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-----RECENT AI STATEMENTS & REPORTS

Amnesty International released its Annual Report 1999 on 16 June 1999 [AI Index: POL 10/01/99]. The report details abuses committed by governments and armed opposition groups, extrajudicial executions, judicial executions, prisoners of conscience, cases of torture and ill-treatment and "disappearances" in countries all over the world. The introduction to the report focuses on the use of the death penalty. The report is available at <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aireport/ar99/index.html> ; For "Facts and Figures" on Amnesty International see a news release available at <http://www.amnesty.org/news/1999/O1000399.htm> [AI Index: ORG 10/03/99, 16 June 1999].

Brazil: No one Here Sleeps Safely - Human Rights Violations Against Detainees [AI Index: AMR 19/09/99, 23 June 1999]. This report, the result of two years of research of Amnesty International, launched an AI campaign on Brazil and concludes that criminal suspects and ordinary prisoners are forgotten victims of human rights violations in Brazil. The rights of detainees are enshrined in the Brazilian constitution, but prisoners are failed by a damaging combination of corruption, lack of professional training for prison guards, and lack of official guidelines and effective monitoring of abuses. For the full report see <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/AMR/21900999.htm> ; a news release [AI Index: AMR 19/15/99] is available at <http://www.amnesty.org/news/1999/21901599.htm>

World: Justice for Victims: Ensuring Effective Enforcement Abroad of Court Decisions Concerning Reparations [AI Index: IOR 53/02/99, June 1999]. This memorandum is addressed to all governments currently participating in the treaty negotiations taking place at a Special Commission meeting of the Hague Conference concerning the jurisdiction of national courts over civil litigation and the obligation of courts of other states to recognize and enforce decisions in such civil litigation. See <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/IOR/15300299.htm>

-----DEATH PENALTY NEWS

Philippines: Eduardo Agbayani, who was found guilty in September 1994 on two counts of the incestuous rape of his daughter, was executed by lethal injection on 25 June 1999. According to unconfirmed Reuters reports, President Joseph Estrada tried to stop the execution in the last minute, but his phone call to the national penitentiary was only received after the lethal injection had already been administered. Prison officials were quoted by Reuters as saying that they did not receive any call and that the special hotline had not been used. President Estrada had earlier in the day vowed not to grant a reprieve for Agbayani calling him a "savage" who "should not last long in this world" and ignoring a plea for clemency from Agbayani's daughter. For an AI News Service issued on the day before the execution [AI Index: ASA 35/21/99, 24 June 1999] see <http://www.amnesty.org/news/1999/33502199.htm> and [http://www.inquirer.net/issues/jun99/jun15/news/news\\_6.htm](http://www.inquirer.net/issues/jun99/jun15/news/news_6.htm) for an article in the Philippines Daily Inquirer published just before the reprieve was granted.

Philippines: President Estrada on 15 June 1999 granted a 60-day reprieve to brothers Jurry and Ricardo Andal and their brother-in-law, Edwin Mendoza, who had been convicted of the 1994 rape and murder of a female teacher and scheduled for execution by lethal injection on 16,17 and 18 June 1999. The reprieve was granted in order to allow DNA tests to be conducted to

determine the men's guilt or innocence. On 26 May, the Philippine Supreme Court had rejected the lawyers' appeal for a review of the case, saying DNA testing was "unnecessary" and constituted "forgotten evidence too late to consider now". The tests are expected to be carried out in the week starting 28 June by the University of the Philippines and the National Bureau of Investigation. [AFP/Reuters 25 June 1999 and [http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/newsid\\_378000/378077.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/newsid_378000/378077.stm) ; also see [http://www.inquirer.net/issues/jun99/jun25/news/news\\_6.htm](http://www.inquirer.net/issues/jun99/jun25/news/news_6.htm) ]

USA: The Virginia Supreme Court on 16 June 1999 blocked the execution of convicted murderer Douglas Christopher Thomas just five hours before he was due to be executed, following a last-ditch appeal by his lawyers on technical legal grounds. Human rights organizations and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson had earlier appealed for Thomas' sentence to be overturned on the basis that he committed his crime when he was only 17 years old. The Supreme Court has now said it would hear arguments in the case in September. [Reuters 16 June 1999]. See <http://gatewayva.com/rtd/dailynews/virginiaarch/exec17.shtml>

USA: The Florida Supreme Court on 17 June 1999 overturned the murder conviction and death sentence of 43-year-old Ronnie Lee Jones who had spent twelve years on death row awaiting a hearing on whether he was competent to stand trial in the first place. The Supreme Court ruled that the delay in holding an evidentiary hearing, ordered in 1986 but not held until 1997, was inexcusable. State prosecutors might retry the case if Jones is determined competent to stand trial, the high court ruled. [Reuters 17 June 1999]. See <http://www.herald.com/herald/content/digdocs/news/dade/080140.htm>

USA: 61-year-old Joseph Stanley Faulder, a Canadian national who had spent 21 years on death row, was executed by lethal injection in Texas on 17 June 1999. The Texas Pardons and Paroles Board and Governor George W. Bush had earlier rejected a plea of clemency and the US Supreme Court had refused to consider an appeal. UN High Commission for Human Rights Mary Robinson had urged US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to stop the execution on the basis of irregularities in the trial leading to Faulder's conviction, including the fact that Canadian officials were not notified of his arrest and murder conviction, as dictated by the Vienna Convention on consular Relations. Faulder was the oldest prisoner ever to be put to death in Texas and the first Canadian to be executed in the USA since 1952. [AFP 18 June 1999]. Information on the case of Joseph Stanley Faulder can be found in the report: "USA: Killing Without Mercy - Clemency Procedures in Texas" [AI Index: AMR 51/85/99, June 1999, available online at <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/AMR/25108599.htm>

USA: The Committee on Psychiatric Medicine of the Medical Society of the State of New York [MSSNY] on 11 June 1999 unanimously passed a resolution requesting the MSSNY to develop a Policy Statement calling for abolition of capital punishment in the State of New York, and to instruct the New York State Delegation to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association to introduce a resolution calling for the abolition of capital punishment in the United States. The MSSNY's webpage is at <http://www.mssny.org/>

Lithuania: Lithuania's parliament on 22 June 1999 ratified the sixth protocol of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms by 73 to 2 votes with two abstentions, thereby abolishing the death penalty. The country's nine death row prisoners will have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment [Reuters 22 June 1999].

-----PERUVIAN TORTURE VICTIM FACES POSSIBLE RE-DETENTION  
Maria Elena Loayza Tamayo who had been released from detention in October 1997 following a ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights [IACHR], according to her lawyer risks having to return to prison to fulfill the remainder of her sentence after the Peruvian Supreme

Court overturned the IACHR's ruling on 17 June 1999 [AFP 17 June 1999]. Maria Elena Loayza had been detained by the anti-terrorism branch of the Peruvian police on 6 February 1993 on suspicion of having links with Shining Path and was later sentenced to 20 years in prison. She was raped and beaten by police following her arrest. AI and other human rights organisations criticised the new ruling in a joint statement. Mari Elena Loayza's case was featured in a 1996 AI report [Peru: Human Rights in a Time of Impunity, AI Index: AMR 46/01/99, p. 10, available at <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1996/AMR/24600196.htm> ].

-----EXHUMATION OF MASS GRAVE IN SRI LANKA

Forensic experts on 16 and 17 June 1999 exhumed two skeletons at a suspected mass grave site in Chemmani, 11 kilometres south of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The victims, one of whom had his hands tied with rope, were identified as two motor mechanics who had been arrested by government forces three years ago. The exhumation, which finally got under way on 16 June 1999, is being monitored by representatives from Physicians for Human Rights, Amnesty International and the Asia Foundation [AFP/Reuters, 18 / 20 June 1999]. See <http://www.amnesty.org/news/1999/33701799.htm> for an AI Press Release [Chemmani exhumations -- positive first steps towards truth and justice, AI Index: ASA 37/17/99, 22 June 1999]

-----NIGERIA APPROVES FUND FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Radio Nigeria-Kaduna on 17 June 1999 reported that Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission has approved the establishment of a trust fund to assist victims of human rights abuses in the country. The fund will reportedly provide legal services, cover medical expenses incurred by victims, and run human rights education programmes. [BBC World Service, 19 June 1999]. For Amnesty International's latest report on Nigeria [Release of Political Prisoners - Questions Remain about Past Human Rights Violations, AI Index: AFR 44/01/99, 31 March 1999] see <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/AFR/14400199.htm>

-----BRAZIL: POLICE CHIEF QUILTS OVER TORTURE ACCUSATIONS

Joao Batista Campelo, who was sworn in as Brazil's new police chief on 15 June 1999, was forced to resign just three days later over allegations that he participated in torture sessions during the country's military dictatorship in the 1970s. Former Roman Catholic priest and philosophy professor Jose Antonio de Magalhaes Monteiro testified to the human rights committee of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies on 16 June 1999 how Campelo helped tie his hands and feet to a pole before he was tortured following his arrest as a subversive in the 70s. Campelo vehemently denies the allegations. On 21 June, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso appointed lawyer Agilio Monterio Filho as Campelo's successor. [AFP/Reuters, 15/18 June 1999, BBC World Service 23 June 1999]. See above for information on Amnesty International's current campaign on human rights violations against detainees in Brazil.

-----INVESTIGATION AT WORMWOOD SCRUBS

Following criminal investigations into allegations of serious assaults on prisoners by guards in Wormwood Scrubs prison in west London, Sir David Ramsbotham, the UK chief inspector of prisons, reportedly considers privatizing or even closing down the prison. See [http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,3604,58573,00.html](http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,58573,00.html) . Also see AI Bulletin No. 5, 5 March 1999.

-----DR CYNTHIA MAUNG

More information on Dr Cynthia Maung who has just been designated the first recipient of the Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights [see AI Bulletin no. 12, 11 June 1999] is available at <http://www.seattletimes.com/burma/> [Seattle Times special project]

-----MARY ROBINSON VISITS PRISONS IN RUSSIA

According to Reuters, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, said on 18 June 1999 that conditions in many Russian prisons "effectively amount[ed] to torture". Ms Robinson on 18 June concluded a 7-day visit to the Russian Federation. Although criticising the prison conditions, Ms Robinson called her talks with officials in Moscow "constructive and instructive" and was quoted by Reuters as saying that she "felt that there was an appreciation that there was a problem and that it needed to be addressed". Russian medical officials on 24 June 1999 said that a new drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis is turning a stay in a Russian jail into a death sentence for many people [Reuters, 18 June 1999 and <http://www.cnn.com/HEALTH/9906/24/russia.tb/index.html> ]. For a UN press release, see <http://www.unog.ch/news2/documents/newsen/hr9955e.html>

-----ICRC: TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] on 20 June 1999 evacuated around 13 expatriate staff from Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, and pulled other non-essential foreign staff out of the cities of Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar. The withdrawal followed an incident where 10 ICRC staff were beaten and threatened with death by masked men on the road from Kabul to Bamiyan on 16 June. After talks with the Taleban, an ICRC spokesman said on 23 June that a security arrangement had been reached and that full operations would resume in the country as of 28 June. Taleban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar had on 22 June issued a decree that anyone harassing foreign aid workers would face a five-year jail term. [Reuters 20/23 June 1999, AFP 23 June 1999].

-----BARBARA CHESTER AWARD

The Hopi Foundation is inviting nominations for the Barbara Chester Award, which will be presented in association with the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June 2000. This annual award is given to outstanding clinicians/practitioners who work with survivors of torture. Deadline for nominations is 1 December 1999. For more information contact the Hopi Foundation at <mailto:rwrobin@ptialaska.net> , Tel: +1.907.966.2600, Fax: +1.907.966.2424

-----RECENT LITERATURE

Ransome-Kuti B. Human rights - the struggle for democracy in Nigeria. *Journal of the World Medical Association*, 45/1:1-5 [Guest Editorial]. Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, former Secretary General of the Nigerian Medical Association and well-known human rights and pro-democracy activist, was released from detention in Nigeria on 16 June 1998 after having been arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison in a secret trial held before a military tribunal in 1995. Amnesty International had adopted Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti as a prisoner of conscience.

Richards T. Restoring medical services in Kosovo will be a massive task. *British Medical Journal* 1999;318:1646. Available online at <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/318/7199/1646/a>

Horton R. Croatia and Bosnia: the imprints of war - I. Consequences. *Lancet* 1999; 353: 2139-44.

Horton R. Croatia and Bosnia: the imprints of war--II. Restoration. *Lancet* 1999; 353: 2223-28

Both articles are available online to registered non-subscribers only at <http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/reg/issues/vol353no9170/series2139.html> and [http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/reg/issues/vol353no9171/menu\\_NOD999.html](http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/reg/issues/vol353no9171/menu_NOD999.html)

-----PUBLICATIONS

Redress. *The Torture Survivors' Handbook: Information About Support for Torture Survivors in the UK*. London: Redress, 1999:49p. Part I of this handbook contains contact details for a large number of UK organizations relevant to torture survivors, while part II concentrates on the

special field of expertise of Redress itself. For more information contact Redress at Tel +44 171 278 9502, Fax: +44 171 278 9410, webpage: <http://www.redress.org>

Basoglu M [ed]. Torture and its Consequences: Current Treatment Approaches. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998:527p. This book, which was first published in 1992 in hardback, is now out in a paperback edition for the price of GBP 35.00/USD 54.95. For more details see <http://www.cup.cam.ac.uk/Scripts/webbook.asp?isbn=052165954X>

Human Rights Watch. Sierra Leone: Getting Away with Murder, Mutilation, Rape. June 1999:60p. The text of the report is available at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/sierra/> ; for information on how to order hard copies see <http://www.hrw.org/research/nations.html>

-----MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Torture 2000. Birkbeck College, University of London (Faculty of Continuing Education), 25 March 1999. Speakers include Dr Gill Hinshelwood (Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, London), Fiona MacKay (Redress), Sir Nigel Rodley (UN Special Rapporteur on Torture) and Dr Silvia Casale (European Committee for the Prevention of Torture). For more information contact Carol Watts at Tel: +44 (0)171 631 6652, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ, UK.

International Congress of Catholic Doctors: Medicine and Human Rights. Rome, Italy, 3-7 July 2000. For more information contact the Organizing Committee at the Italian Catholic Medical Association [AMCI], Tel: +39.6.687.3109/3205, Fax: +39.6.686.9182, Via della Conciliazione 10, 00193 Rome, Italy.

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