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Summary

AI reports & statements: humanitarian emergency, Afghanistan / conditions mental disability institution, Bulgaria / Prof Marzouki's sentence suspended, Amnesty International delegates assaulted, Tunisia

Further news: HIV infections after selling blood, China / recent CPT visits, Slovenia, Greece, "former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" / school dormitories for girls refusing FGM, Kenya / WMA meeting on threat of biological weapons, France / Rape Intervention Project evicted by provincial government, South Africa / call for more refugee doctors in the national health service, United Kingdom / end to use of electric chair, Georgia, USA / web-site: end violence against women, USA / aftermath to 11 September attacks, USA

Conferences: Asian Regional Training Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights / study trip to Geneva on UN treaty procedures

Vacancies: Activist Fellowship, University of Chicago Human Rights Program / Policy Advisor for Humanitarian Response, Oxfam America

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Afghanistan: Protect Afghan civilians and refugees. 9 October (AI index: ASA 11/012/2001).

Amnesty International calls on the international community at large to intensify efforts to respond to the humanitarian emergency inside Afghanistan and in the neighbouring countries, which together already host the largest refugee population in the world.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/0AF6FA1EA512177380256AE0004B9A99>

Bulgaria: Disabled women condemned to 'slow death'. 10 October 2001 (AI index: EUR 15/002/2001).

Representatives from Amnesty International, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and Mental Disability Rights International visited a state institution for mentally disabled women in which conditions amounted to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/A4ACF50682BDC05680256AE100347AFC>

Tunisia: Police assault on Amnesty International's trial observers. 29 September (AI index: MDE 30/026/2001).

Dr Moncef Marzouki's one year sentence in connection with human rights activities was suspended in the 29 September hearing. Amnesty International delegates who visited Tunisia to observe the trial were assaulted:

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/A8217B3DB4948F6B80256AD800329B3E>

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 - HIV infections after selling blood. The *Boston Globe* published a report from AP that 118 people in one village had been infected with HIV while selling blood (11 October).

http://www.boston.com/dailynews/284/world/In_unusual_disclosure_Chinese_.shtml

CPT reports on visits to Slovenia and FYRM. Representatives from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) visited Slovenia for 12 days from 16 September 2001. A press release on the visit can be accessed here: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20011002en.htm> (2 October). A delegation also visited Greece for 2 weeks from 23 September. See the press release: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20011012en.htm> (11 October). The Committee also published (11 October) a report on their 1998 visit to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" together with the responses of the authorities. See the press release at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20011011en.htm>, the report at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2001-20en.htm> and the government's responses at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2001-21en.htm>.

Kenya - school dormitories for girls refusing FGM. The *Daily Nation* (Kenya) reported on schools in West Pokot District who offer boarding places to girls who want to leave home in order not to undergo FGM (10 October). <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/Supplements/Wednesday/current/story1.htm>

France - WMA meeting on threat of biological weapons. The World Medical Association called together representatives of medical associations to discuss the threat of biological and chemical weapons. The *BBC* (4 October) quoted Professor Vivienne Nathanson from the British Medical Association: "There's clearly a role in terms of public health (...) to try to make sure governments are producing the right kinds of vaccines, have them in the right places, and have policies for dealing with potentially thousands of critically ill people". http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/health/newsid_1579000/1579151.stm

The *Guardian* (London) reported on types of anthrax (9 October): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/waronterror/story/0,1361,566078,00.html>

South Africa - Rape Intervention Project evicted by provincial government. The *Washington Post* reported that the Greater Nelspruit Rape Intervention Project (GRIP) in the province of Mpumalanga used to counsel rape victims in their office in a public hospital, provided them with morning-after pills, antibiotics to treat sexually transmitted diseases and anti-retroviral drugs which may reduce the rate of infection with HIV. The Mpumalanga government told GRIP to leave the premises because of supplying anti-retroviral drugs (1 October). <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A50514-2001Sep30.html>

Meanwhile the *BBC* reported that a South African pharmaceutical company "has been given the patents to generically produce and supply anti-retroviral drugs to the government health service and to non-profit making anti-AIDS charities" (8 October). http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/business/newsid_1586000/1586355.stm

United Kingdom - call for more refugee doctors in national health service. The *BBC* reported that the Royal College of Physicians called for easier access to positions in the national health service for refugees who trained as doctors in their home countries (2 October). http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/health/newsid_1574000/1574872.stm

USA - end to use of electric chair in Georgia. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the use of the electric chair for executions constitutes a cruel punishment which must be replaced by lethal injection (*Chicago Tribune*, 6 October 2001). <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/printedition/chi-0110060104oct06.story>

The *New York Times* reviewed two books discussing the death penalty (7 October): <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/10/07/books/review/07MASSINT.html?searchpv=past7days>

USA - end violence against women: web-site. Johns Hopkins University has launched a web-site focussing on Violence against Women. See the resources available at: <http://www.endvaw.org/current.htm>

USA - Aftermath of 11 September attacks. The *Village Voice* reports on the experiences of trauma experts in the wake of the US attacks ("When crazy is normal", *Village Voice*, week of 10 - 16 October). <http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0141/lerner.php>

The current 'military and aid' campaign by US armed forces in Afghanistan is discussed in the *Economist* ("Bombs and bread", 9 October 2001). http://www.economist.com/agenda/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=812802 and the *British Medical Journal*: Holdstock D. Reacting to terrorism - the response should be through law not war. *BMJ* 2001;323:822 (13 October). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7317/822>

Conferences

The **International Federation of Medical Students Associations and UNESCO** are organising an **Asian Regional Training Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights**. The workshop is designed for students and youth leaders and will take place from 3 - 9 November 2001 in Bandung, Indonesia. For further information, visit:

<http://www.hivhr-ws.org/>

Birkbeck College, University of London, is organising a **trip to Geneva to study UN human rights treaty procedures**. The trip will take place from 11 - 16 November 2001. Applications should be submitted by 26 October 12:30 pm GMT. For further information and applications please contact Bernie Hamilton, Birkbeck College, University of London, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ; tel: +44.20.7373.7332; fax: +44.20.7341.0050; <mailto:bernie@west-end.demon.co.uk>

Vacancies

Activist Fellowships - University of Chicago HR Program

The Human Rights Program at the University of Chicago solicits applications for a residential fellowship from leading human rights activists inside or outside the U.S. for Spring 2002. The fellowship will be for three months beginning in late March or early April 2002. Closing date for applications: 31 October 2001.

For more information contact Susan R Gzesh, Director (sgzesh@uchicago.edu) or write to:

Activist Fellows / The University of Chicago / Human Rights Program / 5828 S. University / Chicago, IL 60637 / USA

[See also: http://humanrights.uchicago.edu/requirem.htm#Activist_Fellows [note: this refers to last year's program but is useful background.]

Oxfam America is looking for a **Policy Advisor for Humanitarian Response** to develop and implement advocacy strategies around emergency assistance, reconstruction policies and the prevention of conflict and natural disaster. For further information contact: Oxfam America, Human Resources, att. HR/PAHR/IDEAL, 26 West Street, Boston, MA 02111, US or <mailto:jobs@oxfamamerica.org> Closing date for applications: 31 October 2001. <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/>

Publications

Ahmad K. Military strikes worsen desperate plight of Afghans. *Lancet* 2001;358:9289 (13 October). <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9289/full/llan.358.9289.news.17955.6>

Bateman C. Ongoing human rights abuses. *South African Medical Journal* 2001, 91:624-625. <http://www.samedical.org/Projects/SamaOnline/SAMJOpen.nsf/adaf2208b749d79042256826002d4a62/ca46a1633fcdc19242256ac3003e11ca>

Bosch X. Female genital mutilation in developed countries. *Lancet* 2001;358:9288 (6 October) <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9288/full/llan.358.9288.news.17910.2>

Eaton L. Doctors must speak out over war and humanitarian crises. *BMJ* 2001;323:771 (6 October). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7316/771/c>

Ford N. Tackling female genital cutting in Somalia. *Lancet* 2001;358:9288 (6 October) <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9288/full/llan.358.9288.news.17910.3>

Freedman AM. Psychiatry and human rights. *Current Opinion in Psychiatry* 2001, 14(5): 501-5.

Glass N. AIDS in Africa: making people notice. *Lancet* 2001;358:9288 (6 October). Review of exhibition with photographs by Don McCullin:
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9288/full/llan.358.9288.dissecting_room.17875.1

Human Rights Centre, University of Galway, Ireland: papers presented at a Conference on International Law and Abolition of the Death Penalty (21, 22 September 2001) can be accessed here:
http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/death_penalty.htm

Hunter JR et al. Forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology and human rights in Europe. *Science and Justice - Journal of the Forensic Science Society* 2001, 41:173-178.

Kapp C. Funding squeeze forces UNHCR cutbacks. *Lancet* 2001;358:9288 (6 October).
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9288/full/llan.358.9288.news.17910.1>

Kapp C. Violence against children widespread, says human rights report. *Lancet* 2001;358:9288 (6 October).
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9288/full/llan.358.9288.news.17908.1>

Kmietowicz Z. Doctors asked to condemn development of biological weapons. *BMJ* 2001;323:768 (6 October).
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7316/768/a>

Larkin M. Terrorism on the agenda. *Lancet* 2001;358:9289 (13 October).
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9289/full/llan.358.9289.dissecting_room.17928.1
 This article directs attention to a special edition on terrorism and public opinion at [publicagenda.org](http://www.publicagenda.org):
<http://www.publicagenda.org/specials/terrorism/terror.htm>

Naude M. World's doctors against torture. *South African Medical Journal* 2001, 91:625. No link available.

Olumbe AK, Dada MA, McQuoid-Mason DJ. *Handbook of Forensic Medicine and Medical Law in Kenya* (Nairobi: Independent Medico-Legal Unit, 2001); "written with the aim of imparting crucial information in an accessible manner to a broad spectrum of people in need of medicolegal expertise" [from Preface].

Venter GJ. The aversion project - Sex change operations in the SADF (correspondence). *South African Medical Journal* 2001, 91:617-618. Available at bottom of the following web-page:
<http://www.samedical.org/Projects/SamaOnline/SAMJOpen.nsf/adaf2208b749d79042256826002d4a62/46e89194e259d9be42256ac3003cf88c>

***Correction ***

In the last newsletter (28 September) we gave a link to the South African Government paper on its strategy on HIV/AIDS (This file is now available at: www.gov.za/documents/2000/aidsplan2000.pdf We found this link on the web-site of the African National Congress (ANC) and incorrectly attributed the policy paper itself to the ANC. As the link makes clear the paper is published on the government web-site. Apologies for this error.

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