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Publications

Vacancy: Program Director, Mental Disability Rights International

Amnesty International reports

AI Denmark / DanChurchAid. *Human Rights Violations in Burma/Myanmar in 1999 - Report of a Fact-Finding Mission in December 1999* March 2000.

http://www.amnesty.dk/index.htm?content=sider/bib_burma.htm

(scroll down the page where you can choose the English or Danish version)

Angola and Namibia - Human Rights abuses in the border area [AFR 03/01/00] March 2000.

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/AFR/10300100.htm>

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo) - Setting the standard? UNMIK and KFOR's response to the violence in Mitrovica [AI index 70/13/00] March 2000.

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/SUM/47001300.htm>

Kingdom of Cambodia: Law and Order - Without the Law [AI index ASA 23/01/00] March

2000. <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/ASA/32300100.htm>

Georgia - Continuing Allegations of Torture and ill-treatment [AI index EUR 56/01/00] March

2000. <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/AFR/10300100.htm>

Death penalty

Egypt, Cairo - The exiled Iraqi Communist Party accused the Iraqi government of executing 26 prisoners including 14 Kurds for opposition activity (Iraq executes 26 prisoners, oppositions says, *CNN*, 19 March).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/meast/03/19/iraq.executions.reut/index.html>

Germany/United Kingdom - The Sunday Times (London) reported that secret tests to improve the efficiency of the execution of German war criminals found that prisoners were

taking up to 25 minutes to die on the gallows. The experiment, whose existence is disclosed in British Home Office files just released by the Public Records Office, confirmed doctors' concerns that hanging did not inflict instantaneous death. Attempts by the medical profession since the turn of the century to have the matter officially investigated had always been rebuffed, according to the documents (*Sunday Times*, 14 March).

Thailand, Bangkok - Senior officials in general do not object to the execution of criminals by lethal injection, although reservations have been expressed by the Public Health Ministry. Medical officials have refused to discuss the issue, deeming the topic to be a gross violation of ethics (Lethal injection of criminals wins broad approval, Bangkok Post, 18 March).
http://www.bangkokpost.net/180300/180300_News08.html

United Kingdom - "A few years ago, I was asked to spend a year as a medical officer of health in a small, very hot country. (..) [The Minister of Health said] "it was part of my duty to attend hangings" (Getting the hang of things, *The Lancet*, 18 March).
http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9208/body.menu_NOD999.html

United Kingdom - Former death row inmate Joseph Nahume Green was acquitted on 16 March, showing yet again how the US capital system may be killing innocent people, Amnesty International said.
<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/25104500.htm>

USA, Texas - Since he took office in January 1995, George W. Bush has presided over more than 120 executions, accounting for more than a third of the executions in the USA during that time (Lethal injustice, *American Prospect*, vol 11; issue 10).
<http://www.prospect.org/archives/V11-10/berlow-a.html>

USA, California - Darell Keith Rich was executed by lethal injection at San Quentin State Prison, California on 15 March 2000 [AI index AMR 51/43/00]. Also see 'Crimes We Abhor - The State Prepares to Kill a Killer', *LA Weekly*, 10-16 March.
<http://www.laweekly.com/ink/00/16/news-catania.shtml>

USA, Virginia - Lonnie Weeks was executed on 16 March 2000 for the murder of State Trooper Jose Cavazos. The son and daughter of Jose Cavazos had appealed for clemency, urging that Lonnie Weeks' two children not be made fatherless like they themselves had been [AI index AMR 51/29/00].

Impunity, crimes against humanity, war crimes

Cambodia, Phnom Penh - After a week of negotiations, Cambodia and the United Nations announced on 22 March they had not yet reached agreement on how to convene a joint tribunal of Khmer Rouge leaders blamed for the deaths of 1.7 million Cambodians. Cambodia has so far refused U.N. control of the tribunal (United Nations, Cambodia fail to reach agreement on Khmer Rouge tribunal, *Boston Globe*, 22 March).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/082/world/United_Nations_Cambodia_fail_t:.shtml

Researchers gathering evidence of genocide in Cambodia issued a report this week linking Khmer Rouge activities to the regime's deputy premier, Ieng Sary (Genocide researchers release evidence against Ieng Sary, *Boston Globe*, 16 March).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/076/world/Genocide_researchers_release_e:.shtml

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Croatia, Zagreb - On 21 March Croatia handed over Bosnian Croat war crimes suspect Mladen Naletic to the U.N. Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Mladen Naletilic was indicted on 17 counts of war crimes (Croatian war crimes suspect extradited to U.N. tribunal, *Boston Globe*, 21 March).
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/081/world/Croatian_war_crimes_suspect_ex:.shtml

The Netherlands, the Hague - On Monday 21 March three Bosnian Serb commanders accused of forcing Muslim women into sexual slavery have gone on trial at the International

War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. Soldiers and paramilitaries assaulted the women nightly (Bosnian rape camp trial opens, *BBC News*, 20 March)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_683000/683846.stm

The Foca trial marks the first time an international court has tackled sexual enslavement. It is part of an attempt to make wartime sexual assault one of the most grievous and punishable crimes under international law (Trial at Yugoslav tribunal marks the first international case of rape camps, *Boston Globe*, 20 March).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/080/world/Trial_at_Yugoslav_tribunal_mar:.shtml

Human right activists are demanding the West to do more to reach out to women who were raped during Kosovo's war (Human rights activists say the West failed Kosovo's rape victims, *Boston Globe*, 21 March)

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/081/world/Human_rights_activists_say_the:.shtml

Human Rights Watch released a report documenting 96 rapes. The report said the rapes were not isolated acts, but were used deliberately as an instrument to terrorize the civilian population

(*Kosovo: Rape as a Weapon of Ethnic Cleansing*, Human Rights Watch, March 2000).

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2000/03/kosrape.htm>

The Netherlands, the Hague - on 13 March prosecutors at the Yugoslav Tribunal opened their case against Bosnian Serb General Radislav Krstic, describing his alleged command over the 1995 slaughter of Srebrenica's Muslims as Europe's worst war crime since World War II (Top Serb military official goes on trial for genocide, *Boston Globe*, 13 March)

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/073/world/Top_Serb_military_official_goe:.shtml

On 15 March a witness testified how Muslims were brought together in a warehouse and killed (Witness describes massacre in Bosnia, *Boston Globe*, 15 March).

http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/075/nation/Witness_describes_massacre_in_Bosnia+.shtml

For a report in French (Srebrenica: le procès, *Le Monde*, 13 March):

<http://www.lemonde.fr/article/0,2320,seq-2037-46152-QUO,00.html>

The trial is also expected to piece together the puzzle of how the tragedy unfolded (Trial to begin in slaughter of 7,000 in Bosnia, *Miami Herald*, 13 March) and on the way in which war-crimes prosecutors and investigators build their cases (How to prosecute a war crime, *Christian Science Monitor*, 13 March).

<http://www.csmonitor.com/durable/2000/03/13/p6s1.htm>

<http://www.herald.com/content/today/content.htm>

For a summary of how the events unfolded (Flashback: Srebrenica 1995, *BBC News*, 13 March):

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_675000/675945.stm

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Denmark, Copenhagen - The Danish Justice Ministry decided on 14 March to extradite suspected Rwandan war criminal Innocent Sagahutu to face charges before a U.N. tribunal over his alleged participation in genocide, mass rape and the 1994 killings of 10 Belgian U.N. soldiers (Alleged Rwandan war criminal to be extradited, *Boston Globe*, 14 March).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/074/world/Alleged_Rwandan_war_criminal_t:.shtml

Tanzania, Arusha - Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza, one of the suspects of organizing the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, may be set free, according to the *Washington Post*. He has already been ordered released once, when a U.N. appellate court ruled the authorities had waited too long to file formal charges against him after his arrest ('Rwandan Genocide Case Puts U.N. Court on Trial', 10 March)

<http://ad.doubleclick.net/adi/wpni.news/world/africa;kw=;pos=bottom;sz=468x60;tile=2;ord=>

USA, Texas - According to CNN, the United States is expected to extradite Elizaphan Ntakirutimana to stand trial at the U.N. tribunal for participating in the genocide in Rwanda (Ex-pastor faces U.S. deportation on Rwandan genocide charges, *CNN*, 15 March).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/africa/03/15/rwanda.extradition/index.html>

Pinochet

Chile, Santiago - Chile's new socialist president said on 14 March that he may call a referendum to change the constitution and laws inherited from the 1973-1990 dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (Lagos eyes referendum to change Pinochet constitution, *Boston Globe*, 14 March).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/073/world/Lagos_eyes_referendum_to_chang:.shtml

For a report in Spanish (Lagos ofrece la posibilidad de un referéndum para reformar la Constitución de Pinochet, *El País*, 14 March):

<http://www.elpais.es/p/d/20000314/internac/lagos.htm>

The United States will restart an investigation into whether General Augusto Pinochet was responsible for the death of former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier (US reopens Pinochet investigation, *BBC News*, 23 March).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_688000/688513.stm

United Kingdom, London - On the eve of the inauguration of the new president, Amnesty International said that establishing the truth about past human rights violations and bringing those responsible to justice must form a central component in the new President's program of government (Chile: The quest for truth and justice -- a challenge for the new President, *Amnesty International*, 9 March).

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/cgi-bin/amnesty/storage.cgi?id=1657>

USA, Miami - In 1973 Winston Cabello was arrested and killed in Chile during a military round-up of left-wing activists. After learning her brother's alleged killer was living in Miami, Cabello's sister, who lives in the USA, is seeking to apply international human rights statutes that allow families of victims to sue in U.S. courts for crimes committed abroad (27 years later, Chile's Caravan of Death touches U.S., *St. Petersburg Times*, 13 March).

http://www.sptimes.com/News/031300/Worldandnation/27_years_later__Chile.shtml

Further news

Australia - The Royal Australasian College of Physicians has called for the repeal of mandatory sentencing laws in Western Australia and the Northern Territory where indigenous Australians are disproportionately affected. See *Sydney Morning Herald* (14 Mar):

<http://www.smh.com.au/breaking/0003/14/A9310-2000Mar14.shtml>

For background see: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/specials/natl/ms/index.html>

The RACP website is: <http://www.racp.edu.au/>

Austria - The trial of an Austrian psychiatrist accused of murdering children in a Nazi clinic has been suspended because of his poor health. The judge suspended proceedings after hearing evidence from a psychiatrist that the defendant was suffering from dementia (Nazi euthanasia trial halted, *BBC News*, 21 March).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_684000/684262.stm

According to newsagency AFP, the judge said on 22 March that he may reconsider the decision following a lucid television interview given by the accused.

Austria, Vienna - Police torture is widespread in Europe, Central Asia and North America, said a report by the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (Human rights watchdog says torture, other police abuse widespread, *CNN*, 22 March).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/europe/03/22/bc.humanrights.ap/index.html>

Summary and full report:

<http://www.ihf-hr.org/appeals/000322.htm>

<http://www.ihf-hr.org/reports/OSCEtorFinMar00.pdf>

Brazil, Rio de Janeiro - A prison uprising left 13 inmates dead. The uprising was the fourth since the prison was inaugurated in November (Prison rampage leaves 13 inmates dead, *CNN*, 11 March).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/03/11/brazil.prison.rampage.ap/index.html>

Also see Amnesty International report *Nobody Sleeps Here Safely. Human Rights Violations Against Detainees*, June 1999 [AI index AMR 19/09/99].
<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/AMR/21900999.htm>

Dominican Republic - Relatives of the eleven prisoners who died in a fire in a prison have publicly complained about overcrowding at the prison (Eleven prisoners die in Dominican Republic, *BBC News*, 19 March).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_683000/683306.stm

Haiti, Port-au-Prince - After more than five years in Haiti, two U.N. missions, focused on police training and human rights, ended their work in Haiti, replaced by a single unarmed mission (New U.N. Mission takes hold in Haiti, *CNN*, 15 March) (U.N. mission leaves Haiti as it found it: mired in crisis, *CNN*, 18 March).
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/03/15/haiti.un.reut/index.html>
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/03/18/bc.haiti.ap/index.html>

Amnesty International published a report on Haiti in February 2000, Haiti. *Unfinished Business: Justice and Liberties at Risk* [AMR 36/01/00].
<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/SUM/23600100.htm>

Iran - According to the Sunday Times, a 50-minute tape showing torture, amputations and the death penalty in Iran from as far back as the mid-1980s, was smuggled out of the country by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (Smuggled film exposes Iran's barbaric justice, *Sunday Times*, 12 March).
<http://www.sunday-times.co.uk:80/news/pages/Sunday-Times/stinwenws02041.html>

Iraq - The London Guardian reports that Britain and America's war along the Iraqi border continues to affect the population living in the region severely. Almost 10 years of bombing and economic sanctions have taken an enormous toll (Victims of west's almost forgotten war in Iraq receive daily reminder that death is waiting, *Guardian*, 21 March).
<http://ads.guardianunlimited.co.uk/html.ng/Params.richmedia=yes&site=News&navsection=7§ion=4075&rand=1100084&location=top>

Jordan, Amman - Efforts to outlaw practices in which males murder female kin who "shame the family" face strong opposition from islamists (Activists Seek End to Jordan's 'Honor' Killings, *LA Times*, 11 March).
<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/20000311/t000023414.html>

Kenya - Victims of the Nyayo House torture chambers have announced they will sue the government for damages. They claim to have been tortured during the crackdown on the suspected members of the secret Mwakenya movement of the 1980s (Mwakenya torture victims to sue government, *Daily Nation On the Web*, 19 March).
<http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/19032000/News/News64.html>

Kosovo - The United Nations and NATO's Kosovo peacekeeping force, KFOR, promised on Tuesday to look into concerns by Amnesty International that those charged with establishing security in the region may have failed to uphold international human rights standards (Kosovo peacekeepers' human rights standards questioned, *CNN*, 14 March) (Droits de l'homme au Kosovo: Amnesty accuse la KFOR et l'ONU, *Le Monde*, 15 March).
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/europe/03/14/kosovo.rights/index.html>
<http://www.lemonde.fr/article/0,2320,seq-2037-46501-QUO,00.html>

Also see relevant report above under "Amnesty International Reports".

Nigeria - According to reports from the northern state of Zamfara, a man's hand has been amputated as a punishment ordered by an Islamic Sharia court (Nigerian Sharia court orders amputation, *BBC News*, 23 March).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_688000/688639.stm

Pakistan - A report by the Pakistan Human Rights Commission says that more than 1,000 women died in the country last year as victims of honour killings (Pakistani rights abuse 'widespread', *BBC News*, 15 March) (Human Rights in Pakistan remain as bad as they ever were, *The Lancet*, 355:1082 - 1084)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/newsid_678000/678228.stm

http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9209/body.menu_NOD999.html

Russian Federation, Chechnya - BBC reports that a delegation from the Council of Europe has accused both sides in the Chechen conflict of committing war crimes, and has urged Russia to keep its promises to tackle human rights abuses (Chechnya war crimes, *BBC News*, 13 March).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_676000/676244.stm

Spain, Madrid - Spain's High Court has decided to open an investigation into accusations of genocide lodged by Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu against former Guatemalan dictators, judicial sources said according to CNN. (Spanish court to probe accusations of genocide in Guatemala, *CNN*, 22 March).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/europe/03/22/spain.guatemala.reut/index.html>

Switzerland, Geneva - The United Nations Human Rights Commission has begun its annual review on 20 March with China and Chechnya high on its agenda. Amnesty International said that Saudi Arabia should be scrutinised for widespread torture, floggings and amputations (Human rights under UN spotlight, *BBC News*, 20 March) (China, Chechnya to be major challenges during UN human rights meeting, *Boston Globe*, 20 March).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/080/world/China_Chechnya_to_be_major_cha:.shtml

CNN reports that China, facing a possible UN resolution condemning its crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual movement, claimed the support of a majority of nations for its treatment of the group (Chinese claim majority support in U.N. rights panel over Falun Gong, *CNN*, 22 March).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/ASIANOW/east/03/21/un.china.rights.ap/index.html>

Amnesty International renewed its call to the UN Commission on Human Rights to create a post of Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders who would intervene on behalf of those who are at the forefront of the struggle to protect and promote human rights (2000 United Nations Commission on Human Rights - Time to defend the defenders, 17 March).

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/14100200.htm>

Switzerland, Geneva - A follow up meeting on the U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995 will take place in New York in June this year - unofficially called "Beijing plus five" - to assess what has been done to achieve equality between the sexes (Thousands to assess progress since U.N. women's conference, *Boston Globe*, 16 March).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/076/world/Thousands_to_assess_progress_s:.shtml

Turkey - Amnesty International is concerned that the U.S. government may approve an export license to Bell-Textron for the sale of attack helicopters to Turkey. Fears stem from past use of such helicopters to strafe Kurdish regions and deliver troops there (Rights Issues Hover Over Helicopters to Turkey, *Washington Post*, 17 March).

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26520-2000Mar16.html>

United Kingdom, London - As a teenager she volunteered to help concentration camp survivors and the experience changed her life. In 1985 she founded the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (Small wonder - The Guardian Profile: Helen Bamber, *News Unlimited*, 11 March).

http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk/saturday_review/story/0,3605,145267,00.html

USA, Chicago - Three psychiatrists from the former Yugoslavia have visited the US to study techniques for treating mental illness in the hope of implementing them in their own countries. They hope to decentralize care by focusing on strengthening the family, creating local clinics,

and training more mental health care workers (Psychiatrists Help Survivors in the Balkans, JAMA, 8 March).
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v283n10/full/jmn0308-1.html>

Publications

American Friends Service Committee. *Child and Maternal Health and Nutrition in Iraq under the Sanctions* (Philadelphia March 2000). Contact details: 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; tel: 215/241 - 7000; fax: 215/241 - 7275; e-mail: afscinfo@afsc.org
<http://www.afsc.org/iraq/ed/docsfull.htm>

Christianson S. *Condemned: Inside the Sing Sing Death House* (New York March 2000).

Welsh J. The death penalty as a public health issue, *European Journal of Public Health*, 2000; 10:2-3. Not yet online. See: <http://www3.oup.co.uk/eurpub/contents/>

A paper setting out Guidelines for Medical and Health Information Sites on the Internet and the Principles Governing AMA Web Sites is available at:

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v283n12/full/jsc00054.html>

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) has launched a new website:

<http://www.reconciliation.org.za>

"ReconciliationNet will focus on the generation of internet resources on the South African as well as other reconciliation and transition processes. We would like to encourage YOU to contribute information or links to the relevant areas".

The proposed revision of the WMA's Declaration of Helsinki on biomedical research is discussed in an article in the latest Medical Journal of Australia:

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/172_06_200300/loff/loff.html . For an editorial comment from the MJA see:

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/172_06_200300/stockhausen/stockhausen.html

A book and exhibition on death row in Sing Sing Prison New York are reviewed at:
<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0012/gonnerman.shtml>

Vacancy

Mental Disability Rights International has a vacancy for Program Director to design and implement advocacy projects, mainly in Central and Eastern Europe; position available immediately. Please send resume and cover letter to: Mental Disability Rights International, 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 1001, Washington DC 1001; MDRI@erols.com; fax: 202 - 728 - 3053; tel: 202 - 296 - 0800.

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