

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol 3, No. 16, 11 August 2000

AI Index: ACT 84/16/00

---

To subscribe or unsubscribe from the bulletin or to contact AI please write to <mailto:medical@amnesty.org>. Visit the AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org> and the AI Health Professional web-site at: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf>

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:** Guatemala executions / Togo investigations

**Death penalty:** Guatemala sentences confirmed / Kenya death row / Pakistan death row / Russia ex-death row / Saudi Arabia further executions / USA: Georgia; Texas; Washington DC

**International tribunals & Impunity:** Bosnia/USA - women sue Karadzic / Chile - Pinochet case

**Further news:** Angola landmines / China psychiatric abuse alleged / Europe autopsy rules / European court and sexual rights / FGM clarification / Guatemala: killings admitted / ICRC people on war survey / Kosovo: suffering continues; portrait of B. Kouchner / Sudan: MSF suspends activities / UN right to health / USA refugee children

**Conferences:** 2nd Congress of Social Psychology of Human Rights / Diploma in Mental Health on Political Violence / ICN pre-conference

**Publications**

### Amnesty International statements and reports

*Guatemala. Further Executions Loom.* AMR 34/22/00.

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/AMR/23402200.htm> . (See also report on Guatemala below.)

Togo: The investigation of extrajudicial executions committed in Togo in 1998 by the joint UN-OAU Commission of Inquiry cannot be successful without an effective witness protection program, Amnesty International said on 9 August. See press release: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/15701000.htm>

### Death penalty

**Guatemala - 3 sentences confirmed.** The Guatemalan Supreme Court has confirmed a sentence of death by lethal injection against three men for the kidnapping of a seven year old boy in 1997. The boy was released by security forces after being held for 48 hours. See report [in Spanish] in *Siglo Veintiuno*, 29 July. <http://168.234.153.31/cgi-bin/calcing.asp?codigo=jg9eje01> .

**Kenya - hundreds on death row.** According to the *Daily Nation*, hundreds of prisoners are on death row, some having been under sentence of death for 20 years. The last execution in Kenya was in 1987. See : <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/30072000/News/News12.html> (30 July) <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/30072000/Comment/SpecialReport2.html> (30 July) <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/31072000/News/News23.html> (31 July)

**Pakistan - death row.** According to the *Asian Age* (6 August) there have been 4000 people sentenced to death in Pakistan [no time frame given]. Last year 49 were hanged according to the article. It cites a Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Report as speculating that Pakistan's death row may be the biggest in the world. See: <http://www.asianage.com/asianage/06082000/detsou02.htm>

**Russia - life on (ex-)death row.** The London *Sunday Times* (6 August) reports on the situation of ex-death row inmates now serving life sentences following the ending of the death penalty in Russia. ("Living hell of Russia's death row".) <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk:80/news/pages/sti/2000/08/06/stifgnrus02001.html>

**Saudi Arabia - further executions.** Two further executions on Sunday 6 August bring to at least 82 the number of men executed in Saudi Arabia this year. Both were beheaded, one for drug smuggling and the other for murder. See:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/meast/08/06/saudi.beheadings.ap/index.html>

See Al's Saudi Arabia campaign site at: <http://www.amnesty.org/campaign/index.html#saud>

-----

**USA - Georgia: DNA investigation of executed man.** Ellis Wayne Felker, was electrocuted in 1996 for the 1981 rape and murder of 19-year-old Evelyn Joy Ludlam. He maintained that he was innocent. DNA material from the case has now been sent for laboratory investigation. See: *Macon Telegraph* (26 July) <http://www.MaconTelegraph.com/local/felker0726.htm> and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (27 July): [http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/newsatlanta/dna\\_execution0727.html](http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/newsatlanta/dna_execution0727.html) (2 August): [http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/newsatlanta/dna\\_execution0802.html](http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/newsatlanta/dna_execution0802.html) and 6 August:

[http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/epaper/editions/sunday/news\\_93c87f12025852e00023.htm](http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/epaper/editions/sunday/news_93c87f12025852e00023.htm)

|

**USA - Texas: Mental retardation.** Oliver Cruz (Latino) was executed by lethal injection on 9 August. His lawyer argued that he was mentally retarded. For a review of the issues see *New York Times* (7 August): <http://www.nytimes.com/library/national/080700death-mental.html> (NY Times requires free registration. See: <http://www1.nytimes.com/auth/login?URI> ). For an account of the execution of Cruz (and a second prisoner, Brian Roberson [black]) see: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2183-2000Aug10.html>. For American Bar Association letter from ABA president, Martha W Barnett, to Governor George W Bush raising mental retardation issues concerning the execution of Oliver David Cruz (written before Cruz's execution) see: <http://www.abanet.org/poladv/congletters/106th/dp080700-1.html>

**USA - Washington, DC.** Federal prosecutors are urging that a man accused of the murder of two security officers be forcibly treated with drugs for schizophrenia in order that he can be tried. See *Washington Post* (24 and 27 July)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38353-2000Jul24.html>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57218-2000Jul27.html>

Background on case:

<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/nation/specials/aroundthenation/capitolshootings/>

## International tribunals & impunity

**Bosnia/USA - women sue Karadzic.** A group of Bosnian women sued former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in a New York court using the Alien Tort Claims Act of 1789. See the *Washington Post* ("War crimes trials find a US home", 9 August) <http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A50511-2000Aug7.html> . On 10 August the court ruled that Karadzic had to pay the women 745 million dollars. See 'Karadzic told to pay victims \$745 million' (11 August) : <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5652-2000Aug10.html>

**Chile: Pinochet.** Augusto Pinochet has been stripped of his immunity from prosecution.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/World/Americas/2000-08/ASpinochet080800.shtml> . See *Washington Post* editorial (Prosecuting Gen. Pinochet, 10 August):

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1106-2000Aug9.html>. *El Mercurio* reports (10 August in Spanish) that Sen. Pinochet was not informed personally of the decision and that medical examinations for Sen. Pinochet are being discussed. See

[http://www.elmercurio.cl/diario\\_elmercurio/portada\\_v/7018019010110082000001A0100196.asp](http://www.elmercurio.cl/diario_elmercurio/portada_v/7018019010110082000001A0100196.asp) . See also: *La Tercera* (11 August): <http://www.tercera.cl/diario/2000/08/11/t-11.03.3a.POL.LAGOSS.html> ;

For an article discussing bringing Pinochet and former Chad leader Hissene Habre to justice, see: Bosco D. Dictators in the Dock, *American Prospect* (14 August):

<http://www.prospect.org/archives/V11-18/bosco-d.html>

## Further news

**Angola - land mines.** Doctors in Kuito, Angola, continue to see victims of landmines. See: [http://www.globe.com/dailyglobe2/219/nation/Old\\_war\\_young\\_victims+.shtml](http://www.globe.com/dailyglobe2/219/nation/Old_war_young_victims+.shtml)

**China - psychiatric abuse alleged.** The American Psychiatric Association's Committee on the Abuse of Psychiatry and Psychiatrists passed a resolution in May at the APA's annual meeting in Chicago recommending that the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) investigate the alleged wrongful detention of Falun Gong practitioners in psychiatric hospitals. See: <http://www.psych.org/pnews/00-06-16/chinese.html>

**Council of Europe - harmonisation of autopsy rules.** An initiative that began in the late 1980s has finally resulted in a Council of Europe decision on harmonising autopsy standards throughout the Council of Europe countries. See: *Harmonisation of Autopsy Rules in Europe*-- abstract available at: <http://book.coe.fr/GB/CAT/LIV/HTM/11563.htm>  
Prior documentation on harmonisation of autopsy rules can be found at: <http://www.coe.fr/cm/ta/rec/1999/99r3.htm>  
<http://www.coe.fr/cm/reports/cmdocs/1997/97cm3.html> and <http://stars.coe.fr/ta/ta91/erec1159.htm>  
See also: Brinkmann B. Editorial: Harmonisation of Medico-Legal Autopsy Rules. *International Journal of Legal Medicine*, 1999: 113 (1) : 1-14 . Not available online except to subscribers: <http://link.springer-ny.com/link/service/journals/00414/bibs/9113001/91130001.htm>  
See also: *Forensic Science International*, Vol: 111, Issue: 1-3, July 3, 2000: issue dedicated to European autopsy rules.

**European Court defends sexual activity in private.** Judges at the European Court of Human Rights have decided that the prosecution of a British man for sexual activity in private with other men had violated fundamental principles by breaching the man's "right to respect for a private family life". See 'Landmark ruling means gay sex law must change': <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/UK/Legal/2000-08/gay010800.shtml> . See also London *Times* court report '  
UK law on group male sex violates privacy [ADT v United Kingdom (Application No 35765/97)]' : <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/news/pages/tim/2000/08/08/timlawech01001.html> (8 August). The judgement has not been posted as of today but will be accessible via this site: <http://www.echr.coe.int/eng/Judgments.htm>

**FGM Clarification.** In the last newsletter we included a link to a BMJ item on (and against) female genital mutilation. The link ( <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7256/262> ) was accompanied by a quotation from a surgeon suggesting that FGM was different from "conventional child abuse" and that those who carried it out thought that they were doing the right thing. Our use of this quote appears to have been open to the interpretation that AI supported tolerating FGM on cultural grounds. AI (and the surgeon quoted) both oppose female genital mutilation unconditionally. For AI's position see: <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/femgen/fgm1.htm> .

**Guatemala - killings admitted.** The Guatemalan president, Alfonso Portillo, has admitted that the Guatemalan authorities had been responsible for killings during the country's civil war. See: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid\\_873000/873943.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_873000/873943.stm)

**ICRC - People on War reports.** The International Committee of the Red Cross has published several reports arising from an international consultation on conflict. The available reports -- including on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Lebanon, Russian Federation, Somalia, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Georgia-Abkhazia, Israel /occupied and autonomous territories, Nigeria, El Salvador, Philippines, and South Africa -- are available online at the following web site and can be downloaded: <http://nt.oneworld.org/cfdocs/icrc/pages/reports/reports.html>

**Kosovo - suffering continues.** *Newsweek* (11 August) reviews the experiences of women abused during the 1999 war in Kosovo. See 'A war's hidden tragedy': <http://www.msnbc.com/news/437981.asp>

**Kosovo - portrait of Bernard Kouchner.** Dr Kouchner founded MSF 30 years ago and is currently UN-appointed chief in Kosovo. See NY Times Magazine ('The Reluctant Imperialist', 6 August) <http://www.nytimes.com/library/magazine/home/20000806mag-kouchner.html>

**Sudan: MSF suspends activities.** Medecins sans Frontieres suspended its operations in southern Sudan following aerial bombing. See MSF press release (2 August):

<http://www.msf.org/projects/africa/sudan/reports/2000/08/pr-withdrawl/index.htm>

**UN. Right to health.** The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has adopted an interpretive comment on Article 12, the right to the highest attainable level of health. (See Bulletin 14, 14 July). Their comment is now available online at:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/MasterFrameView/40d009901358b0e2c1256915005090be?OpenDocument>

**USA - refugee children.** According to a *Miami Herald* report ('A Conflict of Interest?', 30 July) refugee children are vulnerable to deportation without representation. See:

<http://www.herald.com/content/archive/specialreport/docs/003971.htm>

## Conferences/courses

**2nd Congress** of Social Psychology of Human Rights, 8-10 November, Mexico City.

II CONGRESO DE PSICOLOGÍA SOCIAL DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS

Serapio Rendón 57-b Colonia San Rafael.

Delegación Cuauhtémoc

CP 06470, México, D.F.

Tel/Fax: (5)535 68 92; Tels: (5)546 82 17; (5)566 78 54

For further information write to E- Mailto: [visitas@sjsocial.org](mailto:visitas@sjsocial.org) or visit: <http://www.sjsocial.org/PRODH>

**Diploma in Mental Health** on Political Violence and Catastrophes, 2000-2001. [For health professionals in Latin America].

The course, organized by the Grupo de Acción Comunitaria and the Instituto Universitario Rafael Burgaleta, attached to the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, will be conducted through the "virtual classroom" of the Institute. For details see:

<http://www.eurosur.org/~gac/presenta/index.html> or write to <mailto:gac.org@arrakis.es>

**ICN 2001 Pre-conference:** Human Rights and Nursing.

A one-day Conference with Discussion-Forums on subjects from Anti-discrimination to Torture and Punishment.

Copenhagen, Friday 8 June 2001. For details and application form please contact:

Verena Tschudin, Nursing Ethics Editorial Office, 26 Cathcart Road, London SW10 9NN, United Kingdom.

Tel & Fax: +44 20 7351 1263. E- <mailto:vtschudin@fastnet.co.uk> or visit:

<http://www.freedomtocare.org/page120.htm>

## Publications

Astier H. Rights of the despised. *American Prospect*. (14 August cover date). Article on the rights of those accused of war crimes. <http://www.prospect.org/archives/V11-18/astier-h.html>

Chianu E. Two deaths, one blind eye, one imprisonment: child abuse in the guise of corporal punishment in Nigerian schools. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 2000 (July); 24(7):1005-9.

Debate on Declaration of Helsinki. See: *BMJ* 2000;321:442-445 (12 August):

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7258/442>

Drumbl MA. Sclerosis: Retributive justice and the Rwandan genocide. *Punishment & Society* 2000, 2(3):287. ...argues that genocide trials, and the extensive incapacitation that necessarily precedes them, may do little to promote justice, regime legitimacy, or national reconciliation in Rwanda. See:

<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/issue/abstract/ab013134.html>

FIDH. *Les Penitenciers en Equateur*. 57 page report [in French] on prisons of Ecuador (July 2000). You can access the pdf files at: <http://www.fidh.org/actu/fronty.htm> .

*Journal of the American Medical Association*. The 2 August edition of JAMA has numerous articles touching on human rights. Visit: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v284n5/toc.html>

International Council of Nurses. *The ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses*. Geneva, 2000. Available as pdf file at: <http://icn.ch/icncode.pdf>

Morgan R. Developing prison standards compared. *Punishment & Society* 2000, 2(3):325. Compares the (European) CPT and (USA) ACA standards. See abstract at: <http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/issue/abstract/ab013136.html>

## **Links**

Visit the UK Centre for the History of Nursing at: <http://www.qmuc.ac.uk/hn/history/>

=====  
This newsletter may be freely distributed in unrevised form. For free subscription contact the AI Medical Program at Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK.  
(mailto:medical@amnesty.org )  
AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/>  
Newsletters are archived at: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf/bull?openview>