
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Summary

AI reports & statements: International Women's Day / award campaign website / annual session UNHCR

Further news: killing and kidnapping charges against General Pinochet dropped, Chile / condemned prisoners as organ donors, China / possibility of legalisation of torture, Israel / action against human right abuses in psychiatric institutions, Mexico / Dr Marzouki prevented from leaving Tunisia / prison conditions, UK / execution of juvenile offender with mental disability halted, USA

Courses: intensive course in health and human rights / international diploma in humanitarian assistance

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

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/>

Broken bodies, shattered minds - The torture of women worldwide. 6 March 2001 [AI index: ACT 40/003/2001].

Press release:

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/860F133039AFA848802569C9003CD514?OpenDocument>

Full report:

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/ACT400012001?OpenDocument&of=THEMES\WOMEN>

UK: Amnesty International wins award for innovative campaigning. 12 March 2000 [AI index: EUR 45/008/2001].

Amnesty International was awarded the Revolution 2001 Award for best use of e-mail and the internet for its <http://www.stoptorture.org> web-site. The site alerts subscribers by e-mail and mobile text message every time someone known to Amnesty is put at risk of torture.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/54B4137F2B29047B80256A0D004E06BC?OpenDocument>

UNHCR: Permanent open door for human rights experts. 12 March 2001 [AI index: IOR 42/001/2001].

As the United Nation's leading human rights body begins its annual session, Amnesty International is calling on the member states to use its thematic experts effectively to prevent major human rights crises.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/0E4B142769A61DB480256A0D005C2906?OpenDocument>

Further news

Chile - killing and kidnapping charges against General Pinochet dropped. *CNN* reported that Court of Appeals ordered that charges of murders and kidnappings against General Pinochet were dismissed. General Pinochet could still be tried on charges of attempting to cover up these crimes. He

has now been allowed bail (14 March).
<http://europe.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/americas/03/14/chile.pinochet/index.html>

China - condemned prisoners as organ donors. The *New York Times* reported on the case of Mr. Qiu who was executed for fraud. Mr Qiu's brother found that some of his brother's organs had been taken after execution (11 March).
<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/11/world/11CHIN.html?ex=985417250&ei=1&en=a619bd5a1caf7c5e>
]

Israel - proposal to legalise torture. The current government may urge the parliament to approve a law allowing the domestic security service to torture those arrested, according to the *Sunday Times*. The high court outlawed "moderate physical pressure" during interrogation in 1999 (11 March).
<http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/news/pages/sti/2001/03/11/stifgnmid02002.html>

Mexico - action against human rights abuses in psychiatric institutions. The organisations Mental Disability Rights International and Witness are taking action to pressurise the Mexican government to end human rights abuses in Mexican psychiatric facilities. To join this action, go to <http://www.witness.org/main.html> to see the short 'Rights Alert' video, 'Forgotten People'. Then go to the Act Now section to send a message to the Mexican government.

Tunisia - authorities refused to let Dr Moncef Marzouki leave the country. Dr Moncef Marzouki was prevented by Tunisian authorities from leaving the country to join his family in France and take up a teaching post at a French university. Dr Marzouki is a long-standing human rights activist and has suffered harassment by authorities on many occasions (*Campaign for Human Rights in Tunisia*, 10 March). <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/chrtunisia/headlines/#Marzouki1>

United Kingdom - prison conditions Birmingham deteriorated. The *BBC* reported that the Chief Inspector of Prisons said that conditions in Birmingham's Winson Green Jail were some of the worst he had seen, including filthy health care facilities (15 March).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk/newsid_1221000/1221316.stm

USA - execution of man with mental disability halted. The execution of Antonio Richardson, convicted of murder of two sisters, was halted on 6 March. Antonio Richardson was sixteen at the time of the crime and has a mental disability. See *Salon.com* (6 March) for further information:
<http://www.salon.com/news/wire/2001/03/06/execution/index.html>

Courses

The FXB Center for Health and Human Rights and the Boston University School of Public Health are offering an intensive course in health and human rights: **How to Incorporate a Human Rights Framework into Your Professional Activities**. Participants will acquire a basic understanding of both the history and present status of international human rights and international humanitarian law as they apply to health practice. Date: 11-14 June 2001. Venue: Harvard School of Public Health. For further information, click here: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/ICHH.shtml>

The **International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance** is an intensive multi-disciplinary training program to provide insight into the complexities of humanitarian crises. It is organised by the Center for International Health and Cooperation, Fordham University, the University of Geneva and the Royal College of Surgeons in Geneva. For further information visit the web-site at: <http://www.idha.ch/> or contact: Michel Veuthey, Academic Director, 14 Pierre-Longue, CH-1212 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: +41.22.469.7184. Fax: +41.22.793.56.10. Mailto:michel.veuthey@ties.itu.int

Publications

The *Torture Reporting Handbook: How to document and respond to allegations of torture within the international system for the protection of human rights* has now been published in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish. All versions are available at: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/torturehandbook/>

Other publications

Burnett A, Peel M. The health of survivors of torture and organised violence. *BMJ* 2001;322:606-609 (10 March).
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7286/606>

Hargreaves S. Time to tackle international refugee protection. *Lancet* 2001; 357:9259 (17 March). <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol357/iss9259/full/llan.357.9259.news.15572.4>

Havard J. *Training Manual on Ethical and Human Rights Standards for Health Care Professionals* (BMJ Publishing Group, London 1999). For an abstract see *J Med Ethics* 2001;27:67: <http://www.jmedethics.com/cgi/content/full/27/1/67>

Leon D A, Gilson L, Walt G. International perspectives on health inequalities and policy. *BMJ* 2001;322:591-594 (10 March). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7286/591>

Olick RS. It's ethical, but is it legal? Teaching ethics and law in the medical school curriculum. *Anat Rec* 2001 Feb 15;265(1):5-9 For an abstract see PubMed: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=11241205&dopt=Abstract

Participation of health professionals in capital punishment. *Am J Public Health* 2001Mar;91(3):520-1. [No link available]

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