

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Summary

**AI reports & statements:** Brazil / Mexico / Palestinian Authority / Millennium Summit

**Death penalty:** increase lethal injection China / constitutional amendment Florida struck down / new evidence Darlie Routier death row Texas / death sentence quashed in Texas

**International tribunals & Impunity:** increase complaints Pinochet / human rights abusers seek asylum USA / ICC ratifications

**Further news:** violence human rights defenders Brazil / humanitarian crisis DRC / exhumation Honduras / increase violence Indonesia / sentencing environmentalists Mexico / medical experiments 'war children' Norway/ human rights violations Palestinian Authority / ban working women Khartoum / sentencing initiative USA / corporal punishment Louisiana USA

**Conferences & fellowships**

**Vacancies**

**Publications**

### Amnesty International reports & statements

*Brazil. The threats are real -- the authorities must act now!* 7 September 2000 [AMR 19/23/00]. <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/21902300.htm> (Also see 'Further news')

*Mexico. Environmentalist prisoners of conscience convicted.* 29 August 2000 [AMR 41/47/00]. <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/24104700.htm> (Also see 'Further news')

*Palestinian Authority. Silencing Dissent.* 5 September 2000 [MDE 21/16/00].

Full text: <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/2000/MDE/52101600.htm>

Press release: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/52102000.htm> (Also see 'Further news')

*Millennium Summit -- Time to commit to human rights protection.* 5 September 2000 [IOR 40/25/00]. <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/I4002500.htm>

### Death penalty

**China - Increase lethal injections.** The Chinese government has said they will increase the use lethal injection and reduce executions by a bullet to the head or heart, the *Independent* and *CNN* reported. "Developed and civilised countries such as US and Japan still have the death penalty, which shows that it is necessary" according to a professor of law in Beijing.

[http://www.independent.co.uk/news/World/Asia\\_China/2000-09/chinadeath050900.shtml](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/World/Asia_China/2000-09/chinadeath050900.shtml) (6 September)

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/ASIANOW/east/08/31/china.injection.ap/index.html> (1 September)

**USA - Florida.** The Florida Supreme Court has struck down a 1998 constitutional amendment on the grounds that the ballot was misleading (as was argued by abolitionists at the time). See the *Miami Herald* report (8 September) 'Justices negate '98 vote on death penalty'.  
<http://www.herald.com/content/today/news/fladocs/056471.htm>

**USA - Texas.** New evidence has surfaced in the case of Darlie Routier, one of the eight women currently on death row in Texas. See *Newsweek* (7 September) 'Death-Row Debate'.  
<http://www.msnbc.com/news/456799.asp>

**USA - Texas.** A federal judge in Texas has quashed the death sentence of Delma Banks Jr., now 40, 20 years after he was convicted for the murder of a 16-year-old boy. The judge ruled Delma Banks Jr. received poor legal representation and ordered a retrial within 120 days (*Reuters*, 31 August) (no link available).

### **International tribunals & impunity**

**Chile. Rise in complaints against General Pinochet.** The *Boston Globe* reported that the number of criminal complaints against General Pinochet has risen to 170.  
[http://www.boston.com/dailynews/244/world/Criminal\\_complaints\\_against\\_Pi:.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailynews/244/world/Criminal_complaints_against_Pi:.shtml)

**USA - Human rights abusers seeking asylum.** U.S. officials and human rights groups are convinced that large numbers of human rights offenders have migrated to the USA - in the midst of those they persecuted. (*Baltimore Sun*, 28 August, 'Rights abusers can find haven')  
<http://www.sunspot.net/content/cover/story?section=cover&pagename=story&storyid=1150420213230>

### **International Criminal Tribunal - ratifications & signatures**

On 6 September 2000, Lesotho became the 16th state to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC. The Marshall Islands and Mexico were the 99th and 100th to sign the ICC Statute. The ICC will be formally established after 60 countries have ratified the Rome Statute. See the web-site of the Coalition for an ICC: <http://www.igc.org/icc/>

### **Further news**

**Brazil - Violence against human rights defenders.** The *BBC* reported that there is an increasing concern about extreme right-wing groups threatening human rights defenders, gays and blacks. Both Amnesty International and a gay rights organization have received explosive devices (7 September).  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid\\_913000/913903.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_913000/913903.stm)

**Democratic Republic of Congo - Humanitarian crisis.** More than one million civilians have been internally displaced in the east of the country after years of conflict, the *BBC* reported. Most aid agencies have left the region for security concerns (6 September).

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid\\_913000/913532.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_913000/913532.stm)

Also see the *Guardian* (7 September):

<http://www.guardianunlimited.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,365431,00.html>

**Honduras - Exhumations clandestine cemetery.** Forensic teams are due to arrive at El Agua Contra base - which used to be a base for Nicaragua's former Contra rebels - for exhumations of disappeared left-wing people, *CNN* reported (7 September).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/09/07/honduras.nicaragua.retut/index.html>

**Indonesia - Increased violence West Timor.** UN officials said they feared 20 people had been killed by pro-Indonesian armed groups, the Boston Globe reported (8 September).

[http://www.boston.com/dailynews/252/world/U\\_N\\_fears\\_20\\_killed\\_in\\_new\\_Tim:.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailynews/252/world/U_N_fears_20_killed_in_new_Tim:.shtml)

Three UN humanitarian workers have been killed in the violence on 6 September. (*Miami Herald*, 7 September).

<http://www.guardianunlimited.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,365431,00.html>

**Mexico - Sentencing environmentalists.** Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Garcia, environmentalists and prisoners of conscience adopted by Amnesty International, have been sentenced to, respectively, six years and eight months' and ten years' imprisonment (*CNN*, 28 August). Amnesty International believes they are imprisoned solely because of their peaceful activism to protect the forests in Guerrero's mountains (also see 'Amnesty International reports & statements' above).

<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/08/28/mexico.ecologist.jailed.ap/index.html>

**Norway - 'War children' used in medical experiments.** The *Dagvisen* newspaper reported that the Norwegian pharmaceutical institute and army tested drugs in the post war years on around ten children fostered by German fathers during the Nazi occupation (*AFP*, 4 September) (no link available).

**Palestinian Authority - Human rights abuses West Bank / Gaza.** The Palestinian Authority has imprisoned journalists, human rights defenders, religious figures, professors and government officials, the *Washington Post* reported in an article reviewing Amnesty International's report *Silencing Dissent* (also see 'Amnesty International reports & statements' above).

<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/mideast/A12425-2000Sep4.html>

**Sudan - Ban preventing women working.** In Khartoum women have been banned from working in public places where they are in direct contact with men, the *BBC* reported (6 September).

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid\\_911000/911502.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_911000/911502.stm)

**USA - Louisiana corporal punishment.** The online magazine Salon reports on an end to corporal punishment in Louisiana's juvenile detention facilities. 'No more corporal punishment in Louisiana juvenile prisons' (7 September).

[http://www.salon.com/mwt/wire/2000/09/07/corporal\\_punishment/index.html](http://www.salon.com/mwt/wire/2000/09/07/corporal_punishment/index.html)

**USA - Sentencing initiative.** Alternatives to prison for the mentally ill. See: *Miami Herald* (8 September): 'U.N. group's visit may spread court's reputation worldwide'. (The article refers to Human Rights Watch rather than the UN). <http://www.herald.com/content/today/news/brodocs/012601.htm>

## Conferences & fellowships

**Egypt.** The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) is convening the Second International Conference of the Human Rights Movement in the Arab World in collaboration with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. Theme: Human Rights Education and Dissemination in the Arab World. Date: 13-16 October 2000. Contact details: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Magdi El Na-im, Project Co-ordinator, P.O. Box 117, Magles Al Shaab, 11516, Cairo, Egypt. Tel: +202 794 3715 / 795 1112. Fax: +202 795 4200. E-mail: [CIHRS@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:CIHRS@idsc.gov.eg)

**United Kingdom.** The Leo Kuper Foundation is organising the Raphael Lemkin Centenary Conference on genocide. Date: 18 October 2000. Venue: Georgian Board Room, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ, United Kingdom. Contact: The Leo Kuper Foundation, 159 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0QT. Tel: +44 20 7373 7332. Fax: +44 20 7341 0050. E-mail: [LKF@west-end.demon.co.uk](mailto:LKF@west-end.demon.co.uk)

**United Kingdom.** The Medical Students International Network is convening a conference with the theme: "Globalisation: a Challenge to Health Equality?". Date: 28-29 October 2000. Contact: MedSIN Edinburgh, Chaplaincy Centre, Potterow, Bristo Square, Edinburgh EH8 9AG, United Kingdom; e-mail <conference@medsin.org>. Online information and application forms available at: <http://www.medsin.org/>

**USA.** The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, is offering several fellowships. Deadline: 15 November 2000. Contact: Wendy Lower, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington D.C. 20024-2126, USA. Tel: +1 202 314 0378. E-mail: [wlower@ushmm.org](mailto:wlower@ushmm.org). Website: <http://www.ushmm.org/research/>

**USA.** UC Berkeley, USA, is organising a conference entitled "The State and the Body". Date: 20-23 September 2000. For further information and an online application: <http://www.chance.berkeley.edu/research/wotb/wotb.html>

### **Vacancies**

**Cambodia.** Medical officer. International Organization for Migration, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Please send application letter and CV to Dr. Nnette Motus. Fax: 8552 321 6423. E-mail: <[iomphnompe@iom.int](mailto:iomphnompe@iom.int)>. For further information: [http://www.iom.int/iom/employment\\_opportunities/entry.htm](http://www.iom.int/iom/employment_opportunities/entry.htm) Closing date: 29 September 2000.

Volunteer external liaison officer / information officer. Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace. Location can be anywhere. For details: Gundeljeva 18, Vukovar, Croatia. Tel: 385 32 641 392. Fax: +385 32 441975. E-mail: [cwwppvuk@zamir.net](mailto:cwwppvuk@zamir.net)>.

### **Publications**

Harding TW. Human rights law in the field of mental health: a critical review. *Acta Psychiatr Scand Suppl* 2000;399:24-30  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/80/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=10794022&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/80/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=10794022&dopt=Abstract)

Hill AR, Silverberg NB, Mayorga D, Baldwin HE. Medical hazards of the tear gas CS. A case of persistent, multisystem, hypersensitivity reaction and review of literature. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2000 Jul;79 (4): 234-40. For an abstract see:  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=10941352&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=10941352&dopt=Abstract)

Ahmad K. International concern grows over psychiatric abuses in China *Lancet* 2000; 356: 919 - 922.  
[http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol356no9233/body.news\\_pp920.html#internationalconcerngrowsverpsychiatricabusesinchina](http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol356no9233/body.news_pp920.html#internationalconcerngrowsverpsychiatricabusesinchina)

Mirzaei S, Knoll P. The last trial of a Nazi doctor. *CMAJ* 2000;163(5):498-9  
<http://www.cma.ca/cmaj/vol-163/issue-5/0498b.htm>

Rovella DE. In Search of a Death Penalty Martyr. *The National Law Journal*, 28 August 2000. Article discussing some of the issues raised by the DNA examination of material evidence in the case of Ellis Wayne Felker, executed in 1996 for murder. See:  
<http://www.law.com/cgi-bin/gx.cgi/AppLogic+FTContentServer?pagename=law/View&c=Article&cid=ZZZMPCCBCCC&live=true&cst=1&pc=0&pa=0&s=News&ExpIgnore=true&showsummary=0>

*Tenth General Report on the CPT's activities covering the period 1 January to 31 December 1999.*  
European Committee for the Prevention of Torture or Degrading an Inhuman Treatment or  
Punishment.

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/general/rep-10.htm>

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