
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

AI Bulletin Vol 5, No. 17, 6 September 2002
AI Index: ACT 84/017/2002

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Summary

AI reports & statements: Syria / Zimbabwe / UK

Post September 11

Further news: political psychiatry, China / AIDS activist disappeared, China / conditions in psychiatric hospitals, Kosovo / stay of execution, Philippines / 'South Africa's AIDS apartheid' / further death from hunger strike, Turkey / UN - CEDAW / lethal injection, USA / AIDS advocates face investigation, USA

Seminars: Advancing the Right to Health Through Litigation and Lobbying, PHR-UK / mental health issues for refugees with a particular focus on children and families, UK Sri Lanka Trauma Group

Vacancies: Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Syria: "Prisoners of conscience" must be released, not convicted. 28 August (MDE 24/040/2002)

The Supreme State Security Court sentenced three prisoners of conscience to sentences between two and five years. Physician Kamal Labwani was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for inciting armed rebellion.

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/MDE240402002>

Zimbabwe: Government authorities intensify their campaign to silence dissent. 2 September (AFR 46/041/2002).

As local elections approach in September, human rights organizations, independent media and the judiciary are increasingly harassed by Zimbabwean authorities. Dr Frances Lovemore, Medical Director of Amani Trust, was arrested on 29 August and released the following day.

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AFR460412002>

Also see a related press release by the UN, 'UN expert calls for action by international community to stop the deterioration of law in Zimbabwe' (2 Sept):

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/D9A6BDFB9868CBCEC1256C28004B32A8>

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/>

Post September 11

Amnesty International. *United Kingdom: Basic rights denied after 11 September*. 5 September (EUR 45/019/2002)

Human rights violations have occurred as a consequence of the UK authorities' response to the 11 September attacks.

Press release: <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/EUR450192002>

Report:

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/EUR450162002?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\UK>

"9/11 one year on: bridging the world's divisions" *Lancet* editorial (7 September) introducing a section discussing the implications of the attacks on New York and Washington DC one year ago:

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9335/full/lan.360.9335.editorial_and_review.22366.1

See also "September 11: how they identified the victims" (7 September):

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9335/full/lan.360.9335.dissecting_room.22364.1

For UN press release post September 11:

Security Council to adopt anti-terrorism text during high-level session on 11 September:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=4613&Cr=terror&Cr1=>

UN rights expert calls for protection against torture in anti-terrorism laws:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=4609&Cr=&Cr1=terror>

Further news

Afghanistan - mass graves. *Newsweek* magazine (26 Aug) has a feature entitled "The Death Convoy of Afghanistan": <http://www.msnbc.com/news/795153.asp>

Physicians for Human Rights has argued that reports such as this reinforce the need for an immediate comprehensive criminal investigation under the auspices of a UN-sanctioned Commission of Inquiry to determine the number of bodies in the grave, the circumstances of their deaths, and the likely perpetrators - all essential to begin the process of accountability.

See: http://www.phrusa.org/research/afghanistan/report_graves_newsweek.html;

The full forensic assessment of the site can be found at

http://www.phrusa.org/research/afghanistan/report_graves.html;

For additional resources see: <http://www.phrusa.org/research/afghanistan>.

China - political psychiatry. The Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry and Human Rights Watch released a report on the detention of political activists in psychiatric hospitals on politically motivated diagnoses.

Press release: <http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/08/china081302.htm>

Report: <http://hrw.org/reports/2002/china02/>

Also see: the *Guardian*, 'China sending 'dissidents to mental hospitals' ' (13 August):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/china/story/0,7369,773633,00.html>

International Herald Tribune, 'Beijing needs to get a stern message' (26 August):

<http://www.iht.com/articles/68717.htm>

BMJ 2002;325:513 (7 September), 'Psychiatric Association to investigate abuse in China':

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7363/513/b>

China - AIDS activist disappeared. Dr Wan Yanhai, an HIV/AIDS activist, reportedly went missing on or around 24 August. Amnesty International fears he has been detained by Chinese police. Dr Wan Yanhai was allegedly under surveillance by plainclothes police as a result of his HIV/AIDS activism and his support for health issues concerning lesbians and gay men and sex workers in China.

For a copy of Amnesty International's urgent action on Dr Wan's behalf, please e-mail: medical@amnesty.org

Also see the *New York Times*, 'China's top AIDS Activist Missing; Arrest is Suspected' (28 August):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/29/international/asia/29CHIN.html>

Kosovo - conditions in psychiatric hospitals. Click below for a *Washington Post* (18 August) editorial on the conditions for the mentally disabled in Kosovo following publication of a report by Mental Disability Rights International: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A28841-2002Aug16.html>.
Report: <http://www.mdri.org/webpages/KosovoReport.pdf>

Philippines - stay of execution. Rolando Pagdayawon, who was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on 30 August, has been granted a 90-day stay by President Arroyo. He was sentenced to death for the rape of his common-law wife's nine-year-old daughter. (No link)

South Africa - 'South Africa's AIDS apartheid'. *Le Monde diplomatique* has a feature on 'South Africa's AIDS apartheid' (August 2002): <http://mondediplo.com/2002/08/04aids>

Turkey - further deaths from hunger strike. The *Teheran Times*, citing AFP, reported that a 56th hunger striker died in an Ankara hospital on 31 August.
<http://www.tehrantimes.com/Description.asp?Da=9/2/02&Cat=5&Num=5>

UN - CEDAW. A dozen experts have been elected to the committee which monitors CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. See "UN States Parties to women's anti-discrimination convention elect 12 experts to monitoring committee." See UN press release:
<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/6C3DD0E095A02D11C1256C250027A6D3>

USA - lethal injection, Georgia. The Death Penalty Information Center provides on its website "Material Used in Challenge to Lethal Injection in Georgia. The transcripts include the testimony of Georgia Department of Corrections staff, doctors and nurses who participate in executions. The testimony of Dr. Daniel Rahn, President of the Medical College of Georgia, discussing the restrictions on doctors participating in executions is also included".
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/whatsnew.html#GAmaterials>

USA - AIDS advocates face investigation. The Department of Health and Human Services is reviewing the federal government's financial support of more than a dozen AIDS service organizations whose members joined in a demonstration against the Health and Human Services Secretary at the international AIDS conference held in Barcelona in July, reports the *Washington Post* (19 August). See: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A33900-2002Aug18.html>

Seminars

Physicians for Human Rights-UK is organising a ten week evening course entitled '**Advancing the Right to Health Through Litigation and Lobbying**'. The course will run from 3 October - 12 December 2002 on Thursday evenings at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. For further information, contact PHR-UK, 91 Harlech Road, Abbots Langley, Herts WD5 0BE. Tel: (+44) (0) 7707 96609 or e-mail: phall@gn.apc.org

The **UK Sri Lanka Trauma Group** is organising a day meeting of lectures and workshops on **mental health issues for refugees with a particular focus on children and families**. Date & venue: 28 September 2002 at the Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, London. For further details contact Dr A D Nikapota on (+44) (0) 20 7848 0179 or Dr Rachel Tribe at (+44) (0) 8223 4553 or e-mail: R.J.N.Tribe@uel.ac.uk

Vacancies

Human Rights Officer, in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Professor Paul Hunt. See details at <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/vacancies/va56.html>. Deadline 4 September 2002. All applications for this post, mentioning the vacancy announcement number (02/OHCHR/056/GENEVA), should be sent to: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Personnel Unit, Room PW 2-031, Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland. Fax: (+41) (0) 22 917 9024. E-mail: personnel.hchr@unog.ch

Publications

Curtis M J R. Force-feeding: Implications for the Mental Health Act 1983 and Human Right Act 1998. *Journal of Mental Health* 2002; 11/3: 235-242. (No link)

Davidson L. Human rights vs public protection - English mental health law in crisis? *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 2002; 25/5: 491-515. (No link)

E. Francesca. Aids in contemporary Islamic ethical literature. *Med Law* 2002;21(2):381-94 [PubMed]
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12184613&dopt=Abstract

Emmerik A A P van et al. Single session debriefing after psychological trauma: a metaanalysis. *Lancet* 2002; 360: 766-71.
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9335/full/Ilan.360.9335.original_research.22353.1
See also Commentary (Post-trauma debriefing: the road too frequently travelled - *Lancet* p.741)

Essén B et al. Is there an association between female circumcision and perinatal death? *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2002, 80: 629-32.
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/pdf/2002/bul-8-E-2002/bu1256.pdf>

European Committee for the Prevention of Torture. 12th annual report (3 Sept) .
Press release: "Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee: Twelve years of preventing ill-treatment" <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20020903en.htm>
Report: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/annual/rep-12.htm>
Note: the report contains recommendations concerning standards with respect to police custody: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/annual/rep-12.htm#police>

Hodes M. Implications for psychiatric services of chronic civilian strife: young refugees in the UK. *Adv Psychiatr Treat* 2002 (Sept) 8: 366-374. [text for subscribers here](#). Commentary [on previous paper] by Milavic G. *Adv Psychiatr Treat* 2002 (Sept) 8: 374-376. [text for subscribers](#).

Hopkins J. International group reiterates stance against human organ trafficking. *BMJ* 2002;325:514 (7 September).
<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7363/514/b>

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. *A Year of Loss: Reexamining Civil Liberties since September 11*(September 2002).
<http://www.lchr.org/aftersept/loss/report.htm>

Mishra P. Murder in India. *New York Review of Books* (15 August)
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/15636>.
Review of 'We Have No Orders to Save You': *State Participation and Complicity in Communal Violence in Gujarat* a report by Human Rights Watch (available at:
www.hrw.org/reports/2002/india/gujarat.pdf)

Posner R. Review of *Why Terrorism Works: Understanding the Threat, Responding to the Challenge* by Alan M. Dershowitz (Yale University Press) [The reviewer is a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and a senior lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School.; the author is a prominent US attorney]
<http://www.thenewrepublic.com/docprint.mhtml?i=20020902&s=posner090202>

Schapowal AG, Baer HU. Medical ethics in peace and in the armed conflict. *Mil Med* 2002 Aug;167(8 Suppl):26-31 [PubMed].
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12186301&dopt=Abstract

Schreeb J von. Health needs of Palestinians. *Lancet* 2002;360:9334 (31 August)
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9334/full/lan.360.9334.correspondence.22286.1>

Sibbald B. AIDS, refugees, hunger and despair: Here's how MDs can help. *CMAJ* 2002;167(5) (3 September)
<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/167/5/528>

Spooner M H. UK seeks to integrate refugee MDs. *CMAJ* 2002; 167 (4) (20 August).
<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/167/4/387>

Watts J. Tokyo victims of Japan's notorious Unit 731 sue. *Lancet* 2002;360:9333 (24 August).
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9333/full/lan.360.9333.news.22240.1>

Also see:

The Age (Melbourne), 'The Asian Auschwitz of Unit 731' (29 August):

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2002/08/28/1030508070534.html>

BBC, 'Japan court rejects germ warfare case' (27 August):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/2218266.stm>

No newsletter was sent out on 23 August due to staff absences

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