
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

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Summary

AI reports & statements: Afghanistan / Israel+OT / 11 September 2001 attack
Further news: China: death penalty, AIDS / FRY: exhumations / ICTR: trial of doctor / Libya: trial of HPs postponed / Nigeria: death sentence for "homosexual" / Pakistan: death penalty ordered / South Africa: AIDS / Turkey: CPT visit, hunger strike death, death penalty / USA: debriefing, death penalty and mental retardation / WHO chemical warfare
Conferences: London: death penalty / Geneva: humanitarian psychology / Sarajevo: land-mines
Vacancies: University of Toronto Faculty of Law
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Afghanistan: Mass movement of population risks human catastrophe. 21 September 2001 [ASA 11/010/2001]. The fear of military attacks on Afghanistan has caused a mass movement of people towards borders -- it is imperative that the international community take responsibility for this and urgently address the unfolding humanitarian crisis:
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/A2CDF731F507B7A280256ACE004B8A85?OpenDocument>

Israel/Occupied Territories: an end to closures and the introduction of international human rights observers are a vital necessity. 21 September 2001. "Basic foodstuffs and water are not getting through and Palestinians have died as access to hospitals becomes increasingly difficult" an Amnesty International delegate commented while visiting:
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/F653B55EDBC394FD80256ACE00395C1C?OpenDocument>

We must stand up for human rights. [ACT 30/023/2001] Following the 11 September attacks the voice of the defenders of human rights must not be drowned out by the clarion call to arms, AI said on 26 September.
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/76596B4B491A2BB780256AD3005C81DF?OpenDocument>

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/>

Further news

China - death penalty. An article in the English language edition of the *People's Daily* provides a detailed rationale for a wider application of lethal injection as the method of execution in the People's Republic of China. See: 'Death Sentence Implemented by Injection: a Top Secret Subject of Law Court',

http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200109/27/eng20010927_81178.html. (The announcement of the use of lethal injection was made in the *People's Daily* on 31 August 2000. See: http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200008/31/eng20000831_49455.html)

China - coming AIDS crisis. The BMJ reports (28 September) that China's vice minister of health, Yin Dakui, presented alarming data at a Beijing press conference last month indicating that rates of HIV infection are far higher than previously reported. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7315/714>

FRY - exhumations near Belgrade. The *BBC* reported that a court in Belgrade said that at least 269 bodies had been exhumed from a mass grave near Belgrade. From post-mortem examinations it was concluded that the bodies had been in the grave for approximately for two years (18 September). http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_1551000/1551385.stm

ICTR - trial of doctor continues. The trial of Dr Gerard Ntakirutimana and his father, Elizaphan, a minister, on charges of genocide, continues before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Recent witness evidence is summarised at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200109280072.html>. Information about all ICTR cases is summarised at the ICTR web-site: <http://www.ictor.org/ENGLISH/factsheets/detainee.htm>

Libya - trial of health professionals postponed. The trial of sixteen health professionals charged with deliberately infecting children with HIV has been postponed, the *BBC* reported (23 September). http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1558000/1558087.stm
For background information, see an Amnesty International press release: Libya: concerns about health professionals' trial. 15 September [MDE 19/013/2000]: <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/MDE190132000>

Nigeria - death sentence for "homosexual". allAfrica News (27 September) posts a report from the Nigerian paper, the *Daily Trust*, recounting the death sentence imposed on a man for sexual activity with a boy. See 'Sharia Court Sentences Homosexual to Death By Stoning'. See: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200109270122.html>

Pakistan - death penalty ordered. According to *Dawn* (27 September) the Supreme Court of Pakistan has ruled that courts should award capital punishment to those found guilty of intentional murder, as the object of awarding death penalty is to avoid repetition of violent loss of life (sic). See: <http://www.dawn.com/2001/09/28/nat4.htm>

South Africa - internal criticism on President Mbeki's stance on AIDS. The *Guardian* reported that a South African health ministry document stated that President Mbeki's policies on AIDS are "increasingly politically dangerous" and "unacceptable from a human rights perspective" (21 September). <http://www.guardian.co.uk/aids/story/0,7369,555399,00.html>. The South African strategy for AIDS (in pdf format) can be downloaded from the ANC web-site: HIV/Aids/STD Strategic Plan for South Africa 2000-2005, February 2000. <http://www.gov.za/documents/2000/aidsplan.pdf>

Correctional Services Minister Skosana reported that 1101 inmates died of HIV/AIDS in prisons from January to July 2001 while 4368 prisoners were known to be infected with HIV/AIDS on 31 July 2001: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200109190281.html>

Turkey - visit by CPT. A delegation from the Committee for the Prevention of Torture visited Turkey for two weeks from 2 September. It was the CPT's 12th visit to Turkey. A press release describing the visit is available at the CPT web site: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20010918en.htm>

Turkey - hunger strike death. Another person has died after prolonged hunger strike. Zeynep Arikan, 32, died on 26 September at a home in Istanbul, 343 days after starting her protest, and bringing to 37 the number who have died since the strike commenced in 2000. See: 'Woman dies in Turkish jail protest' *Guardian* (London), 28 September. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,559359,00.html>

Turkey - death penalty. *The Australian* (27 September), drawing on AFP, reports that the Turkish parliament has adopted an article abolishing the death penalty except in times of war and for terrorist crimes. The vote is expected to be ratified in October. See: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,2942840%255E401,00.html

USA - psychological de-briefing. A *New York Times* (16 September) article presents different viewpoints of a "rush to therapy" following the 11 September attack in New York. See 'Some therapists caution that trauma services could backfire' : <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/09/16/national/16MENT.html>. See also the experience of one journalist recounting his experiences of two decades ago in London: 'When trauma won't go away' by Chris Cramer. *Times* (London), 28 September. <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/0,,66-2001334457,00.html>.

USA - death penalty and mental retardation. The US Supreme Court dismissed (on 25 September) the appeal on grounds of mental retardation by Ernest McCarver, a death row inmate in North Carolina. This followed the adoption of a new law in the state banning execution of the mentally retarded. The court decided to examine instead the appeal of Daryl R Atkins, a death row prisoner in Virginia, who is reported to have an IQ of 57. See the *Washington Post* report (26 September): <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25620-2001Sep25.html>.

WHO warns of increased possibility of chemical warfare. The *BBC* and *CNN* reported on the warning by the World Health Organization for governments to prepare for the possibility of the use of biological or chemical agents in warfare (25 September). http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_1561000/1561920.stm <http://www.cnn.com/2001/US/09/25/gen.who.chemical/index.html>. The press release associated with the speech by the WHO Director General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland on this subject, is available at the WHO web-site: <http://www.paho.org/English/DPI/px010924.htm>. (Also available at the same site is a WHO summary (in pdf format) on psychosocial reactions to catastrophe: http://www.who.int/mental_health/PDFdocuments/psychosocial_reactions_catastrophe.pdf)

Conferences

Clive Stafford Smith, a **British lawyer working in death penalty cases in the USA**, will be speaking at a British Institute of Human Rights lunch time meeting (1-2pm) on 17 October 2001: Great Hall of King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. The BIHR web-site is: <http://www.bihhr.org>

The **Center for Humanitarian Psychology** is organising a workshop giving an **introduction to humanitarian psychology**. The people who "help the helpers" are the focus recipients as exposure to major stress and the experience of traumatic events can be deeply debilitating for relief humanitarian workers in field operations. Date and place: Geneva, 9 - 13 October. For further information visit: <http://www.humanitarian-psy.org/> or contact the center at: 15, rue des Savoises, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: +41.22.800.2115; fax: +41 22.800.2116 or <mailto:info@humanitarian-psy.org>

The **Bosnian and Herzegovinan Medical Students' Association** is organising an **International Student Conference Against Landmines**. Date and place: 25 - 29 October 2001, Sarajevo. For an application and further details about the conference, visit: <http://welcome.to/sarajevoconf/>

Vacancies

The **University of Toronto Faculty of Law** is seeking a **director for their international human rights program**. Candidates must have a legal qualification. Details are available from Lois Chiang, Assistant Dean (tel: +1 416 978 4908; fax: +1 416 978 7899) or from the faculty web-site (downloadable Word document):
http://www.law.utoronto.ca/adihrp2001_2.doc

Publications

Dell S, Salinsky M. Protection not prison: torture survivors detained in the UK. London: Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, September 2001, 20pp. (no link to paper; Medical Foundation web-site: <http://www.torturecare.org.uk/>)

Morison L, Scherf C, Ekpo G, Paine K, West B, Coleman R, Walraven G. The long-term reproductive health consequences of female genital cutting in rural Gambia: a community-based survey. *Trop Med Int Health* 2001 Aug;6(8):643-53. For an abstract see PubMed:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=11555430&dopt=Abstract

Sarat A. *When the State Kills: Capital Punishment and the American Tradition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001, 324pp. See review in *JAMA* (26 September):
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/current/ffull/jbk0926-1.html>

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