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Amnesty International reports & statements

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

09/09/2005 [UN: Governments must overcome obstacles and agree to adopt strong human rights provisions...](#) IOR 41/058/2005

08/09/2005 [China: Harassment and detention of Rebiya Kadeer's family and associates.](#) ASA 17/030/2005

08/09/2005 [Respect for human rights the only way to security.](#) POL 30/029/2005

07/09/2005 [Chad-Cameroon pipeline: New report accuses oil companies and governments of secretly contracting out of HR.](#) POL 30/028/2005

07/09/2005 [Myanmar: Tens of thousands facing forced labour, beatings and theft.](#) ASA 16/024/2005

07/09/2005 [Tunisia: Intimidation of the Tunisian League for Human Rights must stop.](#) MDE 30/015/2005

06/09/2005 [India: EU-India summit: EU should press India to abolish the death penalty.](#) ASA 20/033/2005

06/09/2005 [USA: Ensure the safety of victims of Hurricane Katrina.](#) AMR 51/140/2005

05/09/2005 [Small number of countries holding UN world summit hostage on human rights, security, poverty.](#) IOR 41/057/2005

02/09/2005 [EU-China summit: EU must continue pressing for real progress on human rights in China.](#) ASA 17/026/2005

02/09/2005 [Iraq: First judicial executions in post Saddam Hussain era "a deeply retrograde step".](#) MDE 14/031/2005

02/09/2005 [Kyrgyzstan: Uzbekistan in Pursuit of Refugees in Kyrgyzstan: A Follow-up Report.](#) EUR 58/017/2005

02/09/2005 [Russia: Former Guantánamo detainees released by Russian authorities.](#) EUR 46/035/2005

02/09/2005 [Tunisia: In total disregard for the spirit of the WSIS, restrictions on judges and journalists reinforced](#). MDE 30/014/2005

01/09/2005 [Chad-Cameroon pipeline: Oil companies and governments secretly contracting out of human rights](#). POL 30/027/2005

01/09/2005 [Colombia: The Paramilitaries in Medellín: Demobilization or Legalization? Facts and Figures](#). AMR 23/028/2005

01/09/2005 [Egypt: New president should commit to end torture](#). MDE 12/031/2005

01/09/2005 [Syria: Drop all charges against Hasan Zeino, Yassin al-Hamwi and Muhammad 'Ali al-'Abdullah](#). MDE 24/078/2005

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

Asylum seekers/refugees

The number of asylum applications in industrialized countries has continued to fall during the first half of 2005, maintaining the sharp downward trend that began in 2002, according to the latest figures released on 6 September by UNHCR. See:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/UNHCR/244401e2f2c8b16e4bf784ca36a58dc9.htm>. The UNHCR report is available at: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/template?page=publ&src=static/gr2004/gr2004toc.htm>

Children

South Africa. The traditional annual reed dance ceremony celebrating virginity takes place in the wake of controversy surrounding the soon-to-be-outlawed testing of virgins reports IRIN (8 September). The Children's Bill was approved by parliament in July 2005 and, if passed by the National Council of Provinces, the legislation will impose an outright ban on the custom. See:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/46982a89df87535eede7ed392095837b.htm>

Death Penalty

Iraq. Three convicted murderers have been executed, the first use of the death penalty since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. BBC, 1 Sept

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4204910.stm

Taiwan. President Chen Shui-bian has promised to abolish death penalty in Taiwan reports Webindia, 7 Sept. http://news.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=114053&n_date=20050907&cat=Asia

USA. A US federal appeals court has declined to block the extradition to Thailand of a US citizen who faces the death penalty there for drug smuggling. *Washington Post.*, 31 August

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/31/AR2005083101901.html>

USA. Texas prepares to execute Frances Newton who would be the first black woman executed in the state since the Civil War. DPIC. 26 August

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1545&scid=64>

HIV/AIDS

Brazil. The Brazilian authorities' support for inclusion of sex workers in the fight against HIV has led to loss of US funding reports the *Lancet*, 9 September. See: Hinchberger B. Support for sex workers leaves Brazil without US cash. *Lancet* 2005; 366:883-4.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605673011/fulltext>

China. Specialists, who can be domestic or overseas residents, are wanted and will be sent to an area hit hard by the deadly virus in Southwest China's Sichuan Province. The recruitment is co-sponsored by Chinese authorities and Merck Sharp & Dohme. *China Daily*. 1 September.
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-08/31/content_473667.htm

Uganda. Health and Aids campaigners in Uganda are threatening legal action against the government unless it releases 30m condoms which they say are in storage reports the BBC, 2 September,
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4208972.stm>

Uganda. The UN's special envoy on fighting Aids in Africa has accused the USA of endangering the gains Uganda has made in containing the disease. BBC, 30 August,
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4195968.stm>

Human rights

Kenya. The Government should set up a truth and reconciliation commission to probe unresolved murders and individuals accused of looting public coffers, the Catholic Church has said reports allAfrica.com, 28 August: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200508280031.html>

Mental Health

Australia. Mental health services in Australia are overwhelmingly under-resourced and many people are unable to access even basic public sector mental health care, according to the September issue of the *Australian Nursing Journal*. See the press release from the Australian Nursing Federation at http://www.anf.org.au/news_media/Media_2005/news_press_050901.html. (See also the ANF paper at http://www.anf.org.au/pdf_anj/anj_feature_0509.pdf)

Prisoners

USA/Cuba. Scores of detainees at the US prison camp at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba have begun a hunger strike, human rights lawyers have said according to the BBC, 2 September,
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4206908.stm>

Right to health

Africa. TB has been declared an emergency in Africa after 46 Ministers of Health unanimously adopted a resolution at the WHO Africa Regional Committee in Maputo, Mozambique, on 25 August 2005. For further details see: http://www.who.int/entity/tb/features_archive/tb_emergency_declaration/en/index.html. See also the BBC report, 25 August <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4182990.stm>.

Ukraine. It is 20 years since the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. See the WHO press release marking the anniversary at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/pr38/en/index.html>. (See also: Susan Mayor. Health consequences after Chernobyl disaster are less than feared. *BMJ* 2005;331:534 (10 September), <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/331/7516/534-b>)

Torture

Papua New Guinea. The government must act to stop the police from engaging in brutal beatings, rape and torture of arrestees, many of who are children, Human Rights Watch said in a new report. HRW, 1

September. See: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/08/31/png11659.htm> see also: the BBC report, 1 September <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4203506.stm>

UK. Handcuffs bearing the words 'Made in England', used to restrain Britons at Camp X-Ray, prompt protest by human rights activists, reports the *Guardian* (9 September): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/guantanamo/story/0,13743,1565811,00.html>

Yemen. A Yemeni court started the trial in absentia of three security members accused of having tortured a bombing suspect to death in south Yemen according to UPI. See *M&C News*, 5 September. http://news.monstersandcritics.com/middleeast/article_1046040.php/Yemen_policemen_tried_for_torture_death

Violence against women

China has for the first time outlawed sexual harassment and domestic violence, according to the *BBC*, 28 August <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4192672.stm>

India. It took more than five days for the police to realise the gravity of the situation after four women were paraded half naked, molested and tortured at Gunsvel village of Bardoli taluka reports the *Times of India*, 5 September <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1221238.cms>

Meetings

International Congress: "20 years of living with Chernobyl: experience and lessons for the future", March 9-12, 2006, Feldkirch, Austria. The program can be downloaded at: http://www.chernobyl.info/resources/resource_en_75.pdf.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Symposium
24-25 September 2005 in Edmonton Alberta, Canada.
The registration form may be obtained from <http://www.emcn.ab.ca> or <http://www.cmha-edmonton.ab.ca>.
For more information contact: Steven Leard, Phone: +1 780 414 1663 or email: steven@marketwhys.ca

Vacancies

London: Researcher / Training Coordinator.
The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, based in London, is looking for a researcher/training coordinator. Further details can be found on: <http://www.business-humanrights.org>. e-mail: contact@business-humanrights.org.

Publications

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Editorial. Court takes over California's prison health system. *Lancet*, Vol 366, No 9488, 3 September 2005.
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<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/331/7515/474-b>

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