
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Summary

AI reports & statements: El Salvador - children / Sri Lanka -- opposition killings / Turkmenistan -- human rights cases
Further news: Guatemala - HIV-AIDS / India - death penalty / Israel - village health care / Iraq - Ministry of Health / Organ trade - Europe / Pakistan - acide burnings / Philippines - death chamber / South Africa - AIDS conference / UK -Tasers / USA - death penalty; Nuremberg documents
Fellowship
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

El Salvador. Thousands of children were innocent victims of the armed conflict in El Salvador between 1980 and 1991. Hundreds were assassinated in massacres committed by the armed forces; others were taken after their parents were murdered or after becoming separated from them during army attacks on their villages. AI is asking that these "disappeared" children be accounted for. See: AI Index: AMR 29/004/2003, 30 July
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engamr290042003>

Sri Lanka. In a joint press release AI and Human Rights Watch said that "there is convincing evidence that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are taking advantage of the cease-fire with the Sri Lankan government to murder political opponents". See: AI Index: ASA 37/003/2003 <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA370032003>

Turkmenistan. AI has issued a set of appeals on human rights cases in Turkmenistan. See AI Index: EUR 61/012/2003, 6 August
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR610122003>

Other news

Guatemala - HIV/AIDS. Médecins sans Frontières has expressed concern that a new industrial property law in Guatemala risks ending the organization's capacity to provide anti-retrovirals at 75-99% less than the Government pays for such drugs. The new law promises five years' "market exclusivity" to pharmaceutical providers. See:
<http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=236090A9-D94B-4720-8E0CC66E7884E4F6>

India - death penalty. A few months ago the Law Commission of India sought opinion on the mode of death sentence in India. Their discussion paper was sympathetic to the introduction of lethal injection. The Times of India reports on public comments on the Commission request for feedback. See:

Times of India (24 July):

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/html/comp/articleshow?msid=94101>

Iraq - health ministry. The Coalition Provisional Authority provides information on the Iraq Ministry of Health (MOH) on its web-site: <http://www.cpa-iraq.org/>. The ministry is "led by Mr. James K. Haveman, Jr. the Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Health, Coalition Provisional Authority, headquartered in Baghdad, Iraq. The MOH is staffed with an assemblage of industry leaders in health care from the US and other International countries representing the civilian and military coalitions supporting the current effort to rebuild the Iraqi health care system." Weekly newsletters are available in English from <http://www.cpa-iraq.org/newsletters/index.html>. The address of the Ministry is: min_of_health@orha.centcom.mil

Israel / Occupied Territories - village health. PHR-Israel has published a study on health care in unrecognized villages in Negev. See 'Health rights in the unrecognized Negev villages'. Summary: http://www.phr.org.il/Phr/Pages/PhrArticle_Unit.asp?Cat=153&art=532&Pcat=4. The report can be downloaded at: http://www.phr.org.il/Phr/downloads/dl_155.doc The related press release is available at: http://www.phr.org.il/Phr/Pages/PhrArticle_Unit.asp?Cat=11&art=596

Organ trade - growth business. The BMJ reports on research of the Council of Europe which has issued a report saying that, "because of a rapidly increasing demand for kidney transplants, trafficking in kidneys has become a hugely profitable business for international organised crime—and for the doctors who perform the procedures". See: 'Kidney trafficking is "big business," says Council of Europe'. *BMJ* 2003;327:249 (2 August): <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/327/7409/249-a>. The report is available from the CoE at: <http://assembly.coe.int/documents/workingdocs/doc03/edoc9822.htm>. See also: Parliamentary Assembly / Assemblée parlementaire: Recommendation 1611 (2003)1: "Trafficking in organs in Europe" <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http%3A%2F%2Fassembly.coe.int%2FDocuments%2FAdoptedText%2Fta03%2FEREC1611.htm>

Pakistan - violence against women. The BBC reports (28 July) on continuing acid burning attacks on women in Pakistan. See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3097469.stm

Philippines - execution chamber. The execution chamber in the Philippines has not been used since the execution carried out there on 4 January 2000. The prisons director has ordered that the chamber be cleaned and assessed for additional necessary renovation. 'Bilibid readies "death room" for executions'. *Manila Times* (31 July). http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2003/jul/31/top_stories/20030731top5.html

South Africa - AIDS conference

Speech given by Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS at the conference of the "Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa" (immediately preceding the national South African AIDS Conference in Durban 3-6 August 2003) <http://allafrica.com/stories/200308030120.html>.

Speech by Peter Piot, UNAIDS head, to conference:

http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/speeches/eng/Piot_SouthAfrica_03Aug03_en.html

Report of opening day of conference:

<http://www.aidsmap.com/news/newsdisplay2.asp?newsId=2227>

Human Sciences Research Council study shows the extent to which the AIDS pandemic is affecting health workers in South Africa. See *Cape Times* (5 August):

<http://www.capetimes.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=201848>

AFP interview with Director General of WHO Lee Jong-wook (*Mail & Guardian* 5 August) on AIDS and South African policy: <http://www.mg.co.za/Content/13.asp?ao=18317&t=1> (See also interview with Lee in *Washington Times*:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20030803-110601-2249r.htm>

UK - taser. A taser electro-stun device has been used for the first time by London police reports the BBC (4 August):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/3122469.stm>

USA - death penalty. An article about the postponed execution of Richard Cooley in Ohio reviews some issues relating to lethal injection executions. 'Lethal injections questioned over amount of pain delivered'. *Toledo Blade* (Ohio, 3 August)
<http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20030803/NEWS24/108030133>

USA - Nuremberg documents online. Associated Press reports that Harvard University is making available online more than a million documents from the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders. See: 'Nuremberg trials documents go online' *Guardian* (1 August):
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/news/0,12597,1010794,00.html>. Materials relating to the "doctors' trial" is already available. See:
http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu/php/docs_swi.php?DI=1&text=medical

Fellowships

The Transitional Justice Fellowship Program, established by the International Centre for Transitional Justice and coordinated by the ICTJ and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in Cape Town, South Africa is seeking nominations for four month fellowships for 2004. For further details visit the ICTJ website --
http://www.ictj.org/fellowship_program.asp -- or write to fellowships@ictj.org. The application form can be downloaded from:
<http://www.ictj.org/downloads/Fellowship%202004%20Application.pdf>. The deadline for applications is 1 September 2003.

Publications

Special JAMA issue on violence: See: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/vol290/issue5/index.dtl>

Articles include:

Exposure to Terrorism, Stress-Related Mental Health Symptoms, and Coping Behaviors Among a Nationally Representative Sample in Israel. Avraham Bleich; Marc Gelkopf; Zahava Solomon. *JAMA*. 2003;290:612-620.

Mental Health and Health-Related Quality of Life Among Adult Latino Primary Care Patients Living in the United States With Previous Exposure to Political Violence. David P. Eisenman; Lillian Gelberg; Honghu Liu; Martin F. Shapiro. *JAMA*. 2003;290:627-634.

Factors Associated With Poor Mental Health Among Guatemalan Refugees Living in Mexico 20 Years After Civil Conflict. Miriam Sabin; Barbara Lopes Cardozo; Larry Nackerud; Reinhard Kaiser; Luis Varese. *JAMA*. 2003;290:635-642.

Screening for Risk of Persistent Posttraumatic Stress in Injured Children and Their Parents. Flaura K. Winston; Nancy Kassam-Adams; Felipe Garcia-España; Richard Ittenbach; Avital Cnaan. *JAMA*. 2003;290:643-649.

Death and Injury From Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance in Afghanistan. Oleg O. Bilukha; Muireann Brennan; Bradley A. Woodruff. *JAMA*. 2003;290:650-653.

Clinical Manifestations of Sarin Nerve Gas Exposure. Ernest C. Lee. *JAMA*. 2003;290:659-662.

Exhumation of Mass Graves in Iraq: Considerations for Forensic Investigations, Humanitarian Needs, and the Demands of Justice. Eric Stover; William D. Haglund; Margaret Samuels. *JAMA*. 2003;290:663-666.

Posttraumatic Symptoms and the Complexity of Responses to Trauma. Jerome Kroll. *JAMA*. 2003;290:667-670.

Other publications

Krishnan J. The rights of the new untouchables: a constitutional analysis of HIV jurisprudence in India. *Human Rights Quarterly* August 2003 25(3). Abstract available at: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq25.3.html

Levinson S. The debate on torture: war against virtual states. *Dissent* (Summer 2003) <http://www.dissentmagazine.org/mentest/articles/su03/levinson.htm>. See responses from Henry Shue (<http://www.dissentmagazine.org/mentest/articles/su03/shue.htm>) and Richard Weisberg (<http://www.dissentmagazine.org/mentest/articles/su03/weisberg.htm>) and a rejoinder by Levinson (http://www.dissentmagazine.org/mentest/articles/su03/levinson_reply.htm)

Lo B, Bayer R. Establishing ethical trials for treatment and prevention of AIDS in developing countries. *BMJ* 2003;327:337-339

MacQueen KM et al. Ethics guidance for HIV prevention trials. *BMJ* online (9 August): <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/327/7410/340/DC1> [full version of shorter journal article *BMJ* 2003;327:340: <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/327/7410/340>

Singh JA (singhj9@nu.ac.za). American physicians and dual loyalty obligations in the "war on terror". *BMC Medical Ethics* 2003, 4:4. Text available online at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-6939-4-4.pdf>

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