March): http://www.afrol.com/articles/15927. See also the IRIN report on 23 March, suggesting that girls as young as five may be learning the practice of genital cutting from older women. See http://allafrica.com/stories/200503230074.html
HIV/AIDS

China. The province of Yunnan has introduced regulations requiring staff in the hotel and allied industries to take HIV tests annually. See the AP report (22 March) at: http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=603890


Libya. Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi has said that he will not pardon five Bulgarian nurses facing the death penalty for allegedly injecting children with the HIV virus, reports the BBC, 23 March http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4376551.stm

UK. An asylum seeker who infected three women with HIV by having unprotected sex, knowing he had the virus, has lost his appeal against conviction. BBC 17 March http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tees/4357275.stm

Human rights

Rwanda. Vincent Rutaganira, a local official who pleaded guilty to involvement in the 1994 genocide, has been found guilty of crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and jailed for six years, the shortest sentence handed down so far. BBC 14 March. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4347961.stm

Military, security or police technologies

USA. An 18-year-old man was shocked twice with a taser in a hospital in Orlando, Florida after he refused to give a urine sample in connection with alleged cocaine use. See the AP report (9 March) at Kansascity.com http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/11094085.htm

Prisoners

Afghanistan. Two Afghan prisoners who died in American custody in Afghanistan in December 2002 were chained to the ceiling, and kicked and beaten by American soldiers in sustained assaults that caused their deaths, according to Army criminal investigative reports that have not yet been made public. *New York Times*, 12 March http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/12/politics/12detain.html

India. Human rights activists say two reported custodial deaths in Delhi in the past month demonstrate that the city's police have been transformed into an "insensitive force unaccountable to anyone." newkarala, 20 March http://news.newkerala.com/india-news/?action=fullnews&id=88272

USA. A top Navy psychologist's report to his superior in December 2002 that interrogators at Guantánamo Bay were starting to use "abusive techniques" on detainees outraged top navy officials so much that they considered removing navy interrogators from the operation, according to a report delivered to Congress on March 7 by Vice Admiral Albert Church. The report has not been made public. *International herald Tribune*, 17 March, http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/03/16/news/gitmo.html.

**Right to health**

**UK.** Rejected asylum seekers and illegal immigrants should get HIV treatment free on the NHS like everybody else, to avoid the risk of a further spread of Aids, a Commons select committee said. Guardian, 21 March http://politics.guardian.co.uk/publicservices/story/0,11032,1442349,00.html

**UK.** The British Medical Association has strongly criticised the government's continual reliance on medical staff from developing countries to fill NHS vacancies, saying that taking much needed staff is indefensible. BBC 15 March. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4349545.stm

**Torture**

**Argentina.** In a ceremony outside of the Navy School of Mechanics -- a torture centre during the 1976-1983 dictatorship -- President Néstor Kirchner apologised in the name of the state for the silence that has surrounded the atrocities committed during the military period reports Inter Press Service Newsagency (undated; posted 22 March); http://ipsnews.net/print.asp?idnews=23023

**USA.** A British ex-diplomat continues to allege that detainees in the "war on terror" are sent by the US authorities to Uzbekistan where they are at risk of torture. See the Boston Globe (24 March) http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2005/03/24/us_handling_of_terror_suspects_questioned/

**United Nations.** Speaking at the UN Commission on Human Rights, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger said "Nobody is above the law" and that the ban on torture and other forms of mistreatment was absolute. *Daily Star* 18 March http://www.thedailystar.net/2005/03/18/d503184313123.htm

**Violence against women**

**Germany.** Police have arrested the three brothers of a 23-year-old Turkish woman who died of bullet wounds to her head and chest in what police believe is the latest in a series of "honour killings" that have taken place in Berlin in recent months. BBC, 14 March http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4345459.stm

Iraq. The *Sunday Times* (London, 20 March) reports on the killing of women in Iraq for reasons of real or presumed political connection, or dress. http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1533563,00.html

**Publications**


http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol365/iss9464/full/llan.365.9464.early_online_publication.32625.1


Thornicroft Graham, Diana Rose. Mental health in Europe. New action plan will help improve care, especially in eastern Europe BMJ 2005;330:613-614 (19 March)
http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7492/613


Waller, Douglas: Psychological torture? How far should mental health experts go in aiding coercive interrogation techniques. Time, 28 March
http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1039751,00.html

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