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Amnesty International reports and statements

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

21/10/2004 Africa Human Rights Day: African governments must demonstrate their commitment to human rights AFR 01/014/2004
20/10/2004 Belarus: Opposition cannot be stifled EUR 49/021/2004
19/10/2004 Haiti: Illegal and arbitrary arrests continue -- Human rights hampered amid political violence AMR 36/056/2004
18/10/2004 Conflict Diamonds: Jewellers keeping consumers in the dark POL 30/038/2004
15/10/2004 Libya: Concerns for health of prisoners of conscience MDE 19/018/2004
15/10/2004 Zimbabwe: Violations of the right to food AFR 46/029/2004
08/10/2004 Afghanistan: Election pains point to ailing state ASA 11/014/2004
08/10/2004 Haiti: Unbridled violence must end AMR 36/054/2004
08/10/2004 Iraq: Condemnation of beheading MDE 14/051/2004
08/10/2004 Jamaica: Military must cooperate in investigation of killings AMR 38/014/2004

Children
Malaysia. A 14-year-old boy was held captive and used as a guinea pig by a doctor in his experiments to discover new cures. The 52-year-old doctor, who practices traditional medicine, and four of his accomplices were arrested. The Star, 18 Oct

Death penalty

Philippines. In a statement on 11 October, the Catholic bishops of the Philippines renewed their appeal to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to abolish the death penalty, asking the government to suspend all executions and impose alternate sentences. CWN, 12 Oct

USA. A deeply divided U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has ruled 8-7 that the execution of Tennessee death row inmate, Paul Gregory House, may move forward despite the fact that nearly half of the judges believe he is not guilty and should be freed immediately. Recent retesting of DNA evidence in the case found that semen originally thought to have come from House, who was convicted of raping and murdering Carolyn Muncey in 1985, actually came from Muncey's husband, Hubert. Death Penalty Information Centre, 11 Oct,
http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1180&scid=64

USA. Following a call from the Houston Police Chief and from state legislators to halt executions in cases from Harris County, where the police crime lab has been plagued with errors in DNA testing and preservation of evidence, four of the state's largest newspapers have published editorials in support of a moratorium on executions. Death Penalty Information Centre, 13 Oct
http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1183&scid=64

Vietnam. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai has instructed the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, among others, to consider alternative methods for carrying out the death penalty. Currently executions in Vietnam are carried out by firing squad. China view 20 Oct

Female genital mutilation

Kenya. Delegates at an international conference on female genital mutilation have urged African states where the practice is common to adopt political, legal and social measures to eliminate the tradition. IRIN News 20 Oct

HIV/AIDS

China. The AIDS Prevention and Treatment Institute of the Guandong Provincial Centre for Disease Control has started offering free and confidential HIV blood tests in an effort to tackle the spread of the disease in the province. China daily, 11 Oct
http://www.chinadaily.co.m.cn/english/doc/2004-10/10/content_381129.htm

China. As part of a government campaign to extend condom use to at least 50% of the country's high-risk population, 1,000 new condom vending machines are to be installed in Beijing's hotels, bars, university campuses and on construction sites. 1,700 existing machines are to be repaired. Yahoo News 10 Oct

Northern Ireland. Fr Kieran Creagh, a priest from Northern Ireland who volunteered to be injected with a trial HIV/AIDS vaccine to help people suffering from HIV/AIDS in South Africa where he works with HIV/AIDS patients, has been awarded the Irish International Person of
the Year at a ceremony in Dublin. BBC 11 Oct  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/3733178.stm

Worldwide. A global survey of more than 350,000 people in 41 countries has found that more than a third have had unprotected sex without knowing their partner's sexual history. Durex Global Sex Survey  
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=3599872&thesection=news&thesubsection=general

Organ trade

Turkey. Turkey's new penal code, approved by President Ahmet Necdet Sezer on 11 October, includes heavy jail terms for the trade in human organs, among other things. EU Business, 11 Oct, http://www.eubusiness.com/afp/041011160038.i317821y

USA. A hospital in Denver has allowed the transplant of a kidney to go ahead between two men who met through an online donor site after the two men offered assurances that the kidney had not been bought. BBC, 20 Oct,  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/3758392.stm

Prisoners

UK. Foreign terror suspects being held without charge under anti-terrorist laws are severely depressed and often suicidal, according to doctors who have examined them. Reuters, 13 Oct,  
http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=602576&section=news

USA. At least 11 al-Qaeda suspects have "disappeared" in U.S. custody, Human Rights Watch said on 12 October. According to the report, U.S. officials are holding the detainees in undisclosed locations, where some have reportedly been tortured. HRW 12 Oct  
http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/10/12/usint9463.htm  

Right to health

Africa/Asia. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative - the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF - has begun polio immunization campaigns across Asia and Africa to immunize more than 300 million children.  
http://www.polioeradication.org/content/pressreleases/globalpoliocampaignsupdate15October2004.pdf

UK. Just weeks before an inquiry is due to report on the issue, UK experts have said that the causes of “Gulf war syndrome” are still not known and probably never will be. Some 6,000 veterans have suffered unexplained poor health since the 1991 war, including depression and tumours. BBC, 18 Oct, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3753132.stm

UN. Eighty-five heads of state and government have signed a statement endorsing a U.N. plan adopted 10 years ago to ensure every woman's right to education, health care, and to make choices about childbearing.  
http://www.duluthsuperior.com/ml/duluthsuperior/9910587.htm

USA. According to a new survey, veterans with Gulf War syndrome appear to have subtle damage to the involuntary part of the nervous system, likely caused by low-level exposure to the chemical warfare agent sarin. Yahoo News 20 Oct
WHO. The first Global Day Against Pain took place on 11 October. Organised by the International Association on the Study of Pain (ISPS) and the European Federation of the IASP Chapters, the campaign seeks to draw global attention to the urgent need for better pain relief for sufferers from diseases such as cancer and AIDS and asks for recognition that pain relief is integral to the right to the highest attainable level of physical and mental health. WHO news release 11 Oct http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2004/pr70/en/

Torture


Uganda. In its 6th annual report, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) has lauded the army for improving its observation of human rights, but said cases of torture still persisted in detention centres and that it will continue to put pressure on the government to eliminate torture.

UK. The former British ambassador to Uzbekistan, Craig Murray, has been suspended from his post after complaining to his superiors that the British intelligence agency, M16, was using information passed on to it by the CIA which was originally obtained in Uzbekistan under torture. Scotsman.com 17 Oct http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3636539


US/Guantánamo. Dozens of terrorism suspects are being considered for possible release while many others are being transferred to jails in other countries where torture is common. MSNBC News 10 Oct. http://msnbc.msn.com/id/6221816/

Publications


Crime and (age-appropriate) punishment (Editorial), the Lancet Volume 364, Number 9444, 23 October 2004

Owen Dyer. Infectious diseases increase in Iraq as public health service deteriorates. BMJ 2004;329:940 (23 October) http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7472/940-a

Ganapati Mudur. Indian doctors debate incentives for organ donors. BMJ 2004;329:938 (23 October) http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7472/938-d

Jeanne Lenzer. World Medical Association amends its policy on doctors' duty during armed conflict. BMJ 2004;329:878 (16 October)  
http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/extract/329/7471/878-b

http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-698X/4/4


http://jme.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/abstract/30/5/487


Summerfield. D. Palestine: the assault on health and other war crimes. BMJ 2004;329:924 (16 October)  
http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7471/924

http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7472/982

http://www.ete-online.com/content/pdf/1742-7622-1-5.pdf

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