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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Summary

**AI reports & statements:** Ireland / Myanmar / Thailand / South Africa / Zimbabwe  
**Further news:** CPT: Turkey visit / France: prison disturbance provokes union critique / Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories: human rights training army doctors; 'lost children of Rafah'; home for people with disabilities / Kenya: fleeing FGM / Mexico: death penalty referendum / Nigeria: anti-FGM laws / Rwanda: doctor and pastor convicted of genocide / Sri Lanka: disappearance investigations / UK (Scotland): detention in mental hospital / UK: midwife reversing FGM / US, UK, Iraq: Minority Rights Group report / USA Guantanamo: held without charge or trial / USA: death penalty cases: various including Jackie Elliot and court decision on medicating prisoner for execution.  
**HIV/AIDS:** Africa: claim that unsafe healthcare spreads HIV / Cuba: low infection rates / Malawi: Minister speaks out about AIDS / Southern Africa: conference: men and AIDS / Uganda: potential AIDS vaccine trials.  
**Conferences/courses:** Gender and Violence, South Africa / University of Copenhagen: Masters Programme in International Health  
**Publications**

### Amnesty International reports & statements

*Ireland. Mental Health: the Neglected Quarter.* Report by the Irish section of Amnesty International (February 2003).  
<http://www.amnesty.ie/>

*Myanmar: Amnesty International welcomes first visit, calls for further improvements.* 10 February (ASA 16/007/2003)  
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/ASA160072003>  
Also see *BBC* (10 February): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/2743549.stm>

*Thailand. Extrajudicial killing is not the way to suppress drug trafficking.* 20 February (ASA 39/001/2003).  
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/ASA390012003>  
Also see *Bangkok Post* (19 February):  
[http://www.bangkokpost.com/190203\\_News/19Feb2003\\_news10.html](http://www.bangkokpost.com/190203_News/19Feb2003_news10.html)

*South Africa: Government should compensate victims of the past and end impunity.* 13 February (AFR 53/002/2003).  
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AFR530022003>

*Zimbabwe: While African Heads of State meet in Paris, human rights violations against members of civil society continue with impunity.* 20 February (AFR 46/003/2003).  
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AFR460032003>

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/>



**Rwanda - doctor and pastor convicted of genocide.** The *Guardian* reported that a pastor, Elizaphan Ntakirutimana (78) and his son, a doctor, were convicted of genocide by the UN war crimes tribunal for Rwanda (20 February).  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,898924,00.html>

**Sri Lanka - disappearance investigations.** The International Committee of the Red Cross has again started investigating disappearances which occurred during the civil war. Approximately 2,000 cases of disappearances have not been resolved yet (*BBC*, 19 February).  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/2781551.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/2781551.stm)

**UK (Scotland) - Detention in mental hospital.** The European Court of Human Rights has ruled in the case brought by an applicant who alleged that he was being wrongly detained in a mental hospital and that he had not been provided with a prompt or adequate review of the continued lawfulness of his detention. He invoked Articles 5 §§ 1 [Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person] and 5 [right to compensation] and 13 [effective remedy] of the Convention on Human Rights. The court ruled that there was no breach of Article 5 § 1 but that there had been a breach of Article 5 § 4 [right to test lawfulness of detention]. The ruling is available by going to <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/hudoc/default.asp?Language=en&Advanced=1> and entering "00050272/99" under "Application number", click on Search and click on the document title retrieved (Case of Hutchison Reid v. the United Kingdom) (20 February). The European Convention is available in English here:  
<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/005.htm> ou, en français, à :  
<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/FR/Treaties/Html/005.htm>

**UK - midwife reversing FGM.** The *BBC* reported on the work of Comfort Momoh, the only midwife in the UK to reverse the most severe form of female genital mutilation (8 February).  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/2736067.stm>

**US/UK/Iraq - Minority Rights Group report.** The report "Building Democracy in Iraq" by the UK-based Minority Rights Group states that US/UK plans for post-war transition could jeopardize democracy (12 February).  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/admin/download/pdf/IraqReport.pdf>

**USA/Guantanamo - held without charge or trial.** The USA government refuses to account for those held without charge or trial at Guantanamo some of whom are acknowledged by the authorities to be "innocent". It is left to unofficial sources to offer public information on certain detainees. For information about Kuwaiti detainees see:  
<http://www.kuwaitidetainees.org/index.html>

#### **USA - death penalty cases**

- **Execution of Jackie Elliot.** The *Observer* reported on the work of British human rights lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, on behalf of death row inmate Jackie Elliot (9 February).  
<http://www.observer.co.uk/comment/story/0,6903,891869,00.html>

- **Medicating prisoner for execution.** A US court has ruled that a mentally ill death row inmate can be forcibly medicated, even if this means that the inmate may be executed as a result.

See *Guardian* (12 February) and the *New York Times* (11 February):  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,893777,00.html>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/11/national/11DEAT.html>

Also see: Gottlieb S. US court rules that insane prisoners can be executed. *BMJ* 2003;326:415 (22 February).

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7386/415>

- **Maryland:** click here for a debate on the death penalty in the *Washington Post* (21 Feb):  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37685-2003Feb20.html>

- **"Killing the death penalty":** see an opinion piece on the death penalty on *The Battalion online* (20 February):

<http://www.thebatt.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2003/02/20/3e548a83be9b6>  
- **Texas: 300th execution:** the *Austin Chronicle* (21 February) reported that the 300th execution since the death penalty was reinstated in 1982 in the USA will take place on 12 March:  
[http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-02-21/pols\\_capitol.html](http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-02-21/pols_capitol.html)

### **HIV/AIDS**

**Africa - claim that unsafe health care spreads HIV.** The UK Royal Society of Medicine issued a press release on the findings of a research project by an international team of specialists which state that the spread of HIV in Africa is closely linked to unsafe health care (20 February).

<http://www.rsm.ac.uk/new/pr126.htm>

Also see *CNN* (20 February):

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/europe/02/20/aids.africa.reut/index.html>

**Cuba - low HIV-infection rate.** The *BBC* reported that the American Cuban AIDS Project stated that "Cuba has a lid on the HIV/AIDS" problem (17 February).

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/sci\\_tech/2003/denver\\_2003/2770631.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/sci_tech/2003/denver_2003/2770631.stm)

**Malawi - minister speaks out about AIDS.** During an HIV/AIDS workshop minister Thengo Maloya revealed that he had lost three children to AIDS (*BBC*, 18 February).

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/2778115.stm>

**Southern Africa - conference: men and HIV/AIDS.** The Regional AIDS Initiative of Southern Africa of Voluntary Services Overseas has held a conference exploring issues of male involvement in the HIV/AIDS pandemic (IRINnews.org, 20 February).

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=32344>

**Uganda - potential AIDS vaccine trials.** The *Guardian* reported that human trials for a potential AIDS vaccine, designed to combat the A strain of HIV, have started (12 February).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,893640,00.html>

Also see: Mayor S. AIDS vaccine trial begins in Uganda. *BMJ* 2003;326:414 (22 February).

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7386/414/c>

### **Conferences/courses**

The Second South African **Conference on Gender and Violence** will be held on 7-9 May 2003 at Indaba Hotel, Gauteng (42 km from Johannesburg International Airport). For information contact Mandy Salomo, Events Organiser, Medical Research Council. Tel: +27 21 938 0433; fax: +27 21 938 0395; e-mail: [mandy.salomo@mrc.ac.za](mailto:mandy.salomo@mrc.ac.za) or visit the conference web-site: <http://www.mrc.ac.za/conference/gender/index.htm>

The **University of Copenhagen** is offering a **Masters Programme in International Health**.

Click here for information: <http://www.pubhealth.ku.dk/mih/mih.html> or contact the Course Co-ordinator Birgitte Grantriis at: tel: +45 35 327634 or e-mail: [b.gantriis@pubhealth.ku.dk](mailto:b.gantriis@pubhealth.ku.dk)

### **Publications**

Annas GJ. The right to health and the Nevirapine case in South Africa. *NEJM* 2003;348:750. Available to NEJM subscribers at: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/348/8/750>

Brook D. A history of hard time [punishment]. *Legal Affairs* Jan/Feb 2003, [http://www.legalaffairs.org/issues/January-February-2003/review\\_brook\\_janfeb2003.html](http://www.legalaffairs.org/issues/January-February-2003/review_brook_janfeb2003.html)

Coid J. Should psychiatrists protect the public? *BMJ* 2003;326:406-407 (22 February). <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7386/406>

Conover T. *Holding the Key: Guarding Sing Sing* (2003).

For a review on journalist Ted Conover's experiences as a prison guard in a New York prison see the (Melbourne) *Age*, 'The disturbing news of the screws' (9 February):  
<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/02/08/1044579981843.html>

Munro R. *Dangerous Minds: Political Psychiatry in China Today and Its Origins in the Mao Era* Human Rights Watch/Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry. For a review by Jonathan Mirsky see *New York Review of Books* (27 February): <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/16082>

Santa Barbara J. Physicians and nuclear disarmament. *CMAJ* 2003; 168:4 (18 February).  
<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/168/4/435>

Sibbald B. MD groups criticizes possible US attack on Iraq. *CMAJ* 2003; 168:4 (18 February).  
<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/168/4/470>

WHO. *Cartoon: Right to Health* (Geneva 2002).  
<http://www.who.int/hhr/news/en/>

WHO. *Ethical choices in Long-Term Care: What Does Justice Require?* (Geneva 2003)  
See UN News Centre:  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=6148&Cr=world&Cr1=health>

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