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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 17/050/2005
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
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 Iraq: First judicial executions in post Saddam Hussain era “a deeply retrograde step”. MDE 14/031/2005
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:

### 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/46982a89df87535eeede7ed392095837b.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

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.

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.bmjjournals.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
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


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


Carta MG et al. Migration and mental health in Europe (The state of the mental health in Europe working group: appendix 1)


http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/331/7516/534-c


http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=170101201


http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605671991/fulltext


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