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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Summary

**AI reports & statements:** Small arms report / Mental retardation and death penalty / China / North Korea / Russian Federation / Slovakia / Zambia

**Further news:** treating acid burn victims, Bangladesh / visit a refugee camp, Canada / statement by CPT, Chechnya / Jail deaths spark protest, Chile / 'doctors concerned over Pinochet verdict', Chile / use of prisoners' organs, China / labour activist released from psychiatric hospital, China / Prosecution of 52 men suspected of being gay, Egypt / CPT report on France, France / woman stoned to death, Iran / cover-up of killings alleged, Kosovo / Genocide: role of courts, Rwanda / Centre for International Forensic Assistance, Glasgow, Scotland / human rights defender in Paris for medical treatment, Syria / female genital mutilation, Tanzania / female medical students required to be virgins, Turkey / torture victims jailed pending asylum decisions, UK / 'death on the installment plan', USA / prisons and infectious diseases, USA / death in custody of a human rights defender, Uzbekistan

**Conferences:** 'Capital Punishment and International Human Rights Law' : the Irish Centre for Human Rights and le Centre de Recherche sur les Droits de l'Homme

**Vacancies:** Center for Victims of Torture: field coordinator

### 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/>

*Human rights abuses with small arms. Illustrative cases from Amnesty international reports 2000 - 2001*, 9 July 2001 [POL 34/007/2001]. This report was published to coincide with the UN Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons. It illustrates the range of worldwide human rights abuses carried out with small arms.

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/POL340072001> press release, 9 July 2001 [POL 34/008/2001]  
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/C695B23818C0FCA780256A8100331773> and 20 July 2001, [POL 34/009/2001]

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/6BFEA68DD35B9ABB80256A8E004667F2>  
See also Human Rights Watch's statement <http://www.hrw.org/press/2001/07/smallarms0719.htm> and the UN website <http://www.un.org/Depts/dda/CAB/smallarms/>

*Mental retardation and the death penalty*, [ACT 75/002/2001] This presentation was made at the First World Congress Against the Death Penalty, Strasbourg, France, 21-23 June 2001 by James Welsh, Coordinator, Medical Program, Amnesty International. It summarizes the issues arising from the practice of executing prisoners with mental retardation. No link. (Available on request.)

*China: Human rights and the spirit of Olympism*, 13 July 2001 [ASA 17/023/2001] "The Chinese authorities have a long way to go to demonstrate a healthy respect for human rights," says Amnesty International after China was awarded the right to host the 2008 Olympic games.  
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/ASA170232001?OpenDocument>  
Also see article in the *Guardian* <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4221797,00.html>

*North Korea: Human rights under scrutiny at the UN*, 18 July 2001 [ASA 24/001/2001] The UN Committee which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights will be briefed by human rights organizations on North Korea's use of the death penalty, forced labour, torture, unfair trials and political prisoners.  
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/C02343B75E77E01D80256A85003A8E37>

*Russian Federation: Amnesty International welcomes President Putin's commitment to abolish the death penalty*, 10 July 2001, [EUR 46/017/2001] President Putin was quoted as saying that Russia should uphold its five-year-old moratorium on the death penalty despite calls to reinstate capital punishment.  
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/864E6D12F3A0D7DE80256A8500591E8E>

*Slovakia: death of a Romani man in custody - renewed calls for decisive government action*, 11 July 2001 [EUR 72/003/2001] Karol Sendrei died on 6 July 2001 whilst detained with his two sons in Revúca police station. Amnesty International calls for the Slovak authorities to protect the fundamental rights of all individuals in Slovakia and to investigate cases of police torture of members of the Romani community according to international standards.  
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/C82031A82FC6DCFA80256A860032E928>

*Zambia: Time to abolish the death penalty*, 18 July 2001 [AFR 63/004/2001] This report focuses attention on Zambia's use of death penalty, noting that it does not apply international standards for fair trials.  
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/AFR630042001>

## Further news

**Bangladesh - Treating acid burn victims.** The *Los Angeles Times* reports (15 July) on the medical care of women acid-burned by men in Bangladesh. (AP. 'Reaching Out to Acid-Attack Victims')  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-000057833jul15.story>

**Canada - Visit a refugee camp.** MSF Canada is taking a "refugee camp" to several cities in Canada in September/October to allow members of the public to see the life lived by refugees. There is also a web site in which these issues are explained. Connect to <http://www.msf.ca/refugeecamp/>

**Chechnya - Statement by CPT.** The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) issued a statement on Chechnya on 10 July. 'Public statement concerning the Chechen Republic':  
<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20010710en.htm>

**Chile - Jail deaths spark protest.** After the death of 26 prisoners in a fire in a jail, over 12 000 prisoners went on strike and demanded an end to overcrowding and brutal treatment in Chilean prisons.  
<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2001/jul2001/chil-j05.shtml>

**Chile - 'doctors concerned over Pinochet verdict'.** BMJ, 21 July. Experts in dementia have raised concerns over the medical reports used to declare Pinochet unfit to be tried for crimes committed under his military rule. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7305/130/d> (BMJ 2001;323:130)

**China - Use of prisoners' organs.** Doctor Wang Guoqi testified last month to the US subcommittee on International Relations and Human rights and described how he had removed body parts from executed prisoners for organ transplantation. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7304/69/a>

**China - Labour activist released from psychiatric hospital.** Cao Maobing was committed to a psychiatric hospital last December after talking to foreign reporter about an independent union campaign in a state-owned silk factory. He was released on 18 July 2001.  
<http://dfn.org/focus/china/cao-release.htm>

**Egypt - 52 men suspected of being gay prosecuted.** The 52 men were charged in a state security court with engaging in immoral acts or religious offences. All pleaded not guilty. ('Egypt Tries 52 Men Suspected of Being Gay', NY Times, 19 July)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/07/19/international/19EGYP.html>

**France - CPT report on France.** The CPT has published the report of its visit to France in 2000 and the response of the French Government. See press release (19 July) at :  
<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20010719en.htm> (in French at:  
<http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/presse/20010719fr.htm>). The reports are available in French at:  
<http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/rapports/inf2001-10fr.htm> (rapport);  
<http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/rapports/inf2001-11fr.htm> (réponse)

**Iran - Woman stoned to death.** Reports in the Iranian media that Maryam Ayyubi has been stoned to death in Iran have stirred widespread international concern. This is the second stoning in two months.  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle\\_east/newsid\\_1435000/1435760.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1435000/1435760.stm) See also Amnesty International's press release: <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/MDE130242001>

**Kosovo - Cover-up of killings alleged.** *Newsweek* article by Roy Gutman and Rod Nordland presenting allegations of the cover-up of killings in Kosovo. (Body of evidence, 23 July cover date)  
<http://www.msnbc.com/news/600571.asp?cp1=1>

**Rwanda - Genocide: Role of courts.** The *Economist* (16 July) discusses the role of the two UN tribunals and a court in Belgium in trying to obtain justice in the case of genocide. See:  
[http://www.economist.com/world/displayStory.cfm?Story\\_ID=655648&CFID=2880342&CFTOKEN=32642055](http://www.economist.com/world/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=655648&CFID=2880342&CFTOKEN=32642055)

**Scotland - Centre for International Forensic Assistance, Glasgow.** For details of this recently opened centre see:  
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/forensicmedicine/CIFA/pages/page.htm>. The Forensic Department home page is:  
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/forensicmedicine/>

**Syria - Human rights defender in Paris for medical treatment.** Nizar Nayyufw who was released in May by the Syrian authorities is to be treated for medical problems arising from his nine years in prison.  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle\\_east/newsid\\_1440000/1440385.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1440000/1440385.stm)

**Tanzania - Female genital mutilation.** Some 4,000 girls and women aged between 12 and 26 years are scheduled to undergo ritual female circumcision in October, despite a government ban, reports the *East African* (16 July). <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/EastAfrican/current/Regional/Regional26.html>

**Turkey - Female medical students required to be virgins.** Turkey has adopted a new code of conduct for women studying for professions in the health sector.  
[http://www.ptd.net/webnews/wed/dj/Qturkey-health-women.RQIE\\_BIG.html](http://www.ptd.net/webnews/wed/dj/Qturkey-health-women.RQIE_BIG.html)

**UK - Torture victims jailed pending asylum decisions.** The UK is the only state in the European Union to jail torture victims seeking asylum says the UNHCR  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4220327,00.html> Also see the Medical Foundation's website: <http://www.torturecare.org.uk>

**USA - 'death on the installment plan'.** Jonathan Shainin looks at Terre Haute, the town in whose Federal Prison Timothy McVeigh was executed. (*Nation*, 23 July):  
<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20010723&s=shainin>

**USA - Prisons and infectious diseases.** *Mother Jones* reports on the prison system in the USA including the risks of violence and ill health for those incarcerated...and those outside. ('Incubating disease', 10 July): <http://www.mojones.com/prisons/disease.html>

**Uzbekistan - Death in custody of a human rights defender.** Human Rights Watch deplored the death in custody -- on or around 7 July -- of a human rights defender in Uzbekistan, according to a press release issued 11 July. <http://www.hrw.org/press/2001/07/uzbek0710.htm>

## Conference

The Irish Centre for Human Rights and le Centre de Recherche sur les Droits de l'Homme are organizing a conference on **Capital Punishment and International Human Rights Law**, September 20-21, Galway, Ireland. For more information, see [http://www.nuigalway.ie/human\\_rights](http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights)

## Vacancies

The **Center for Victims of Torture** seeks a **field coordinator** to coordinate the implementation of a psycho-social mental health project in Sierra Leone. Closing date: 31 July 2001. For more information, contact Center for Victims of Torture, Director of Administrative Services, 717 East River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55455; email: [hr@cvt.org](mailto:hr@cvt.org), fax: 612-627-4144.

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