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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Summary

- **AI reports & statements:** Guyana / India / Iraq / Jamaica / Russian Federation / Viet Nam
- **Further news:** China: mobile lethal injection vans / CPT: visits to Spain and Germany / ICC / Iraq: three humanitarian agencies remain / Russian Federation: medical guidelines for new conscripts / Spain: mass graves / torture: opinion pieces / UK: bill to amend FGM law / USA war against terrorism / USA Maryland death penalty bill fails / Zimbabwe: politically motivated rape.
- **Conferences:** South Africa's first national AIDS conference / University of London: human rights study trip to Geneva
- **Vacancies:** Mental Disability Rights International: Associate Director
- **Publications**

### Amnesty International reports & statements

*Guyana: Amnesty International's forensic expert to undertake second autopsy of Yohance Douglas.* 7 March (AMR 35/005/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AMR350052003>

*India: Crimes against women in Gujarat - denied and unpunished.* 7 March (ASA 20/010/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/ASA200102003?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\INDIA>

*Iraq: Open letter to President George Bush, Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prime Minister José Maria Aznar and President Saddam Hussein.* 19 March (MDE 14/028/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/web/web.nsf/pages/irq-190303-letter-eng>

*Jamaica: Government fails relatives of the Braeton Seven - overwhelming evidence of extrajudicial executions ignored.* 13 March (AMR 38/007/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AMR380072003>

*Russian Federation: Cases of discrimination on grounds of race.* 19 March (EUR 46/023/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/EUR460232003>

*Viet Nam: Prisoner of conscience must be released.* 19 March (ASA 41/006/2003).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/ASA410062003>

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

**China - mobile lethal injection vans.** China has put 'lethal injection vans' into operation in Yunnan province. *Beijing Today* reported that "Two farmers from Yunnan Province (..) benefited from the latest advance in China's judicial system". See:

*Beijing Today*, 'Death, Yunnan style' (7 March).

<http://bjtoday.ynet.com/article.jsp?oid=2173725>

Also see the *Melbourne Age*, 'Chinese try mobile death vans' (13 March).

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/03/12/1047431092598.html>

**CPT- visits to Spain and Germany.** Press releases announcing new reports on visits to Spain:

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20030313en.htm> (13 March) and to Germany:

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20030312en.htm> (12 March). Both links give access to the CPT reports and to the government responses.

**ICC** - The USA was absent from opening of International Criminal Court on 11 March, reports

*Chicago Tribune* (11 March). [http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0303110304mar11,1,275825.story?coll=chi%2Dnewsnationworld%2Dhed)

[0303110304mar11,1,275825.story?coll=chi%2Dnewsnationworld%2Dhed](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0303110304mar11,1,275825.story?coll=chi%2Dnewsnationworld%2Dhed) (free subscription required)

**Iraq - three humanitarian agencies remain.** Following the start of the US-led attack with Iraq, thirteen aid workers - from the International Committee of the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières and Care International - remain in the country, it was reported on Alertnet (20 March).

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/613530>

**Russian Federation - medical guidelines for new conscripts.** *AFP* reported that Russia has banned gays, alcoholics and drug users from the army, according to new medical guidelines published Thursday in the official Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper. The new rules, which take effect on July 1, say that people "who have problems with their identity and sexual preferences" can only be drafted during times of war. The rules also restrict the draft of regular drug and alcohol users to times of war, even if the prospective conscripts have developed no physical dependence or addiction to the substances. See the US Center for Defense Information's *Russia Weekly* (No. 48):

<http://www.cdi.org/russia/248-11.cfm>

**South Africa - AIDS.** The *Guardian* reports (21 March) that hundreds of Aids activists marched into South African police stations yesterday to begin a campaign of civil disobedience against the government for its refusal to provide life-extending drugs to those with HIV. See

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/aids/story/0,7369,918726,00.html>

**Spain - mass graves.** The *Guardian* reported that mass graves dating back to the 1936 - 1939 civil war were being opened and remains identified (8 March).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,909995,00.html>

**Torture - opinion pieces.** Jed Rabbin writes for the *National Review* (17 March), 'No Thumbscrews for Terrorists: alternatives to torture': <http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/comment-babbin031703.asp>

Eyal Press writes for the *Nation* (31 March edition), 'In torture we trust?':

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20030331&s=press>

Hendrik Hertzberg writes for the *New Yorker*, 'Terror and Torture' (21 March edition):

[http://www.newyorker.com/talk/content/?030324ta\\_talk\\_hertzberg](http://www.newyorker.com/talk/content/?030324ta_talk_hertzberg)

Stuart Taylor Jr writes for the Atlantic online: Is It Ever All Right to Torture Suspected Terrorists? (11 March) <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/nj/taylor2003-03-11.htm>

Click here for a related article in the *Guardian* (13 March), 'Civilising the torture trade':

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/science/story/0,12450,912621,00.html>

**United Kingdom - Bill to amend FGM law.** A Bill to amend the current law on female genital mutilation proposes "to make it unlawful to take girls abroad for genital mutilation whether or not it is lawful elsewhere". See UK Home Office press release (21 March):

[http://index.homeoffice.gov.uk/n\\_story.asp?item\\_id=414](http://index.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=414)

See also a *BBC* report (21 March): [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/2872307.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/2872307.stm)

**USA war against terrorism.** Jose Padilla is currently held indefinitely without charge, trial or other trappings of due process in a navy brig in South Carolina . Padilla may be a "bad guy" as alleged by US authorities but, according to *Mother Jones* (March/April edition) his case raises major issues of civil liberties. See: [http://www.mojones.com/commentary/notebook/2003/10/ma\\_293\\_01.html](http://www.mojones.com/commentary/notebook/2003/10/ma_293_01.html)

**USA - Maryland death penalty bill fails.** The Maryland legislature has defeated a bill to restrict the use of the death penalty (*Washington Post*, 20 March).

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57260-2003Mar19.html>

**Zimbabwe - politically motivated rape.** The *Guardian* reported that youth militia and others related to Zimbabwe's ruling party use rape as a political weapon and said that "the reported rapes, verified by medical examinations and interviews, are just the tip of the iceberg, human rights workers say" (18 March).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,916191,00.html>

## Conferences

**South Africa's first national AIDS conference** will be held in Durban from 3-6 August 2003. For information click here: <http://www.sa-aidsconference.com/> or contact Tilda Reyneke, communications manager, at: [tildar@samedical.org](mailto:tildar@samedical.org), tel: +27.12.481.2059, fax: +27.12.481.2116.

**Birkbeck College, University of London**, is organising its 13th **Human Rights study trip to Geneva** from 11 - 16 May 2003. For details contact: Bernard F. Hamilton, President, Leo Kuper Foundation, Suite 212, 20 Harewood Avenue, London NW1 6JX. Tel: +44.20.7723.6062, fax: +44.20.7723.5502 or e-mail: [lkf@west-end.demon.co.uk](mailto:lkf@west-end.demon.co.uk)

## Vacancies

**Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI)**, an advocacy organization based in Washington DC, is dedicated to the international recognition and enforcement of the rights of people with mental disabilities. It is seeking an **Associate Director** responsible for both advocacy and organizational development. For further details download the job description and application form from: <http://www.mdri.org/aboutus/mdri-position.doc> or contact [mdri@mdri.org](mailto:mdri@mdri.org)

## Publications

Beyer C et al. Assessing the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Burma. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2003 Mar1;32(3):311-7 in PubMed.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=12626892&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12626892&dopt=Abstract)

De Jong J (ed). *Trauma, War, and Violence: Public Mental Health in Socio-Cultural Context* (Plenum October 2002). See <http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/0-306-46709-7>

Hamers FF, Down AM. HIV in central and eastern Europe. *Lancet* 2003; 361: 1035-44 (22 March).[http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9362/full/lan.361.9362.editorial\\_and\\_review.24990.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9362/full/lan.361.9362.editorial_and_review.24990.1)

Holmes D, Federman C. Killing for the state: the darkest side of American nursing. *Nurs Inq* 2003 mar;10 (1):2-10 in PubMed.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=12622799&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12622799&dopt=Abstract)

Horsburgh D. The ethical implications and legal aspects of patient restraint. *Nurs Times* 2003 Feb 11-17;99(6):26-7in PubMed.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=12621889&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12621889&dopt=Abstract)

**Corrected weblink:**

ICRC conference report. A short report from the ICRC-organized conference on "The Missing: Action to resolve the problem of people unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict or internal violence and to assist their families -- an International Conference of Governmental and Non-Governmental Experts Geneva, 19 - 21 February 2003" can be found at:  
[http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/themissing\(21 February\)](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/themissing(21 February))

Kaplan RM. Dr Radovan Karadzic: psychiatrist, poet, soccer coach and genocidal leader. *Australasian Psychiatry* March 2003; 11(1): 74. See abstract at:  
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/10.1046/j.1440-1665.2003.00519.x/abs>

Klein E, Caspi Y, Gil S. The relation between memory of the traumatic event and PTSD: evidence from studies of traumatic brain injury. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 2003 (Feb); 48:28-33:  
<http://www.cpa-apc.org/Publications/Archives/CJP/2003/february/klein.asp>

Morgan ES, Morgan M. A very popular penalty. *New York Review of Books* (cover date 10 April). Review of *The Death Penalty: An American History* by Stuart Banner (Harvard University Press, 385 pp). The Morgans quote Banner's assessment that "a large majority of [US] Americans still supported capital punishment even on the assumption that a tenth of those condemned had committed no crime". See: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/16183>

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