Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

Summary

AI reports & statements
Death penalty
HIV/AIDS
Human rights
Mental health
Organ trade
Prisoners
Right to health
Torture
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

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

03/11/2004 Reservations to CERD- Weakening the protection of women from violence in the Middle East and North Africa region IOR 51/009/2004
02/11/2004 Amnesty International: Open Letter to EU Heads of State and Government (Summary) EUR 01/007/2004
02/11/2004 Open Letter: On the occasion of the EU Summit 4-5 November 2004... EUR 01/006/2004
25/10/2004 Israel/Occupied Territories: Israeli settlers wage campaign of intimidation on Palestinians and internationals alike MDE 15/099/2004
18/10/2004 Déjà Vu : diamond industry still failing to deliver on promises : Summary .... POL 34/008/2004
15/10/2004 Serbia: Official silence greets homophobic poster campaign EUR 70/023/2004

Death penalty

Iran. A legislative bill opposing the death penalty and flogging for offenders under the age of 18 is expected to be approved by parliament, according to Turkish Press, 26 Oct
Libya. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has called again for the death penalty to be banned in his country, where six foreign health professionals are currently under sentence of death for infecting hundreds of children with HIV/AIDS. Gaddafi said he has previously made similar pleas to the country's top executive and legislative body, but it had so far refused to accept them. Reuters, 2 Nov, http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=N0PCDUCJOSKDUCRBAEKSFFA?type=topNews&storyID=6686455

Poland. Polish lawmakers have narrowly voted against reintroducing the death penalty following a series of killings. President Aleksander Kwasniewski had threatened to veto the proposal if lawmakers chose to bring back capital punishment seven years after the country abolished it to meet European Union human rights standards. ABC News, 22 Oct, http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=189397

USA. 450 attorneys participating in the Conference of Delegates of the California Bar Association have urged state lawmakers and Governor Schwarzenegger to impose a two-year moratorium on executions and to create an independent committee focusing on race, the reliability of convictions and whether the condemned received adequate legal representation. It also requested an inquiry into the financial cost of capital punishment and whether capital punishment is imposed too often. Death Penalty Information Center, 25 Oct, http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1191&scid=64

HIV/AIDS

India. A woman in Orissa was allegedly burnt to death by her in-laws because they feared that she had been infected with the AIDS virus from her husband who died six months ago. Indo-Asian News Service 26 Oct, http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/7242_1074583,00180008.htm

South Korea. Concerns have been raised that the country's immigration law which bars foreigners infected with AIDS from entering the country and provides for the deportation of resident foreigners who have AIDS, is a violation of human rights, forcing many to hide their condition. Chosun Ilbo, 24 Oct, http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200410/200410240003.html

UK. An Aids-like virus has been found in African hunters who have eaten ape meat which is being sold illegally in the UK. BBC, 26 Oct, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/file_on_4/3954183.stm


Human rights

UN/Sudan. A United Nations human rights expert has said that it was likely that numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed during the conflict in Darfur. UN News Centre 29 Oct, http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=12390&Cr=sudan&Cr1=

UK. Courtney Angelica Brkic, an American forensic archaeologist of Croatian origin, who helped uncover mass graves at the site of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in the former Yugoslavia, has told the BBC of her harrowing experiences. BBC, 2 Nov http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3975599.stm

Mental Health

USA. Some 250,000 US Americans with mental illness live in prisons, the nation's primary supplier of mental-health services, reports the New York Times Magazine report (31 October) www.nytimes.com/2004/10/31/magazine/31PRISONER.html

Organ trade

USA. In the wake of a growing national transplant waiting list, experts are concerned that many patients are turning to websites, including commercial websites, which advertise for organ donors. CNN, 25 Oct, http://www.cnn.com/2004/HEALTH/10/25/organs.from.strangers.ap/index.html

Prisoners

Canada. Advocacy groups have called on the nation's prisons to immediately adopt needle exchange programs as a result of the alarming prevalence of HIV and hepatitis C infection among inmates. Winnipeg Sun 28 Oct, http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/WinnipegSun/News/2004/10/28/688259.html

Thailand. At least 78 people died in southern Thailand after being arrested and loaded into army trucks after clashes with security forces. Officials said almost all the dead suffocated as they were taken to an army barracks several hours away. BBC, 25 Oct, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3954587.stm

USA. A US judge has ruled that a Canadian teenager held in Guantánamo Bay does not have the right to a medical or psychiatric evaluation to determine if he is fit to help with his defence. BMJ, 6 Nov, http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7474/1066-a?ck=nck

Right to health

Iraq. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the international humanitarian organisation, is closing its mission in Iraq due to the escalating risks towards international aid workers in the country. MSF, 4 Nov, http://www.msf.org/content/page.cfm?articleid=E5EC6A97-3036-4146-8195C52B16C4FD18

New Zealand. A wheelchair-bound brain damaged Christchurch man has been sent back to prison for cultivating cannabis which he claimed was for pain relief. N Z Herald 3 Nov http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=3606315&thesection=news&thesubsection=general

Sudan. A United Nations World Food Program report says that more than a fifth of children in Darfur are malnourished and nearly half of all families do not have enough food. The report says that a "basic minimum health package, including adequate supplies of clean water and
medicine, should accompany food and nutritional aid."

USA. A US federal judge has ordered the Department of Defense to halt compulsory anthrax vaccination of soldiers, saying that the Food and Drug Administration violated its own rules by failing to seek public comment before approving the vaccine. The ruling came in the case of six military personnel who claimed that the vaccine's approval had not met legal requirements and was therefore an investigational drug requiring informed consent. BMJ, 6 November, http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7474/1062-a?ck=nck

USA. The US health care system falls short of international standards for the right to health, according to a new report. Center for Economic and Social Rights, 29 Oct, http://cesr.org/ushealthright

Torture

Argentina. A report by a government committee set up a year ago to combat torture in the Argentine province of Buenos Aires has revealed an appalling number of abuses committed in local prisons and police stations. Inter Press Service New Agency, 2 Nov http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/interna.asp?idnews=26108

UK. In a ruling which has been hailed by civil rights lawyers as a historic victory, the Court of Appeal has ruled that torturers in foreign countries can be sued for damages in the English courts. Guardian, 29 Oct, http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1338491,00.html

Publications

Abbasi, Kamran. Should journals mix medicine and politics? BMJ 2004;329 (6 November)http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7474/0-q
Brettingham M. Prisoners held under England's antiterrorism legislation face psychological damage. BMJ 2004;329:940 http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7472/940
Dayan, Joan. Cruel and unusual: The end of the Eighth Amendment, Boston Review (Oct/Nov)http://bostonreview.net/BR29.5/dayan.html
Eaton Lynn. BMA says scientists should take part in bioterrorism debate. BMJ 2004;329:993 (30 October)http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7473/993-a
Fellerman Simon M. Palestinian health: the truth, the lies, and the statistics. BMJ 2004;329:1110 (6 November) http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7474/1110?ck=nck
Fost N. Reconsidering the dead donor rule: is it important that organ donors be dead? Kennedy Inst Ethics J. 2004 Sep;14(3):249-60


Mayor Susan. AMA calls for inquiry into doctors' role in abuse of prisoners. BMJ 2004;329:993 (30 October). http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7473/993


====================================================================

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to medical@amnesty.org

---------------------

Health and Human Rights Team
Amnesty International - International Secretariat
Tel: +44 20 7413 5522
Fax: +44 20 7956 1157
AI web-site: http://www.amnesty.org/
AI Health Professional web-site: http://www.amnesty.org/health