
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

AI Bulletin Vol 5, No. 24, 13 December 2002
AI Index: ACT 84/024/2002

Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. NOTE: Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

Summary

AI reports & statements: Liberia: Hassan Bility released / Southern Africa: discrimination and violence against women and girls

Further news: Australia: HRW report on treatment of asylum seekers / CPT: program of 2003 visits / Germany: Bergen Belsen self-governing community / Launch of International Treatment Action Coalition / South Africa: HIV/AIDS activist Zackie Achmat / USA: compensating Sept. 11 victims / USA: Alabama execution / Zimbabwe: 'Food aid dependent on political affiliation'

Courses: International Human Rights Academy

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Liberia: Hassan Bility released but other human rights activists remain held. 9 December (AFR 34/032/2002).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AFR340322002>

AI's action on Hassan Bility's behalf included an action for the health professional network:

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/AFR340152002?OpenDocument&of=THEMES\MEDICAL+ACTIONS>

Southern Africa: Women and girls still facing discrimination and violence. 5 December (AFR 03/012/2002).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AFR030122002>

Worlds AIDS Day: human rights central in battle against AIDS. 1 December (POL 30/008/2002).

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/POL300082002>

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

Australia - HRW report on treatment of asylum seekers. Human Rights Watch has published a new report based on eight months of investigation into Australian asylum seeker policy as a breach of Australia's obligations under international law. The report details alleged abuses against asylum seekers including beatings.

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/12/australia1210.htm>

Also see the *Age* (10 December):

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2002/12/10/1039379825592.html>

CPT - 2003 visits. The program of country visits by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) for 2003 has been announced. See:

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20021205en.htm>

Germany - Bergen Belsen self-governing community. Israeli historian Hagit Lavski has published a book about Bergen Belsen, the concentration camp which survivors turned into a self-governing community following the end of the second world war. Ms Hagit Lavski stated to the *New York Times* (13 December) : "The Bergen Belsen story demonstrates that survivors were not only victims [...]. Their rehabilitation was a result of their own actions".
<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/13/international/europe/13GERM.html>

ITAC launched. An International Treatment Action Coalition to promote access to medicines for HIV was launched yesterday (12 December).
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/releases/pr94/en/>
Contact details: The Secretariat of the ITAC steering committee , WHO FCH/HIV, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland. E-mail: itac@who.int

Also see: *Boston Globe*, 'United Strategy on AIDS Urged' (13 December):
http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/347/nation/United_strategy_on_AIDS_urged+.shtml

Boston Globe, 'The AIDS Crisis and Human Rights' by Mary Robinson (8 December):
http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/342/oped/The_AIDS_crisis_and_human_rights%2B.shtml

South Africa - HIV/AIDS activist Zackie Achmat. Zackie Achmat, leader of the Treatment Action Campaign fighting for access to anti-retroviral medication, still refuses to take medication until it has become available in the public health sector in all provinces (*Guardian*, 10 December).
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,3605,857054,00.html>

Also see the *Boston Globe*, 'Killing him softly' (8 December):
http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/342/focus/Killing_him_softly%2B.shtml

USA - compensating Sept. 11 victims - *New York Times* magazine (8 December) examines issues arising from attempts to compensate victims of the 11 September 2001 attack on New York. See "Just Money" by Lisa Belkin:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/08/magazine/08VICTIMS.html>

USA - Alabama execution. A man who did not himself fire the lethal shots in a 1984 murder of a jeweller became the first person in Alabama to be executed by lethal injection on 12 December. See:
http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0,1406,KNS_350_1606128,00.html

Zimbabwe - 'food aid dependent on political affiliation'. The *New York Times* reported that in some towns those supporting the opposition party have been denied access to food aid (8 December).
<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/12/international/africa/12ZIMB.html>

Conferences

The **International Human Rights Academy** is a human rights course organized by Belgian, Dutch, South African and US universities each year. The program includes, amongst others, universal and regional human rights protection systems, international criminal and humanitarian law. For details click here:
<http://www.law.rug.ac.be/pub/humanrightssacademy/introduction.html>

Publications

Gruskin S and Loff B. Do human rights have a role in public health work? *Lancet* 2002 360;9348 (7 December).

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9348/full/Ilan.360.9348.health_and_human_rights.23515.1

Hall P. Doctors urgently need education in human rights. *Lancet* 2002 360;9348 (7 December).
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9348/full/Ilan.360.9348.health_and_human_rights.23514.1

Hunt P. The right to health: from the margins to the mainstream. *Lancet* 2002 360;9348 (7 December).
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol360/iss9348/full/Ilan.360.9348.health_and_human_rights.23487.1

Urquhart B. The Prospect of War. Review of: *The Threatening Storm: The Case for Invading Iraq*, by Kenneth M. Pollack (Random House/A Council on Foreign Relations Book, 2002) in *New York Review of Books* (19 December).<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/15911>

Pollack K M. *The Threatening Storm: The Case for Invading Iraq* (Random House/A Council on Foreign Relations Book, 2002). For a review see 'The Prospect of War' by Brian Urquhart in *New York Review of Books* (19 December) <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/15911>

University of Calgary Anti-violence web-site: resources in French and English:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/resolve/violenceprevention/>

=====

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to medical@amnesty.org

AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/>

AI Health Professional web-site: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf>

Newsletters are archived at: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf/bull?openview>