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Amnesty International reports & statements

AI news releases are available here: http://news.amnesty.org/
New AI reports are available here: http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/reports

Asylum seekers/refugees

Netherlands. The Netherlands supplies information about asylum-seekers to their countries of origin, claims a former deportation official interviewed by Radio Netherlands (21 October); the Dutch Immigration and Integration Minister has denied that such data was ever provided.

Children

http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/10/07/safric11838.htm

USA. There are at least 2,225 child offenders serving life without parole sentences in U.S prisons for crimes committed before they were age 18, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said in a new joint report. 12 October
Visit: http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/usa/clwop/index.html or
http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/10/12/usdom11835.htm

Death Penalty
USA. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has sent Johnny Paul Penry's case back for re-sentencing after jurors were found not to have considered adequately his mental impairment; this marks the third time that Penry's death sentence has been overturned during the past 16 years. DPIC Oct 6 http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1578&scid=64

HIV/AIDS

Funding. Donors increasingly prefer to fund NGOs rather than African governments, many of which are seen as corrupt, reports Reuters Alertnet (14 October). But because the NGOs number in the thousands, it is unclear how much money they have received or how it was used. See: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L13224875.htm

Russia. Stigma and discrimination are on the agenda of the international conference “HIV/AIDS and Human Rights” currently being held at the Tavrichesky Palace in St Petersburg, reports the St Petersburg Times (21 October): http://www.sptimes.ru/story/15874.

Human rights


China. Chinese activist Lu Banglie has been speaking of his beating by unidentified men as he tried to visit a village at the centre of a corruption dispute. BBC 11 Oct http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4329396.stm

China. There has been "no improvement" in human rights in China over the past year as the government tightened controls on religion, speech, media and assembly, a US commission said. Manorama Online 12 Oct http://www.manoramaonline.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=manorama/MmArticle/CommonFullStory&cid=1129034426944&c=MmArticle&p=1002194839100&count=10&colid=1002258272837&channel=News

Israel/Palestine authority. A United Nations envoy has accused Israel of creating conditions in the Palestinian territories that obstruct the work of human rights workers and put them at "grave risk". She also accused the Palestinian Authority of "serious violations" against human rights workers. Reuters 12 Oct http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L12258521.htm

Myanmar/Burma. The United Nations Security Council should urgently consider the human rights and political situation in Burma in order to address widespread and systematic abuse of human rights by the military government, Human Rights Watch said. HRW 14 Oct http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/10/14/burma11873.htm

UN. Proposed anti-terror laws in the United Kingdom could undermine human rights, United States military commissions on terror suspects violate the right to a fair trial, and Iraq’s special tribunal breaks international standards and should be replaced by a United Nations-backed independent court, a new report by Leandro Despouy, a UN special rapporteur says. UN News Centre 11 October. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=16155&Cr=terror&Cr1=

Mental Health

Prisoners

Morocco/Western Sahara. Thirty-two Western Saharan prisoners have resumed a hunger strike in protest at alleged mistreatment by Moroccan authorities, just three weeks after suspending their fast reports Al-Jazeera (20 October). http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/5EE6B501-2D56-4EEB-BD75-DF1BE753B43D.htm

USA. A jury has rejected a civil lawsuit brought by Roderick Keith Johnson, a gay former Texas prisoner who was repeatedly raped and sold as a sex slave by prison gangs. The lawsuit sought damages from six prison officials for ignoring Johnson’s pleas for help and refusing to protect him from repeated sexual assault, says the ACLU in a press release (18 October). http://www.aclu.org/Prisons/Prisons.cfm?ID=19278&c=26

Right to health

UN. The report of Paul Hunt, special rapporteur on the right to health, is now available online in official UN languages at: http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/informal/60/documents.htm

Torture

UK. The Law Lords are to decide whether Britain can use evidence against terror suspects that may have been obtained by torture in other countries reports the BBC (17 October) http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/4347694.stm


Study opportunities

Oak Fellowship in Human Rights & Environment.

Nominations and applications should be sent to: Kenneth A. Rodman, Director or Kate O’Halloran, Associate Director, Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights. Colby College, Waterville ME 04901, USA. Email: oakhr@colby.edu, Phone: +1 207-859-5310, Fax: +1 207-859-5229 no later than January 13, 2006. More information, including application, is available on the Institute’s website at: http://www.colby.edu/oak

Publications


http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/331/7521/913


http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/331/7521/855


Janice Hopkins Tanne. Muslim chaplain speaks out over Guantanamo hunger strike. *BMJ* 2005;331:866 (15 October)
http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/331/7521/866

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