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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Summary

**AI reports & statements:** Lebanon / Myanmar / People's Republic of China

**Further news:** CPT reports / FGM / Indonesia, Timor Leste: crimes against humanity / Iraq: 'Experts to Investigate Human Rights Consequences of War in Iraq / Iraq: end to amputations for deserters / Somalia: surgery on the front line / UK: Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture / Rwanda: opening of rehabilitation centres / South Asia: 'second largest HIV/AIDS affected region' / USA: foreign human rights violators / USA/Guantanamo: attempted suicides / USA/Mexico: death penalty / Zambia: HRW report: abuse & HIV

### Publications

### Amnesty International reports & statements

*Lebanon: excessive force and torture by security forces must be investigated.* 30 January (MDE 18/004/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/MDE180042003>

*Myanmar: Invitation to a press conference.* 5 February (ASA 16/004/2002).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/ASA160042003>

Also see: *Guardian*, 'Amnesty allowed to visit Burma' (30 January):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,884893,00.html>

*People's Republic of China: no justice for the victims of the 1997 crackdown in Gulja (Yining).* 4 February (ASA 17/011/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/ASA170112003>

This is a small selection of Amnesty International reports and statements. For a comprehensive overview, please check Amnesty International's website:

<http://www.amnesty.org/>

### Further news

**CPT reports.** See below links to reports by the *Committee for the Prevention of Torture* on Turkey and Italy, including government responses:

Turkey (24 January):

News flash: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20030124en.htm>

Report: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2002-08en.htm>

Government's response: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2003-13en.htm> government's response

Italy (29 January):

Press release on 2000 visit: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20030129en.htm>

Report (in French): <http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/rapports/inf2003-16fr.htm>

Government response: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/rapports/inf2003-17fr.htm>

Report on 1996 visit (in French): <http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/rapports/inf2003-14fr.htm>

The Government response is only available in paper form from the CPT.

**FGM.** The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children met from 4-6 February in Addis Ababa for a conference entitled "Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation". See:

*BBC* (6 February) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/2732561.stm> (6 February).

*CNN* (6 February): <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/africa/02/06/genital.cutting.ap/>

*The Mercury* (6 February):

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?click\\_id=31&art\\_id=vn20030206055358273C775401&set\\_id=1](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?click_id=31&art_id=vn20030206055358273C775401&set_id=1)

*New York Times* (5 February):

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/06/international/africa/06AFRI.html>

Also see the internet site *Afrol News* (27 January) and *IPS* news agency (29 January) for related articles:

[http://www.afrol.com/News2003/index\\_egy001.htm](http://www.afrol.com/News2003/index_egy001.htm) (Egypt)

<http://ipsnews.net/interna.asp?idnews=15538> (Benin)

**Indonesia/Timor Leste - crimes against humanity.** United Nations investigators have indicted three senior Indonesian officers for crimes against humanity committed in the Maliana district of East Timor in 1999, reports the *Sydney Morning Herald* (5 February).

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/02/04/1044318608294.html>

**Iraq - 'Experts to Investigate Human Rights Consequences of War in Iraq'.** "A team of prominent research experts is in Baghdad as part of an emergency mission to assess the humanitarian and human rights consequences of war on Iraq. Led by the New York-based Center for Economic and Social Rights [CESR], the mission is investigating the impact military strikes will have on food security and public health for Iraq's 26 million people" (24 January).

<http://193.194.138.190/tbs/doc.nsf/385c2add1632f4a8c12565a9004dc311/40d009901358b0e2c1256915005090be>

Also see:

International Study Team. *Our common responsibility: The impact of a new war on Iraqi children.*

Detailed summary:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/UNID/C5468F6F4D249A4885256CBF006DA95F>

Full report: <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2003/wv-irq-26jan.pdf> (529kb)

(For details of the IST see: [http://www.warchild.ca/news\\_article.asp?ID=57](http://www.warchild.ca/news_article.asp?ID=57) )

Kondro W. Health survey of Iraqi children reveals shocking state of health system. *Lancet* 2003;361: 9356 (8 February).

<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9356/full/lan.361.9356.news.24464.1>

**Iraq - end to amputation for deserters.** *AFP* reported that "The Iraqi government has abolished several penalties, including ear amputation for army deserters, according to a justice ministry spokesman quoted in Sunday's press" (2 February). (No link available)

**Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.** A radio documentary on the work of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture in London (UK) was one of 14 programs awarded honours in the Alfred I. du Pont-Columbia University awards for 2003 for radio and television journalism. Correspondent Michael Goldfarb "painted a searing portrait of the psychological scars of torture" in this radio documentary broadcast originally on WBUR-FM, Boston. The program can be heard at:

<http://insideout.wbur.org/documentaries/torture/>. See the Medical Foundation's press release (5 February) at: <http://www.torturecare.org.uk/news9.htm>

**Right to Water.** The Committee monitoring the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has published "general comment 15" on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant). The text is available at the web-site of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (20 January): [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0ac7e03e4fe8f2bdc125698a0053bf66/a5458d1d1bbd713fc1256cc400389e94/\\$FILE/G0340229.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0ac7e03e4fe8f2bdc125698a0053bf66/a5458d1d1bbd713fc1256cc400389e94/$FILE/G0340229.pdf)

**Rwanda - opening of rehabilitation centres.** Thousands of prisoners who admit to taking part in the genocide will move to rehabilitation centres, the *BBC* reported (31 January). <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/2711749.stm>

**Somalia - surgery on the frontline.** The *BBC* reports on medical services in a "dangerous place" (7 February). <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/2733255.stm>

**South Asia - 'second largest HIV/AIDS affected region'.** South Asia is the most-affected region in the world, after sub-Saharan Africa, in terms of numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS, said UNICEF director Carol Bellamy at a meeting of South Asian governments on AIDS/HIV, held in Kathmandu, Nepal. See the press release (4 February): [http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/press/eng/Kathmandu040203\\_en.html](http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/press/eng/Kathmandu040203_en.html) Also reports in *The Hindu* (4 February): <http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/holnus/03042208.htm> and *The Bangkok Post* (4 February): [http://www.bangkokpost.com/040203\\_News/04Feb2003\\_news35.html](http://www.bangkokpost.com/040203_News/04Feb2003_news35.html)

The *BBC* reported that UN staff stated "South Asia must act now to bring the spread of HIV/AIDS under control" (5 February). [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/2726373.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/2726373.stm)

**USA - foreign human rights violators.** Approximately 800 to 1,000 foreign-born suspected human rights violators are believed to be living in the United States according to the *Miami Herald* (3 February). <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/5091684.htm>.

**USA/Guantanamo - attempted suicides.** The *Miami Herald* and the *BBC* reported several suicide attempts in the past three weeks among the detainees at Guantanamo Bay. <http://www.miami.com/mld/miami/5085954.htm> (2 February) <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/5121669.htm> (6 February) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/2733397.stm> (6 February)

**USA/Mexico - death penalty.** The International Court of Justice has ruled (5 January) in the case of Avena and other Mexican Nationals (Mexico v. United States of America) that the United States must stay the executions of three Mexicans under sentence of death in Texas and Oklahoma while the court considers Mexico's complaint that the condemned men's rights were violated.

Court statement: [http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idocket/imus/imusorder/imus\\_iorder\\_20030205.PDF](http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idocket/imus/imusorder/imus_iorder_20030205.PDF).

Court's press release: [http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/ipresscom/ipress2003/ipresscom2003-09\\_mus\\_20030205.htm](http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/ipresscom/ipress2003/ipresscom2003-09_mus_20030205.htm).

See also:

*Chicago Tribune* (6 February): <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0302060321feb06,1,4736861.story> [free registration required]

*Christian Science Monitor* (7 February): <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0207/p06s02-woam.html>

See another article on foreigners on death row: *BBC*, 'Why Brits care about the death penalty' (29 January): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2703207.stm>

**Zambia - HRW report: abuse & HIV.** Human Rights Watch has published a report, 'Suffering in Silence', which focuses on abuse of girls and the consequent spread of HIV (2002).

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/zambia/>

Also see *BBC* (28 January):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/2700771.stm>

## Publications

American Psychiatric Association et al. *Learning From Each Other: Success Stories and Ideas for Reducing Restraint/Seclusion in Behavioral Health.*

[http://www.psych.org/clin\\_res/learningfromeachother.cfm](http://www.psych.org/clin_res/learningfromeachother.cfm)

See also:

Hausman K. APA Co-Writes Educational Booklet On Seclusion and Restraint. *Psychiatric News* 2003 (7 February): 38 (3): 20. <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/38/3/20-a>

Asling-Monemi K et al. Violence against women increases the risk of infant and child mortality: a case-referent study in Nicaragua. *Bull WHO* 2003; 81:10-16.

[http://www.who.int/bulletin/pdf/2003/bul-1-E-2003/81\(1\)10-18.pdf](http://www.who.int/bulletin/pdf/2003/bul-1-E-2003/81(1)10-18.pdf)

(Also contains a commentary by Butchart and Villaveces following the article)

Buavirat A et al. Risk of prevalent HIV infection associated with incarceration among injecting drug users in Bangkok, Thailand: case-control study. *BMJ* 2003;326:308 (8 February)

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7384/308>.

Center for Reproductive Rights. *Body and Soul: Forced Sterilization and Other Assaults on Roma Reproductive Freedom Roma in Slovakia* (January 2003).

[http://www.crlp.org/pub\\_bo\\_slovakia.html](http://www.crlp.org/pub_bo_slovakia.html)

("Numerous instances [were found] of coerced, forced and suspected sterilization of Romani women, along with physical and verbal abuse, racially discriminatory standards of care, misinformation in health matters, and denial of access to medical records")

Center for Reproductive Rights. *Claiming Our Rights: Surviving Pregnancy and Childbirth in Mali* (2003). [http://www.crlp.org/pub\\_bo\\_mali.html](http://www.crlp.org/pub_bo_mali.html)

("This report approaches maternal mortality as a deprivation of basic human rights. It considers the manner in which laws, policies and pervasive social norms contribute to maternal mortality in Mali ...")

Farmer P, Smith Fawzi MC and Nevil P. Unjust embargo of aid for Haiti. *Lancet* 2003; 361:420-23 (1 February).

[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.editorial\\_and\\_review.24365.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.editorial_and_review.24365.1)

Fitzpatrick M. Bioterrorism alert. *Lancet* 2003 ; 361:9355 (1 February).

[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.dissecting\\_room.24338.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.dissecting_room.24338.1)

Suki Kim. A visit to North Korea. *New York Review of Books* (14 February cover date).<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/16054>

Summerfield D. What is the WMA for? The case of the Israeli Medical Association. *Lancet* 2003; 361: 9355 (1 February).

[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.health\\_and\\_human\\_rigths.24360.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.health_and_human_rigths.24360.1)

Also see responses:

Blachar Y. Israel Medical Association: response to Derek Summerfield. *Lancet* 2003; 361: 9355 (1 February).

[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.health\\_and\\_human\\_rights.24361.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.health_and_human_rights.24361.1)

Human D. World Medical Association: response to Derek Summerfield. *Lancet* 2003; 361: 9355 (1 February).

[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.health\\_and\\_human\\_rights.24411.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9355/full/lan.361.9355.health_and_human_rights.24411.1)

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