
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol 4, No 25, 7 December 2001

AI Index: ACT 84/025/2001

To subscribe or unsubscribe from the bulletin or to contact AI please write to <mailto:medical@amnesty.org>.
Visit the AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org> and the AI Health Professional web-site at:
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf>

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: Afghanistan / Bosnia-Herzegovina / Guyana / Israel & Occupied Territories
Further news: massacre at Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan / de-mining operations, Angola / death following use of pepper spray / program of CPT visits 2002 / FGM, Kenya / acquittal of doctors refusing to force-feed hunger-strikers, Turkey / Tennessee Supreme Court: "execution of mentally retarded is cruel punishment" / court order sought to force-feed hunger striker, USA / World AIDS Day

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Click here to support Amnesty International's campaign 'Act Now for Human Rights' by asking your government to reiterate its support for the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on 10 December:
<http://web.amnesty.org/web/10dec.nsf/10dec?openpage>

Afghanistan: Inquiry into Qala-i-Jhangi fort killings must not be swept under the carpet (ASA 11/042/2001). 5 December 2001. Amnesty International urged the US and UK to consider requesting a preliminary investigation by either the UN or the International Fact-Finding Commission. Members of the Secretariat for the Commission include medical doctors, judges and military experts.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/FE4834BC349EA0D680256B19003CA351>

For further information on the International Fact-Finding Commission:

<http://www.icrc.org/icrceng.nsf/8ec4e051a8621595c12564670032d7ef/2649a7de08ca6a00412565720047a3b3>
(Also see 'Further news' below)

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Some dignity at last for victims of "disappearance" in Prijedor (EUR 63/014/2001). 23 November 2001. Forensic examinations have indicated that the three bodies found in early September 2001 are the bodies of Father Tomislav Matanovic and his family.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/CBD25046C2E8E22D80256B0D0052E9BA>

Guyana: The murderers of Mohammed Shafeek must be brought to justice (AMR 35/001/2001). 29 November 2001. Amnesty International welcomed the unanimous verdict by an inquest journey that the Guyana police should be held criminally responsible for the death of Mohammed Shafeek, a 47-year-old fish seller. He was allegedly brutally assaulted by police and refused medical attention. An autopsy report revealed fractures to Shafeek's skull, neck, spinal cord and wrists.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/D6DEDAE1B85560B880256B13004990D6>

Israel/Occupied Territories: The spiral of revenge must stop immediately (MDE 15/109/2001). 5 December 2001. The international community must not stand by while the cycle of abuses continues to escalate.

International observers with a strong, transparent and public mandate to monitor the respect of international humanitarian law and human rights should be sent to the Occupied Territories immediately.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/87B8696A724FD56480256B1900531BDC>

Israel/Occupied Territories: Committee Against Torture says Israel's policy of closures and demolitions of Palestinian homes may amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (MDE 15/105/2001). 23 November

2001. Palestinian human rights organizations presented to the Committee details of Palestinians who had died and other who had suffered life-threatening medical complications after access to hospital had been delayed. <http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/CFC410251E0B284680256B0D00419308>

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

Afghanistan - Mazar-i-Sharif. The *Guardian* (UK) reported on the killings of prisoners of war in Mazar-i-Sharif. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/afghanistan/story/0,1284,610058,00.html>

Related articles on Afghanistan:

Lancet 2001, Vol 358 No 9297, 8 December - Deaths of 400 Taliban prisoners prompt calls for an inquiry : <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9297/full/llan.358.9297.news.18718.5>

Lancet 2001, Vol 358 No 9296, 1 December - WHO and humanitarian aid groups take first steps to rebuild Afghanistan. <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9296/full/llan.358.9296.news.18620.7>

Medical Group Calls on Tajikistan to Expedite Aid and Humanitarian Personnel Across Border to Afghanistan; Corrupt Policies Affecting Operations, Physicians for Human Rights USA: http://www.phrusa.org/research/from_field/field.html

Angola - de-mining operations. A week of "live" documentation on the work being done in Luena, Angola by the UK-based NGO Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is available at their web-site: <http://mag.nmnp.org/background.htm>

Australia - death following use of pepper spray. A man died in a Brisbane hospital from a suspected heart attack after police used capsicum spray to subdue him (*Sunday Times*[Perth], 4 December). http://www.sundaytimes.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,7034,3374236%255E421,00.html

CPT - program of visits, 2002. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture has released details of its program of visits for 2002. See: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20011204en.htm>

Kenya - FGM. A Kenyan MP has spoken in support of female genital mutilation as a cultural practice -- <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/04122001/News/News30.html> (4 December)-- but has been criticised in a *Daily Nation* editorial - <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/04122001/Comment/Editorial2.html> (4 December) -- and by FGM opponents: <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/06122001/News/News14.html> (6 December).

Turkey - acquittal of doctors refusing to force-feed hunger strikers. The *BBC* reported that eight doctors who refused to force-feed hunger-strikers have been acquitted of 'assisting in the suicide of 42 hunger strikers' who died in 2001. The doctors belong to the Honorary Board of the Turkish Medical Foundation which has stated that the authorities are interfering with doctors' professional independence (4 December). http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_1692000/1692428.stm

USA - Tennessee Supreme Court: "execution of mentally retarded is cruel punishment". The *Death Penalty Information Center* reported that Justice Riley Anderson of the Tennessee Supreme Court stated: "We conclude that there is compelling evidence that the execution of mentally retarded individuals violates the evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society both nationally and in the state" (6 December). <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/whatsnew.html#TennMR>

USA - court order sought to force-feed hunger striker. The *Los Angeles Times* reports that US Federal prosecutors in Phoenix are asking a judge to permit force-feeding a hunger-striking pilot arrested on charges stemming from the investigation of the 11 September attacks ('U.S. Seeks Force-Feeding Order for Fasting Detainee in Phoenix', 6 December). <http://www.latimes.com/la-000097083dec06.story>

World AIDS Day - Please see below a selection of links on HIV/AIDS:

UNAIDS - AIDS epidemic update, December 2001:

http://www.unaids.org/epidemic_update/report_dec01/index.html

Guardian (UK), China finally tackles ignorance of AIDS, 3 December:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,610667,00.html>

Médecins du Monde: <http://www.medecinsdumonde.co.uk/>
National AIDS Trust UK: <http://www.worldaidsday.org/>
New York Times, South African Victims Face Rapists and HIV, 30 November:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/30/health/30AIDS.html>
New York Times, A Lonely Crusade Warning Africans of AIDS, 28 November:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/28/health/28AIDS.html>

Publications

A Population-Based Assessment of Human Rights Abuses Committed Against Ethnic Albanian Refugees From Kosovo. *American Public Health Association*, December 2001, Vol 91, No. 12, 2013 - 2018.
<http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/91/12/2013>

Buchanan A, Leese M. Detention of people with dangerous severe personality disorders: a systematic review. *Lancet* 2001; 358: 9297 (8 December).
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9297/full/llan.358.9297.original_research.18645.1

Burris S, Lazzarini Z, Loff B. Are human rights good for your health? *Lancet* 2001 Vol 358;9296 (1 December).
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9296/full/llan.358.9296.news.18526.1>

Lowenstein T, "The Burden of Execution," *The American Prospect* vol. 12 no. 21, December 3, 2001. Review of *The Last Face You'll Ever See: The Private Life of the American Death Penalty* By Ivan Solotaroff. HarperCollins, 232 pages, and *Legal Lynching: The Death Penalty and America's Future* By Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.; Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.; and Bruce Shapiro. New Press, 174 pages.
<http://www.prospect.org/print/V12/21/lowenstein-t.html>

Hargreaves S. Rising tensions: Sharia law in Nigeria. *Lancet* 2001 Vol 358;9296 (1 December).
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9296/full/llan.358.9296.news.18525.1>

Lewin S, Meyer I. Torture, ill-treatment, and sexual identity. *Lancet* 2001 Vol 358;9296 (1 December).
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9296/full/llan.358.9296.news.18524.1>

Miller J, Engelberg S, Broad W. *Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War*. NY: Simon and Schuster, 382 pp. Review by Prof Matthew Meselson, (Bioterror: what can be done? *NY Review of Books*, 20 December): <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/14971>

Simpson AWB. *Human Rights and the End of Empire: Britain and the Genesis of the European Convention*(Oxford, 1176pp). Reviewed by Professor Conor Gearty. *London Review of Books*.
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v23/n23/gear2323.htm>

The Challenge and Place of International Human Rights in Public Health. *American Public Health Association*, December 2001, Vol 91, No. 12, 1922 - 1925. <http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/full/91/12/1922>

The Federal Administrative Maximum Penitentiary, Florence, Colorado. *Med Sci Law* 2001 Oct;41(4):287-97. For an abstract see PubMed:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=11693222&dopt=Abstract

=====

This newsletter may be freely distributed in unrevised form. For free subscription contact the AI Medical Program at Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. (mailto:medical@amnesty.org)
AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/>
Newsletters are archived at: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/rmp/hponline.nsf/bull?openview>