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Amnesty International reports & statements:

See the following recent AI news releases [dates given in day/month/year format].

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01/02/2007 [People's Republic of China: Rebiya Kadeer's personal account of Gulja after the massacre on 5 February 1997](#) ASA 17/001/2007
01/02/2007 [Iran: Appeal Case: Abbas Lisani - Prisoner of Conscience](#) MDE 13/012/2007
01/02/2007 [Slovenia: Amnesty International condemns forcible return of "erased" person to Germany](#) EUR 68/002/2007
01/02/2007 [Egypt: Trial of blogger expands realm of repression](#) MDE 12/005/2007
31/01/2007 [Nepal: Amnesty International urges investigation into killings](#) ASA 31/001/2007
29/01/2007 [Chad: 'Are we citizens of this country?': Civilians in Chad unprotected from Janjawid attacks](#) AFR 20/001/2007
29/01/2007 [Sudan: African Union urged not to elect Sudan as chair](#) IOR 10/001/2007
29/01/2007 [Chad: urgent need to protect the people of eastern Chad](#) AFR 20/003/2007
29/01/2007 [Israel / USA: Ensure Israel hands over maps of cluster bombs strikes in South Lebanon](#) MDE 15/001/2007
29/01/2007 [The UN Human Rights Council High-Level Mission to Darfur must act quickly and focus on effective protection of the civilians in Darfur](#) IOR 41/002/2007

These and other press releases and reports are accessible at:
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/index>

Asylum seekers/refugees:

UK: The Home Secretary has conceded that detaining young asylum seekers is 'unlawful', in response to allegations made during a High Court case that claimants suffered psychological damage after being held in detention centres for weeks with adults in inappropriate conditions. *Guardian* (26 January): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uklatest/story/0,-6372941,00.html>

UK: A new study compiled by a regional health team focuses upon the fate of those whose application for asylum has been rejected, including a pregnant woman forced to sleep rough in a telephone box. *Yorkshire Post* (7 February): <http://www.yorkshireday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=55&ArticleID=1983913>

Children:

USA: The executive order given by Texas Governor Rick Perry requiring incoming sixth-grade female students to receive a vaccine against cervical cancer is provoking discussion over the right of government versus parents to inoculate children. *themonitor.com* (8 February): <http://www.themonitor.com/SiteProcessor.cfm?Template=/GlobalTemplates/Details.cfm&StoryID=17777&Section=Local>

Death Penalty:

EU: EU lawmakers called, on 1 February, for immediate action to secure international support for a moratorium on executions. *New Europe* (3 February): http://www.neurope.eu/view_news.php?id=69899

France. *Third World Congress against the Death Penalty.* This congress, which took place in Paris between 1 and 3 February, ended with the adoption of a final statement, available at the following site: <http://www.abolition.fr/ecpm/english/congres.php?art=478&subj=179> . For a video report on the congress visit: <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-010207-feature-eng>

USA (OH): Expectations that the new Governor of Ohio will curtail or halt executions have been raised by Ted Strickland delaying three planned executions in his first month in the job. The former prison psychologist has stated he has "serious questions" about capital punishment. *Cincinnati.com* (28 January): <http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070128/NEWS01/701280316>

USA (NC): The North Carolina Department of Correction has released detailed procedures for lethal injection. The revised rules still require a doctor to be present, and they appear to increase the physician's role in an effort to make sure inmates do not suffer as they die. *WRAL* (2 February): <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/1191368/>

HIV/AIDS:

Canada: Microbicide research. Trials of a new product designed to help women protect themselves from HIV have been stopped after women using it became infected at a higher rate than women not using it, reports Reuters. *Scientific American* (31 January): <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=B95589ACE5256D2CC7A706BBE4AB9F13>

Council of Europe. The following resolutions of the Parliamentary Assembly were adopted at the January session:

HIV/AIDS in Europe. Resolution 1536:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta07/ERES1536.htm>; and

Recommendation 1784:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta07/EREC1784.htm>;

A future for HIV/AIDS children and AIDS orphans. Resolution 1537:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta07/ERES1537.htm>;

The spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic to women and girls in Europe. Recommendation 1785:
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta07/EREC1785.htm>

China: Friends of Gao Yaojie, a doctor instrumental in exposing China's long-concealed rural AIDS crisis, have said she was put under house arrest in Zhengzhou, capital of the central province of Henan, to prevent her from collecting an award from a US group, reports *Associated Press* (7 February): <http://uk.gay.com/headlines/11013> . A Foreign Ministry spokesperson could not clarify the reports. See <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw/s2510/t295875.htm>

UK: A man has been found guilty in the High Court in Glasgow of knowingly infecting his former partner with HIV and Hepatitis C. *BBC* (7 February): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/6337903.stm

Human rights:

France: In Paris, about 60 countries have signed an international convention protecting people from forced disappearance reports *Radio Netherlands*. 7 February; <http://www.radionetherlands.nl/currentaffairs/dis070207mc>

Philippines: Leprosy sufferers and world health officials recently launched a second global appeal to end discrimination of those afflicted with the disease. *International Herald Tribune* (29 January) <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/01/29/asia/AS-GEN-WHO-Leprosy.php>

USA: Gay rights advocates nationwide have condemned a Michigan appeals court ruling that bans public universities and state and local governments from providing health insurance to partners of gay employees. *International Herald Tribune* (8 February) <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/02/08/america/NA-GEN-US-Same-Sex-Benefits.php>

Mental Health:

UK: In a recent report an influential parliamentary watchdog warns that vulnerable people who are not mentally ill or dangerous could be sectioned because government plans to protect the public are flawed. *Guardian* (4 February) <http://society.guardian.co.uk/socialcare/story/0,,2005705,00.html>

Organ Transplants:

Australia. A letter to the *Medical Journal of Australia* discusses the case of a prisoner organ donor, highlighting the administrative, legal and operational hurdles that needed to be overcome. *MJA* (5 February). http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186_03_050207/letters_050207_fm-1.html

Prisoners:

Canada: Grave concern is expressed over the state of health of three men, held in an immigration holding centre in Kingston, who have been on hunger strike for more than two months. *Ottawa Citizen* (8 January): <http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/opinion/story.html?id=9729867b-f305-49d6-b937-8c3e6637489e>

Israel: Jamal Hassan Al-Sarahin, a Palestinian prisoner died due to medical negligence according to Palestinian politicians, prisoners' families and local human rights organisations. This despite reported requests from fellow prisoners that he be examined by a doctor or transferred to a hospital. *UN Observer* (29 January): <http://www.unobserver.com/layout5.php?id=3106&blz=1>

UK: Nearly 200 prisoners and former inmates have won an unspecified settlement for having been forced to stop taking drugs following a 'sharp detoxification' process in prison, which they argued was tantamount to assault and a breach of human rights.
BBC news (13 November) : <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6142416.stm>

Right to health:

Canada: The Canadian government has rejected the findings of a review that indicated needle-exchange programs for injection drug users in prisons reduce the need for health care interventions, reports the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (30 January)
<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/176/3/308>

Some countries fear that vaccines and drugs produced from viruses found in their territory would ultimately be unaffordable for them, leaving their populations dangerously vulnerable, while rich countries add to their stockpiles. The latest is Indonesia.

International Herald Tribune (7 February):

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/02/07/europe/EU-MED-Pandemic-Vaccine-Problems.php>

Women's health:

Nigeria: Maternal mortality is the leading cause of premature death and disability among women of reproductive age in developing countries like Nigeria writes Dr. Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan in the *Vanguard* (2 February):

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/articles/2002/features/law/law302022007.html>

South Africa: "Sexual violence flows under the radar. It hasn't really been recognised as a public health issue, but rather as a violence issue and a legal issue. But it has health implications, both psychological and physical," says Liz Dartnall of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative. See the *IRIN report* (5 February)

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/c05b61a6ea42856741ad4f1957c2dddb.htm>

UNFPA. The United Nations Population Fund sounded the alarm today against a new trend – parents using health-care workers to perform cutting in the belief that any medical problems can be minimized. *UN News Centre* (5 February):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21456&Cr=women&Cr1=>

Request for papers:

JAMA is seeking manuscripts on themes relating to violence and human rights.

See: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/296/18/2261>

Publications:

Editorial. The right to health: more than rhetoric. *Lancet* 369:438;

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607602050/fulltext> (subscription required)

Editorial. Stop killing people who kill people. *Lancet* 369:343

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607601688/fulltext>

Comment. Can lethal injection for execution really be "fixed"? *Lancet* 369: 352-3.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607601676/fulltext>

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<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/334/7584/72>

Franco-Paredes C, Jones D, Rodríguez-Morales AJ, Santos-Preciado JI, Commentary: Improving the health of neglected populations in Latin America. *BMC Public Health*,

January 2007. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/7/11/abstract>

London L. 'Issues of equity are also issues of rights': Lessons from experience in Southern Africa. *BMC Public Health* 2007, **7**:14 <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/7/14/abstract>

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<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6939/8/1/abstract>

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<http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1054139X04001727>

Moszynski P. Doctors disagree over detention of patients with extensively drug resistant tuberculosis. *BMJ*, February 2007.
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/334/7587/228>

Nevins J. Truth, lies and accountability. In search of justice for East Timor.
Boston Review, January- February 2007. <http://bostonreview.net/BR32.1/nevins.html>

Thomas von der Osten-Sacken and Thomas Uwerls. Female genital mutilation: an Islamic problem? *Middle East Quarterly* Winter 2007; <http://www.meforum.org/article/1629>

Reidpath DD, Chan KY, HIV. Stigma, and Rates of Infection: A Rumour without Evidence: *PLoS Med* October 2006.
<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0030435>

Singh JA, Upshur R, Padayatchi N. *XDR-TB in South Africa: No Time for Denial or Complacency*. *PLoS Med* January 2007:
<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0040050>

Timberlake S, Sigurdson J. HIV, Stigma and Rates of Infection: A Human Rights and Public Health Imperative. *PLoS Med*. January 2007 and other correspondence related to the above paper (including authors' reply):
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/4/1/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.0040051-L.pdf

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