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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Summary

- **AI reports & statements:** executions in 2002 / Iraq / North Korea / Philippines
- **Further news:** Cuba: Dr Biscet sentenced / Iraq: Abu Ghraib prison / Mexico: activist speaks out / Myanmar: "rape as a weapon of war" / Sierra Leone: truth hearings
- **Conferences:** Canadian Society for International Health: The Right to Health, Influencing the Global Agenda
- **Publications**

### Amnesty International reports & statements

*1,526 executed in 2002.* 11 April (ACT 50/007/2003).  
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGA500072003>

*Iraq. Responsibilities of the occupying powers.* 17 April (MDE 14/089/2003).  
[http://web.amnesty.org/pages/iraq\\_summary](http://web.amnesty.org/pages/iraq_summary)

*North Korea: Human Rights Concerns.* 11 April (ASA 24/002/2003).  
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA240022003>

*Philippines: Youth justice system and violations of children's rights.* 11 April (ASA 35/009/2003).  
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA350092003>

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

**Cuba - Dr Biscet sentenced.** Human rights activist Dr Oscar Elias Biscet was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment. See *BBC*, 'Well-known Cuban dissident jailed' (10 April):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/2938041.stm>

Also see a related Amnesty International press release, 'Cuba heavy prison sentences -- a giant step backwards for human rights' (8 April):

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR250122003>

**Iraq - Abu Ghraib prison.** Imad Ahmed Abid tells the *Guardian* of his imprisonment and torture in Abu Ghraib prison (17 April).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,938176,00.html>

**Mexico - activist speaks out.** Rodolfo Montiel, environmental activist and former prisoner of conscience, speaks about his experiences. See the *Oracle Online* (16 April):

<http://www.usforacle.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2003/04/15/3e9bff49a0a1a>

**Myanmar - "rape as weapon of war"**. Refugees International has released a report that Myanmar's army "is using rape as a weapon of war against women from Burma's numerous ethnic groups" (3 April).

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org/cgi-bin/ri/bulletin?bc=00531>

Also see *BBC*, 'Fresh Burmese army rape claims' (8 April):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/2928297.stm>

**Sierra Leone - truth hearings**. The *BBC* reported that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone is starting its hearings, taking testimonies from both victims and participants in the civil war (14 April).

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/2946255.stm>

## Conferences

**The Canadian Society for International Health** is organising its 10th conference, entitled '**The Right to Health, Influencing the Global Agenda - How Research, Advocacy and Action can shape our future**' from 26 - 29 October 2003 in Ottawa, Canada. For information visit the web-site:

<http://www.csih.org/what/conferences2003.html> or contact the secretariat at: CCIH Conference Secretariat, c/o Alliance Group, 302-376 Churchill Avenue North, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Z 5C3. Tel: +1.613.722.4140 (ext 222) or fax: +1. 613.722.8901.

## Publications

The first report (UN doc. E/CN.4/2003/58) of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Professor Paul Hunt, is available online at:

[http://193.194.138.190/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/0/9854302995c2c86fc1256cec005a18d7/\\$FILE/G0310979.pdf](http://193.194.138.190/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/0/9854302995c2c86fc1256cec005a18d7/$FILE/G0310979.pdf)

## Further publications

Ashton JR and Alvarez-Dardet C. Public Health impact of the conflict in Iraq. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 57 (4) (April 2003).

<http://jech.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/57/4/DC1>

Dyer O. Baghdad's hospitals struggle to cope with war wounded. *BMJ* 2003;326:779 (12 April).

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7393/779>

Moszynski P. Amnesty condemns allies' use of cluster bombs. *BMJ* 2003;326:780 (12 April).

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7393/780/a>

Summerfield D. Fighting "terrorism" with torture. *BMJ* 2003 ; 326: 773-774 (12 April).

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/326/7393/773>

See also electronic responses: <http://bmj.com/cgi/eletters/326/7393/773>

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