

---

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol 6, No. 9, 16 May 2003

AI Index: ACT 84/009/2003

---

Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. NOTE: Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

### Summary

**AI reports & statements:** Bosnia / Philippines / Zimbabwe

**Further news:** AIDS prevention / Australia - asylum / Cambodia - CAT report / China - SARS / Russia - prisoners

**Conferences:** Forensics and sexual abuse, Harare, June 2003

**Publications**

### Amnesty International reports & statements

**Bosnia-Herzegovina: The government should reject US impunity agreement.** See: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engneur630112003>

**Philippines - children in detention.** Street children are particularly vulnerable in detention because they do not have family and community support AI reported. See <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/phl-110403-action-eng>

**Zimbabwe. Rights under siege.** There has been an alarming escalation in politically motivated violence in Zimbabwe in the last three years. See: <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/zwe-020503-action-eng>

See other reports at: <http://www.amnesty.org>

### Further news

**AIDS prevention.** Fewer than one in five people at risk of HIV infection today have access to prevention programs, and annual global spending on prevention falls \$3.8 billion short of what will be needed by 2005, according to a new report by the Global HIV Prevention Working Group (13 May). See: *Access to HIV Prevention: Closing the Gap*. UNAIDS Geneva, 13 May: [http://www.unaids.org/publications/Prevention130503\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/publications/Prevention130503_en.pdf) (48 pages)

**Australia - asylum seekers.** The children of asylum seekers held in Australia's migrant detention centres for more than two years are showing alarming rates of mental illness, psychiatrists said this week. See <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/openssl.htm?tbl=NEWS&id=3ec22114c&page=news> (13 May). See also the BBC report: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3023107.stm>

**Cambodia - CAT issues provisional conclusions.** The UN Committee against Torture expressed concern, among other things, over numerous, ongoing and consistent allegations of acts of torture and other ill-treatment committed by law-enforcement personnel in police stations and prisons; extended impunity for past and present violations of human rights committed by law-enforcement officials and members of the armed forces, and in particular the failure of the Government to investigate acts of torture and other cruel or degrading treatment; and allegations of widespread corruption among public officials in the criminal justice system.

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/9CA71C2ABC7568B7C1256D250025C0FF>

**China -- SARS.** *The Scotsman* (16 May) reports that the Chinese authorities plan to interpret their laws to allow the death penalty for those recklessly exposing others to the SARS virus. See: <http://www.thescotsman.co.uk/international.cfm?id=554642003>. See also. "China takes drastic action over SARS." <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9370/full/llan.361.9370.news.25713.1>

**Russia -- prisoner numbers.** According to the Moscow Times online (15 May) the number of people held in Russian prisons is increasing, reversing the trend of recent years. See: <http://www.moscowtimes.ru/stories/2003/05/15/012.html>

## Conferences/workshops

### Forensics and management of victims of violence and sexual abuse. A one day workshop.

9.30am to 5.00pm, 7 June 2003.

Holiday Inn, Harare, Zimbabwe. Registration at the door Z\$5000.

Organized by Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights.

## Publications

Coleman P, Shellow RA. Toward a Uniform Standard for Mental Retardation in Death Penalty Cases. *Mental Retardation* 2003 Jun;41(3):203-204 (no link).

Heisler M, Moreno A, DeMonner S, Keller A, Iacopino V. Assessment of torture and ill treatment of detainees in Mexico: attitudes and experiences of forensic physicians. *JAMA* 2003 Apr 23-30;289(16):2135-43.

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=12709474&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12709474&dopt=Abstract)

Mégret, F, Hoffmann, F. The UN as a Human Rights Violator? Some Reflections on the United Nations Changing Human Rights Responsibilities.

Merry, SE. Rights Talk and the Experience of Law: Implementing Women's Human Rights to Protection from Violence.

Joseph, S. Pharmaceutical Corporations and Access to Drugs: The "Fourth Wave" of Corporate Human Rights Scrutiny. For abstracts of these and other articles in *Human Rights Quarterly* 2003; 25(2), visit:

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human\\_rights\\_quarterly/toc/hrq25.2.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq25.2.html) (May 2003)

Oulton JA. Armed conflict: consequences and challenges for nurses. *International Nursing Review* June 2003 Volume 50 Issue 2 Page 72.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/10.1046/j.1466-7657.2002.00139.x/abs>  
(subscription needed)

Prof Nancy Scheper-Hughes writes on the contemporary trade in organs. See "Keeping an eye on the global traffic in human organs", *Lancet* 2003; 361: 1645-48, [http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9369/full/llan.361.9369.editorial\\_and\\_review.25587.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol361/iss9369/full/llan.361.9369.editorial_and_review.25587.1)

World Bank. *Civil War and Development Policy*. Report can be downloaded from <http://econ.worldbank.org/prr/CivilWarPRR/>. See the press release -- World Bank Urges International Action to Prevent Civil Wars -- at:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK%3A20111519~menuPK%3A34463~pagePK%3A34370~piPK%3A34424~theSitePK%3A4607,00.html>

=====

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to [medical@amnesty.org](mailto:medical@amnesty.org)  
AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/>  
AI Health Professional web-site: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf>  
Newsletters are archived at: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf/bull?openview>