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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL NETWORK  
Human rights information and web links for health professionals  
Bulletin no. 8, 16 April 1999  
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-----RECENT AI STATEMENTS & REPORTS

Concerns in Europe: July - December 1998 [AI Index: EUR 01/01/99, April 1999]. This report contains information about Amnesty International's main concerns in Europe in the given period. The bulletin also includes special sections on Women in Europe and Children in Europe. See <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/EUR/40100199.htm>

Guatemala: Words Are Not Enough [AI Index: AMR 34/08/99, 13 April 1999]. Following a visit to Guatemala, Amnesty International called upon the country's government to fulfill the undertakings stemming from the Peace Accords which established the Historical Clarification Commission [see Bulletin No. 5, 5 March 1999]. The organization also called upon the USA and other countries which had contributed to the peace progress to make it clear what they will do to ensure implementation of the Commission's recommendations. See <http://www.amnesty.org/news/1999/23400899.htm>

USA: Amnesty International's findings and recommendations relating to Valley State Prison (California) [AI Index: AMR 51/53/99, April 1999]. The Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW) in California is the largest women's prison in the USA, housing more than 3,700 prisoners. The report is based on a visit to the prison by Amnesty International's delegates who also visited a local hospital which has a special unit for women prisoner-patients. See <http://www2.amnesty.se/isext99.nsf/cff1d743503656e4412566ee00476b47/d17552c63071b4a8c125674b004438f4?OpenDocument>

A separate report by Dr Silvia Casale, one of the deflates and a prison consultant and UK member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, "A visit to Valley State Prison for Women" [AI Index: AMR 51/55/99, April 1999] is available at <http://www2.amnesty.se/isext99.nsf/cff1d743503656e4412566ee00476b47/fd43e507f366f799c125674b0044880d?OpenDocument>

USA: Death Penalty State to Host International Business Conference [AI Index: AMR 51/60/99, 13 April 1999]. On the eve of a two-day conference in Texas hosting some 200 information technology companies from Europe, EUROTEx, Amnesty International said that Texas was not just an international centre of high-tech enterprise, but also a high-tech execution centre. Nine prisoners have already been executed in Texas in 1999 and over 450 prisoners are on death row in the state. See <http://www.amnesty.org/news/1999/47003199.htm>

A detailed report on the death penalty in Texas [AI Index: AMR 51.10.98, March 1998], is available at <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1998/AMR/25101098.htm>

-----KOSOVO

On 12 April, AI expressed deep concern about the murder of Slavko Curuvija, editor of several newspapers critical of the Yugoslav government, and called for an investigation into the case [see AI Index EUR 70/31/99, 12 April 1999, at <http://www.amnesty.org/news/1999/47003199.htm>]. Sections of the media in Yugoslavia have been subjected to severe restrictions which have led to their closure. On 24 March, police closed down Belgrade's main independent radio station, B92. MSF expressed concern that it could pose a risk for refugees if NATO were responsible for coordinating relief efforts in the region as it was not neutral in the crisis, and accused the United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] of neglecting minimum standards of assistance [AFP, 9 April 1999; Reuters, 12 April 1999].

Information on the work of medical human rights organizations can be found at:

- <http://www.phrusa.org/new/index.html> [Physicians for Human Rights; scroll down to 'Kosovo']
- <http://www.doctorsoftheworld.com/home.html> [Medecins du Monde]

Extensive news coverage of and comment on the conflict can be found in many national and international newspapers. Articles over the last two weeks included:

- When Hope Is Borne on a Stretcher, by David Finkel, Washington Post Wednesday, April 7, 1999; see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/inatl/daily/april99/exodus7.htm>

- Kosovo's Refugees: From Crisis to Catastrophe. Lancet, 1999; 353 [Editorial]; available to registered non-subscribers at

<http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/reg/issues/vol353no9160/body.editorial1199.html>

- War in The Balkans - Albanian doctors singled out for Serbian brutality, by Richard Lloyd Parry, The Independent [UK], available to registered users at

<http://www.independent.co.uk/stories/B1304907.html>

- Kosovar doctor helps refugees one at a time [BBC, 16 April 1999]

<http://www.cnn.com/HEALTH/9904/15/refugee.doctor/index.html>

#### -----PINOCHET DECISION

UK Home Secretary Jack Straw decided on 15 April 1999 to allow extradition proceedings against ex-General Augusto Pinochet to proceed. Pinochet is due to appear at Bow Street magistrates' court in central London on 30 April. Amnesty International welcomed the decision and said it was a clear signal that "it is simply not good enough for the international community to pledge their commitment to human rights, to sign treaties and conventions and then shy away from putting them into practice". The AI statement can be found at

<http://www2.amnesty.se/isext99.nsf/9be0c49200fd629d412566ee00476b4a/a8b1c6c4ca83506bc12567540046c260?OpenDocument> . Jack Straw's statement is available at

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk\\_politics/newsid\\_319000/319825.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk_politics/newsid_319000/319825.stm) ; also see

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/newsid\\_319000/319823.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/newsid_319000/319823.stm) with links to more stories

#### -----DEATH PENALTY NEWS

During 1998, at least 1,625 prisoners were executed in 37 countries, with 80 per cent of all known executions taking place in China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the USA and Iran. 3,899 people were sentenced to death in 78 countries. These figures include only cases known to Amnesty International; the true figures are believed to be considerably higher.

See AI Index: ACT 51/01/99, April 1999, at

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/ACT/A5100199.htm>

Statistics on "Ratifications of International Treaties on the Death Penalty" [AI Index: ACT 50/03/99, March 1999] can be found at

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/ACT/A5000399.htm>

USA: In Illinois, the trial opened on Tuesday 6 April of four sheriff's police officers and three former prosecutors of conspiring to frame Rolando Cruz for the murder of a 10-year-old girl in 1983. Cruz spent 12 years in prison for the crime, finally being acquitted in 1995 following his third trial. See: <http://chicagotribune.com/splash/article/0,1051,SAV-9904070149,00.html> . A selection of damning quotes from the case can be found at:

<http://chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/zorn/feature/0,1438,6360-6367,00.html>

USA: A Washington Post article on the death penalty in the state of Virginia ["Virginia's efficient system of death: Old Dominion Surpasses Other Large States in Rate of Executing Killers", 4 April 1999] can be found at

<http://search.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPlate/1999-04/04/069I-040499-idx.html>

USA: The US Catholic Conference of Bishops on 2 April 1999 released a statement strongly condemning the death penalty in the USA. The Bishops said that crime could not be overcome by simply executing criminals, and that "the death penalty offer[ed] the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life". For the full text of the statement, see

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/national/criminal/appeal.htm>

Philippines: President Joseph Estrada on 6 April 1999 granted a 90-day reprieve for three convicted robbers one day before their scheduled execution, "in view of the various issues raised..... (and to allow his offices)... to conduct an exhaustive review of the case". Amnesty International is concerned that one of the men might have been tortured in order to extract a confession, and is calling on President Estrada to commute all three death sentences. [AFP, 6 April 1999].

Macau: A report carried on China's official Xinhua news agency said that China would not restore capital punishment in Macau after it reverts to Chinese rule on 20 December 1999. Macau's Penal Code prohibits both capital punishment and life imprisonment on the grounds that it contravenes the principle of rehabilitation of convicted criminals. [AFP, 14 April 1999]

Oman: According to reports by the official Omani News Agency [ONA] and local newspapers on 3 April 1999, the Sultanate of Oman has introduced the death penalty for drug smugglers and producers. Until now, the death penalty had been implemented against people convicted of premeditated murder. [Reuters, 3 April 1999]

-----PROBE INTO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AT US DETENTION CENTRE  
According to a report in The Record, a US daily newspaper based in New Jersey, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation is examining allegations of beatings, verbal abuse and other ill-treatment of asylum seekers at the federal Elizabeth Detention Centre. Immigration officials were quoted as saying that recent problems in the centre amounted to "a rough patch in an otherwise well-run facility". The paper also reported that a Nigerian asylum seeker whose allegations of abuse were used for its article has meanwhile been moved to a prison in rural Pennsylvania. [AFP, 14 April 1999]. For the two articles in The Record, see <http://www.bergen.com/news/ccanew19990411.htm> ["Asylum seekers live in jail-like conditions", April 11, 1999] and <http://www.bergen.com/news/banished199904157.htm> ["INS moves outspoken asylum seeker", Thursday, April 15, 1999].

-----PRISON CONDITIONS IN MONGOLIA  
According to figures by the Executive Agency for Prison Sentences [EAPS], which runs Mongolia's prisons, more than 1,500 people have died in Mongolian jails in the past six years, many from starvation and more from illnesses stemming from appalling conditions. Amnesty International said that the Mongolian government had taken some positive steps in recent years, but that the situation remained critical and that the country should seek international advice and assistance to help with this problem. [Reuters, 11 April 1999]

-----.... AND IN ANTIGUA  
The Barbados-based Caribbean Human Rights Network said on 15 April 1999 that prisons in Antigua were crowded and unhygienic, meals not nutritious and good medical services lacking. The group alleged conditions had worsened since the prison management was privatized in December 1997. See <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/americas/9904/15/BC-Antigua-Prison.ap/index.html>

-----INVESTIGATION INTO TORTURE ALLEGATIONS IN YEMEN  
A court in Yemen ordered on 15 April 1999 that a team of doctors, including one from a "neutral" country, be set up to examine suspected Moslem militants, including eight Britons of Arab and Pakistani origin, who have claimed they were tortured in prison. See AI Bulletin No 3, 5 February 1999, for background information, and <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/africa/9904/15/BC-YEMEN-TRIAL.reut/index.html>

-----COUNCIL OF EUROPE REPORT ON CZECH REPUBLIC  
The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment [CPT] has made public its report on a visit to the Czech Republic in February 1997. The CPT's delegation visited 7 police establishments, two prisons and two detention centres for minors. The text of the report, which details the delegation's findings and criticises overcrowding and ill-treatment in the country's prisons, is available at <http://www.cpt.coe.fr/en/reports/inf9907e.htm>. The 62-page report [and the 97-page response by the Czech authorities] can also be ordered in hard copy from the CPT's Secretariat, <mailto:cptdoc@coe.fr>, Tel: ++33.3.8841.2388, Fax: +33.3.8841.2772

-----PTSD TREATMENT AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES  
The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Board is making available a preliminary draft of the PTSD Treatment Guidelines/Practice Guidelines, exclusively for the purpose of soliciting feedback and comments. The text and a complete description of the process utilized in the development of these guidelines is included in the Introduction. See: <http://www.istss.org/quick/toc.html>

-----ICRC TRAINING: HEALTH EMERGENCIES IN LARGE POPULATIONS

[H.E.L.P.]

H.E.L.P. is a training programme that the Medical Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross has set up since 1986 in collaboration with the Geneva Medical School and WHO. It is meant primarily for health professionals who will have to deal with large populations in critical situations. Upcoming courses include: Montreal/Canada, 3 - 21 May 99 (English and French); Geneva/Switzerland, 21 Jun - 9 Jul (English), Baltimore/USA, 12-30 Jul (English), Honolulu/USA, 19 Jul-6 Aug (English); Göteborg/Sweden, 23 Aug-10 Sep (English), Cuernavaca/Mexico, 4 - 22 Oct (Spanish), Pretoria/South Africa, 1-19 Nov (English). For more information contact Daniel Koch, Health training program coordinator, mailto:Daniel Koch, Health training program coordinator, mailto:Urs Daniel Koch@GVA .

-----HARVARD PROGRAM IN REFUGEE TRAUMA

The webpage of the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, which is based in Cambridge and run by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Harvard Medical School, can be found at <http://www.hpvt.harvard.edu/> . The postal address is Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, 8 Story Street, Third Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

-----SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE ICC STATUTE

Trinidad and Tobago has now also signed the Statute of the new International Criminal Court in Rome. A complete list of signatures and ratifications [as of 6 April] can be found at <http://www.igc.apc.org/icc/rome/html/ratify.html>

-----PUBLICATIONS

Ridley NS. The Treatment of Prisoners Under International Law. 2nd edition. Clarendon Press, Oxford; 1999:479pp. Chapters include "What Constitutes Torture and Other Ill-treatment", "International Remedies for Torture and Other Ill-Treatment", "Conditions of Imprisonment or Detention", and "International Codes of Ethics for Professionals". Sir Nigel Ridley is the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and teaches at the Department of Law at Essex University.

Serena F. Bordeaux et Victims - Psychologic de la Torture [Torturers and Victims - the Psychology of Torture]. Editions Edible Jacob, Paris; April 1999:281pp. The author is a co-founder of the Primo Levi Centre in Paris that works with torture survivors, and teaches at a Paris University. The publisher's website is at <http://www.odilejacob.fr>

Berefijn I. The Reporting Procedure under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. School of Human Rights Research Series, Volume 2. Intersentia - Hart, Antwerpen/Groningen/Oxford; 1999:417pp. The book examines practice and procedures of the UN Human Rights Committee. The author has worked at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights and is an active member of the Dutch section of the International Commission of Jurists [NJCM].

Toebes BCA. The Right to Health as a Human Right in International Law. Intersentia Law Publishers, Antwerpen; 1999:433 pp. The book outlines the content of the right to health and describes the resulting obligations on part of the States. It addresses current implementation practices by treaty monitoring bodies as well as the justiciability issues. The author was visiting scholar at the Harvard School of Public Health. The publisher's website is at [http://www.intersentia.be/at/home\\_e.htm](http://www.intersentia.be/at/home_e.htm) ; to order mailto:mail@intersentia or call +32.3.680.1550, fax +32.3.658.7121.

Human Rights Watch. Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda. HRW, New York; March 1999:807pp. Price: US\$ 35. The report is available on-line at <http://www.hrw.org/hrw/reports/1999/rwanda/> ; to order a hard copy, go to <http://st2.yahoo.net/hrwpubs/nonleftotels.html> , or contact Tel: +1 212 216-1813 / Fax: +1 212 736-1300 [to order the report in the USA] or Tel: +44 181 986 4854 [to order it in Europe]

American Association for the Advancement of Science. Scientists Clash With the State in Turkey: Four Case Studies. AAAS, New York; 1999

One of the four case studies is on Dr Seyfettin Kizilkan, on whose behalf Amnesty International issued medical actions in June 1996 [AI Index: EUR 44/76/96 and EUR 44/94/96]. The case study can be found at <http://shr.aaas.org/scws/cs2.htm>

To order a printed version of the full report, <mailto:shrp@aaas.org> or call +1 202 326.6790

A bibliography of "An Appraisal of the Technologies of Political Control" can be found at <http://home.dbio.uevora.pt/~oliveira/Global/stoa-bib.htm> . Topics listed include "Second Generation 'Less Lethal' Weapons", "New Prison Control Technology", and "Interrogation, Torture Techniques and Technologies".

British Medical Journal. Long term displacement raises new health needs. BMJ 1999 Apr 17;318(7190):1029 . The article looks at the challenges faced by medical charities working with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. See <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/318/7190/1029>

Lawson MH. Seeking asylum in the UK after torture in Sierra Leone. Lancet 1999; Vol 353, No 9161, 17 April 1999. This letter to the editor is based on a study by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture in London. It is available only to registered subscribers to the electronic version of The Lancet at [http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol353no9161/body.correspondence1365\\_2.html](http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol353no9161/body.correspondence1365_2.html)

Editorial. Declaration of Helsinki - nothing to declare? Lancet 1999; Vol 353, No 9161, 17 April 1999.

The article looks at plans to amend the Helsinki Declaration drawn up by the World Medical Association in Helsinki in 1964. Available to registered non-subscribers at <http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol353no9161/body.editorial1285.html>

A series on wrongful convictions in homicide cases in the USA can be found at <http://chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ws/0,1246,21398,00.html>

#### -----MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Preceding and during the Hague Appeal for Peace conference (11th-15th May) the International Federation of Medical Student Associations (IFMSA) and IPPNW are organizing a training course on conflict prevention, human rights and health in Europe. It will be organized for 70 medical students from all parts of Europe and 10 non-European students and will take place from 7th till 16th May 1999 in The Hague, the Netherlands. There are still some places available for European students. Further information is given at the web site: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~alsole44/appeal/appeal.html>

11th Scientific Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE), 508 September 1999. The conference will include a symposium on "Epidemiologic Messengers and Whistleblowing", with invited case studies describing episodes in which epidemiologists or health workers are subject to threats or harassment following their disclosure of environmental hazards or risks. The organizers welcome information on individual case studies. For more information, contact Elihu D Richter, Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, Tel +972-2-6758147; Fax +972-2-6435083, <mailto:elir@cc.huji.ac.il>

#### -----EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The World Health Organization is inviting applications to its Global Health Leadership Officer Programme. For more information contact see <http://www.who.org/home/ghlop/index.html> or contact Mr. Fernando González-Martín, Tel: 41-22- 791-2877, Fax: 41-22-791-4821, <mailto:gonzalezmartin@who.int>

WHO is also inviting applications for its Global Health Leadership Fellowships - see [http://www.who.org/fellowships/health\\_systems\\_community\\_health/](http://www.who.org/fellowships/health_systems_community_health/)

Other employment opportunities at WHO can be found at <http://www.who.org/employment/>

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