
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

AI Bulletin Vol 4, No. 9, 27 April 2001
AI Index: ACT 84/09/01

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Summary

AI reports & statements: Jamaica / Myanmar / Turkey

Further news: deaths of Aborigines in custody, Australia / excavation of suspected mass grave, Croatia / UN denounced "cruel executions" in Iran / international mental health week, Rwanda / media followed last moments of death row inmates before execution, Thailand / total of 17 hunger-strikers died in prison, Turkey / male rape in prisons, USA, Alabama/Texas death penalty USA / human rights activist detained in psychiatric hospital, Uzbekistan

Vacancies: Program Manager Latin America, DOWUSA / Spanish speaking GPs, Maya / Information Officer, MSF / Health Advisor, Save the Children

Publications: launch of *The Medical Profession & Human Rights* by the British Medical Association

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/>

Jamaica: Amnesty International Secretary General's open letter to the Government and citizens of Jamaica. 20 April 2001 [AI index: AMR 38/011/2001].

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/0AF152138DC5610280256A34003640C1?OpenDocument>

Myanmar: Campaigning for an end to official repression. 17 April 2001 [AI index: ASA 16/008/2001]. Members of Amnesty International are stepping up their campaign for human rights in Myanmar, including asking for the release of sick or elderly prisoners of conscience and to improve prison conditions. To begin the campaign, Amnesty International has issued its first list of political prisoners in the country including health professionals.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/CA3161AFF9E6ECEC80256A18003DC4FA?OpenDocument>

Turkey: Amnesty International's Secretary General meets representatives of Prisoner's Solidarity Committee. 17 April 2001 [EUR 44/024/2001]. Amnesty International's Secretary General met representatives of a Turkish prisoners' solidarity committee to listen to concerns about the situation of the prisoners on hunger strike in Turkey.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/144B5391180CE99B80256A3100500158?OpenDocument>

Turkey: Urgent need to end isolation in Turkish prisons. 24 April 2001 [AI index: EUR 44/026/2001]. Amnesty International launched its report on F-type prisons, saying that isolation regimes in Turkish prisons must be stopped immediately. Press release:

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/B3F5B429A38B5C0A80256A370033E8DC?OpenDocument>

Full report [AI index: EUR 44/025/2001]:

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/EUR440252001?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\TURKEY>

Also see *BBC*, Turkey urged to reverse prison policy (24 April):

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_1295000/1295077.stm

Further news

Australia - deaths of Aborigines in custody. A new report of the Australian Institute of Criminology, published 10 years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody reviews changes over the past decade. The report, *Deaths in Custody: 10 Years on from the Royal Commission* by Paul Williams, is available in PDF format at the AIC site: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi203.html>

Croatia - excavation of suspected mass grave. The UN War Crimes Tribunal has sent forensic experts to a cemetery on the outskirts of Knin, an area from where almost 300 Serbs are still missing, the *BBC* reported (24 April). http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_1293000/1293486.stm

Iran - UN denounced "cruel executions". The UN Human Rights Commission denounced on 20 April human rights violations in Iran, including "unsatisfactory compliance with international standards in the administration of justice, in particular public and especially cruel executions", the *Boston Globe* reported (20 April).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/110/world/U_N_rights_body_condemns_Iran_.shtml

Rwanda - International Mental Health Week. During the International Mental Health week, organised by the Rwandan Ministry of Health, the WHO and Swiss embassy in Kigali, health professionals pointed out the steady increase in the number of people suffering from mental illnesses since the genocide in 1994 (*Pan African News Agency on Reliefweb*, 22 April).

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/9ca65951ee22658ec125663300408599/907da7959aa89a0a85256a370065f087?OpenDocument>

Thailand - media called to follow last moments of death row inmates. The *BBC* reported that the media were invited to follow the last moments of five men before they were executed. These men did not know until two hours before their execution that they were going to be executed nor were they given a chance for any further contact with their families (23 April). http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/newsid_1292000/1292812.stm

Turkey - total of 17 hunger strikers died in prison. Seventeen hunger strikers have died in protest to their transfer to small cells, according to the *BBC* (22 April) (also see Amnesty International reports & statements on Turkey above).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_1291000/1291274.stm

USA - male rape in prisons. *Human Rights Watch* published its report "No Escape: Male Rape in U.S. Prisons", addressing this widespread abuse in U.S. prisons and "the authorities' reluctance to acknowledge the problem of prisoner-on-prisoner rape" (19 April). <http://www.hrw.org/press/2001/04/usrape0419.htm>

USA - Alabama/Texas: death penalty. For critical comment on the death penalty in Alabama and Texas see: <http://www.prospect.org/print/V12/8/silverstein-k.html> (Ken Silverstein, 'The Judge as Lynch Mob,' *The American Prospect* vol. 12 no. 8, 1 May 2001) and http://www.dallasnews.com/editorial/345346_deathpenalty_2.html (Editorial. 'Death penalty: It's time for Texas to pause', *Dallas Morning News*, 22 April 2001)

Uzbekistan - human rights activist detained in psychiatric hospital. *Human Rights Watch* reported that Elena Urlaeva, a member of the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan, was involuntarily detained in the main psychiatric hospital in Tashkent. HRW reported that a medical commission ordered her to undergo compulsory treatment although the physician who performed the intake interview said she was healthy and should not be hospitalized (*Human Rights Watch*, 12 April). <http://www.hrw.org/press/2001/04/uzbekistan041201.htm>

Vacancies

Doctors of the World USA is looking for an experienced **Program Manager for the Latin America region** to manage existing health programs and develop new projects. The position is based in New York. For further information, contact: PM LA search; fax: +1.212.226.7026 or <mailto:duganm@dowusa.org> (subject: PM LA). Last day to apply: 10 July 2001. Web-site: <http://doctorsoftheworld.org/>

Maya, the Guatemalan Indian Centre, is looking for four **Spanish speaking General Practitioners** needed for 3 months work each in a Guatemalan village helping the existing surgeon. Expenses will be paid, but no wages. For further details, please contact: Maya, The Guatemalan Indian Centre, 94 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 2 TF, United Kingdom. Tel: +44.20.7371.5291. [Mailto:maya@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:maya@ukonline.co.uk)

MSF is looking for an **Information Officer** to work on its Access to Essential Medicines Campaign to manage the production of the campaign's key documents / press releases and to develop the campaign web-site. The post is based in Geneva. For further information, contact: MSF (Isabelle Sausseureau), Rue du Lac 12m, P.O.Box 6090, 1211 Geneva 6, Switzerland. [Mailto:isabelle_sausseureau@geneva.msf.org](mailto:isabelle_sausseureau@geneva.msf.org)

Save the Children is looking for a **Health Advisor** based in Giceta, Burundi, for 12 months to support and advise the Ministry of Health to strengthen the delivery of integrated primary health care services in two provinces and to assist in the process of health sector reforms. For further information, contact: Overseas Personnel, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD; tel.: +44.20.7293.7614; fax: +44.20.7293.7614 (Overseas) or <mailto:emergencyvacancies@scfuk.org.uk>

Publications

The British Medical Association launched its new book *The Medical Profession and Human Rights* on Monday 23 April. (592 pages, £18.95 paperback, £50.00 hardback plus postage, ISBN 1 85649 612 0). For the press release click here: <http://web.bma.org.uk/homepage.nsf>. For BMJ news item see: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7293/1014/b> (Beecham L. New BMA book highlights human rights abuses. *BMJ* 2001;322:1014 (28 April))

Orders can be made to: Sales Manager, Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF. Tel: +44 20 7837 8466. Fax: +44 20 7833 3960, <mailto:Sales@zedbooks.demon.co.uk>. For all ordering options see: <http://www.blahtech.com/zed/order.htm>
Distributed in the USA by Palgrave, division of St Martin's Press, LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Evans R. Gassed: British chemical warfare experiments on humans at Porton Down (London: House of Stratus, 2000). ISBN 1842320718.

For a book review see: Hay A. The unfortunate experiments at Porton Down. *Lancet* 2001;357:9263 (14 April): http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol357/iss9263/full/llan.357.9263.dissecting_room.15820.1

Flanagin A. Medical journals are socially responsible about war. *BMJ* 2001;322:930 (14 April). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7291/930/a>

Gerrity E, Keane T, Tuma F (eds). *The Mental Health Consequences of Torture* New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers Inc, 2001

Gruenbaum E. *The Female Circumcision Controversy: An Anthropological Perspective*. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, 244 pp, ISBN 0-8122-1746-2, 2001.

Haglund W, Galloway A, Simmons T. *Practical Forensic Anthropology of Human Skeletal Remains Recovery - Analysis & Resolution* (April 2001). ISBN 0849381576

Prison medicine: A crisis waiting to break. *BMJ* (2001). For a press release on this report click here: <http://web.bma.org.uk/public/pubother.nsf/webdocsvw/prisons>

Rumani G. Refugee doctors find it hard to get back into practice. *BMJ* 2001; 322:862 (7 April). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/322/7290/862/a>

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