

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

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Discrimination and misinformation impede fight against HIV/Aids

Influential political and religious leaders are giving conflicting messages about HIV/AIDS which seriously affects preventative action. A US aid policy restricting what can be said about reproductive health threatens to undermine important work on the ground, endangering lives. Some governments are actively trying to stop the free dissemination of life-saving information. Health workers working with marginalized communities have been harassed and even detained. Domestic violence and inequality make women especially vulnerable to being infected.

Fighting discrimination, stigma and human rights abuses, and providing accurate information are critical components of an effective response to HIV and AIDS, Amnesty International said today ahead of World AIDS Day on 1 December.

Read the full story on:

<http://www.news.amnesty.org/mavp/news.nsf/VwDocid/4DDDE186AEB5ECC980256DEA005DFC2E?openDocument>

including:

- o Press release (<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGPOL300292003>)
- o Themes: HIV/Aids as a human right, Women, Stigma and discrimination, Right to full information - not just advise to abstain
- o Regional overviews
- o Interviews - with, for example, Wan Yanhai, prominent Chinese AIDS activist and Dr Sunanda Ray from Zimbabwe
- o Opinion Pieces

"They (the government) haven't responded with the kind of urgency that is needed and that reflects their approach to human rights"

Dr Sunanda Ray, Zimbabwe, working with HIV/Aids

Public Document

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