

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Summary

AI reports & statements: Egypt / Libya / USA

Death penalty: USA: APA moratorium resolution / DNA testing / mental retardation / survey New York Times / survey US Justice Department

International tribunals & impunity: death ICTY witness / war crimes trial Kosovo / extradition request torture suspect in Mexico / call war crimes tribunal Saddam Hussein

Further news: torture Brazil / peace agreement Burundi closer / rehabilitation child soldiers Colombia / rape refugees in Guinea / call for aid East Timor / brutal killing convicts Kenya / sentence of lashes Nigeria / suspension working ban for women Sudan

Vacancies: mental health professional CVT, Guinea; program director WOT USA.

Publications

AI reports & statements

Egypt. Muzzling Civil Society. 19 September 2000 [MDE 12/28/00].

Press release: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/51202800.htm>

Full text report: [http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/MDE120212000?](http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/MDE120212000?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\EGYPT)

[OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\EGYPT](http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/MDE120212000?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\EGYPT)

The BBC reported on arrests of fifteen members of the Muslim Brotherhood (19 September).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_931000/931499.stm

Libya. Concerns about health professionals' trial. 15 September 2000 [MDE 19/13/00].

Amnesty International fears that 16 health professionals on trial in Libya may receive the death penalty. The defendants are accused of infecting nearly 400 children with the HIV virus. The defendants are alleged to have been tortured. In addition, there seem to have been serious irregularities in the pre-trials proceedings.

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/51901300.htm>

Turkey. A sea of flowers for Akin Birdal. 22 September 2000 [EUR 44/46/00].

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/86c0392d7778aba780256807004880e5/736d1b1aa0a9702b802569610042277b?OpenDocument>

UK. AI critique of UK government's human rights performance. See article:

http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_63378.html

USA. Death Penalty - Time for Leadership. 13 September 2000 [AMR 51/142/00].

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/25114200.htm>

Death penalty

USA - APA resolution. The American Psychiatric Association Council on Psychiatry and Law approved a resolution calling for a moratorium on capital punishment in the USA (no link available).

USA - DNA testing. Prisoner's request for DNA test reported to have "sealed his fate". See 'DNA

tests sought by inmate support conviction, State says' (*Chicago Tribune*, 12 September)
<http://chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/article/0,2669,SAV-0009120406,FF.html>

USA - North Carolina: mental retardation. According to the *Charlotte Observer* (14 September) "poll after poll, year after year, reaches the same conclusion: Most Americans don't think people with mental retardation should be executed." See 'Carolinas join emotional debate over executing mentally retarded'. <http://www.charlotte.com/observer/natwor/docs/mental0914.htm>

USA - New York Times survey. A New York Times survey shows that 10 out of 12 states without capital punishment have homicide rates below the national average (22 September).
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/22/national/22DEAT.html>

USA - survey federal death penalty system. The US Justice Department has published a report in which it found significant racial and regional differences in the application of the death penalty, the *New York Times* reported (12 September).
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/12/national/12DEAT.html>
For the full report see: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dag/pubdoc/dpsurvey.html>

International tribunals & impunity

Croatia - death of ICTY witness. Milan Levar, a former Croatia soldier during the Bosnian war, was killed by a bomb, the *Washington Post* reported. Milan Levar had been a witness at the ICTY in the Hague, where he had testified on the murder of Croatian Serb civilians in Gospic in 1991 (14 September).
<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/europe/A98-2000Sep13.html>

FRY - war crimes sentence. The *Boston Globe* reported that a Serb student received a 20-year-sentence for the murder and rape of ethnic Albanians in the first war crimes trial in Kosovo.
http://www.boston.com/dailynews/264/world/Serb_student_sentenced_to_20_y:.shtml
A French judge joined Kosovo Albanian judges for the hearing under a UN programme designed to guarantee impartiality (The *Guardian*, 21 September).
<http://www.guardianunlimited.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,371069,00.html>

Mexico - possible extradition torture suspect. *CNN* reported that in the 1970s and 1980s Mexico liked to be known as a haven for refugees fleeing dictatorships in Chile and Argentina while at the same time the government was fighting its "dirty war" against guerillas in its own country. Now Mexico is deciding whether to honour an extradition request from Spain regarding Argentinian torture suspect Ricardo Cavallo (*CNN*, 15 September).
<http://www.cnn.co.uk/2000/WORLD/americas/09/15/mexico.missing.reut/index.html>
For further background information, see the *New York Times* (11 September):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/11/world/11MEXI.html>

USA - call for tribunal to try Saddam Hussein. The US government is calling for a war crimes tribunal to try Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi officials for the deaths of at least 100,000 civilians in Iraq and neighbouring countries, the *Associated Press* reported. Charges would include killing up to 100,000 of Iranians and Kurds with chemical weapons (19 September) (no link available).

Further news

Brazil - UN visit on torture. U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nigel Rodley, said "things were worse than I expected", reported the *Washington Post*. Rodley visited police stations and prisons and found that harsh prison conditions, torture and illegal detention are more commonplace than initially expected (13 September).
<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57494-2000Sep12.html>

Burundi - one step closer to peace accord. Three further Tutsi groups have agreed to sign a peace agreement to end the seven-year-war, the BBC reported. Two Hutu groups are the only two groups

who have not yet agreed to sign the peace agreement (13 September).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_923000/923381.stm

Colombia - rehabilitation child soldiers. "Adriana (17) is a veteran of five years service with the Marxist guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)", the *BBC* reported. She now lives in a secret rehabilitation centre in Bogota for former child soldiers (18 September).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_930000/930732.stm

Guinea - rape of refugees. Refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia have been attacked and some of them raped in Guinea. The attacks followed a speech by Guinea president Lansana Conte on 9 September, making a plea to protect the country from rebel attacks from Sierra Leone and Liberia, *Human Rights Watch* reported (13 September).
<http://www.hrw.org/press/2000/09/guinearefugees.htm>

Indonesia (East Timor) - call for food and medical supplies. The evacuation of 400 humanitarian workers has stopped food, medical and other aid to approximately 90,000 refugees. After an international relief organization's clinic closed there is reported to be an acute shortage of medical supplies. Refugees say the promise of food by the Indonesian government has not been fulfilled (*Washington Post*, 11 September).
<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/asia/A46533-2000Sep10.html>

Kenya - Six convicts killed. Six people on death row in King'ong'o Maximum Security Prison were killed when trying to flee and sustained extremely bad injuries. Two senior doctors examined the bodies and recorded fractured arms, legs, joint and skull fractures (*Daily Nation*, 14 September).
<http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/Today/News/News11.html>

Nigeria - Sharia sentence of 180 lashes. A 17-year old girl has been sentenced to 180 lashes by a court in Zamfara state for pre-marital sex. Police in her village reported her to the court when they saw she was pregnant (*BBC*, 14 September).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_924000/924573.stm

Sudan - suspension working ban for women. The ban barring women to work in certain jobs in Khartoum has been suspended by Sudan's Constitutional Court (*Panafrican News Agency*, 9 September).
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200009090174.html>

Vacancies

Mental Health Professional / Trainer, Center for Victims of Torture, to work with refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia who are torture survivors. Based in Gueckedou, Guinea. For further details, please contact: Melinda Czaia, Director of Training Services, The Center for Victims of Torture, 717 East River Road, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA. Tel: +1-612-627-4118 or 627 - 4100. Fax: +1-612-627-4144. E-mail: mczaia@cvt.org

Program Director, World Organization Against Torture USA, to assist with all aspects of the management and development of the organization. For a full job description, visit:
<http://www.wotusa.org/jobs.html> Send a cover letter and resume to: Morton Sklar, Executive Director, World Organization Against Torture USA, 1634 I Street, NW Suite 1001, Washington, DC 20006. Fax: +1-202-783-8048.

Publications

China plans larger-scale use of lethal-injection execution. *Lancet* 2000;356:1009 - 1012.
<http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol356no9234/eponym1023.html>

Irmay F, Merzouga B and Vettorel D. The Krukenberg procedure: a surgical option for the treatment of double hand amputees in Sierra Leone. *Lancet* 2000; 356: 1072-1075.

http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/reg/issues/vol356no9235/menu_NOD999.html
Also see the *New York Times*, 22 September:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/22/science/22HAND.html>

Landmine Monitor Report 2000: Toward a Mine-Free World. *International Campaign to Ban Landmines* (September 2000).
Report: <http://www.icbl.org/lm/2000/>
Article: <http://humanrights.about.com/newsissues/humanrights/library/weekly/aa091100a.htm>

New Internationalist Sept 00 (issue 327): special issue on torture. Not yet online but will be accessible at:
<http://www.oneworld.org/ni/backissue.html>

Report welcomes slow but steady eradication of landmines worldwide. *Lancet* 2000;356:1009 - 1012.
<http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol356no9234/eponym1023.html>

State of the World Population 2000. *UNFPA* (20 September 2000).
<http://www.unfpa.org/news/pressroom/2000/swp00adv.htm>

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