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NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements:

See the following selected recent AI reports and press statements. These and other press releases and reports are accessible at the following link under 'News and Updates':

<http://www.amnesty.org/>

12 February 2008: The US government is seeking the death penalty against six "high-value" detainees at Guantánamo Bay

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/us-seeks-death-penalty-guantanamo-detainees-20080212>

6 February 2008: Amnesty International is concerned that even patients in urgent need of medical care not available in Gaza have been denied passage out of Gaza by the Israeli authorities

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/locked-down-gaza-20080206>

6 February 2008: Police and prison guards in Bosnia and Herzegovina ill-treat prisoners with almost total impunity, according to a new Amnesty International report.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/police-ill-treatment-plagues-bosnia-and-herzegovina-20080206>

1 February 2008: Europe has taken a further step towards protecting people who have been trafficked with the entry into force of a new convention on Friday

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/good-news/europe-moves-protect-trafficked-people-20080201>

Asylum seekers / internally displaced people (IDPs) / refugees:

UK: Terminally ill immigrants and refugees are often faced with the possibility of deportation from the UK to countries where there is no adequate care. *The Zimbabwe Guardian* (14 February): <http://www.talkzimbabwe.com/news/130/ARTICLE/1616/2008-02-14.html>

USA: Human trafficking would become a felony in New Mexico under a new bill that has been passed to the governor for consideration. *Las Cruces. Sun News* (14 February): http://www.lcsun-news.com/news/ci_8255471

Children:

Belgium: Two sets of parents in Belgium who refused to have their children vaccinated against polio, which is compulsory under Belgian law, were convicted and sentenced to five months in prison. *BMJ* (16 February): <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/336/7640/348>

Kenya: Unsanitary conditions at a number of camps, and limited access to medical services are threatening the health of many Kenyan children who reside at those locations. *AllAfrica* (12 February): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802120586.html>

Nigeria: Young Nigerians who attended the third “Africa Sexuality Health and Rights” conference held in Abuja are seeking a wider recognition of their reproductive rights. *AllAfrica* (12 February): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802120009.html>

Health Services:

Canada: The controversy over medical marijuana continues to present difficulties for Canadian advocates. *The National Post* (10 February): <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=299627>

South Africa: All charges against a prison doctor who exposed the sub-standard health conditions at South Africa's Pollsmoor prison have been dropped. *IOL.com* (3 February): http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20080203090724243C565511

USA: A newly-introduced California legislation requires health insurers to get permission from state regulators before retroactively cancelling a member's coverage. *San Francisco Chronicle* (14 February 14): <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/02/14/BUGGV1ML2.DTL>

HIV/AIDS:

Egypt: Arrests and trials of HIV-positive men in Egypt are fueling stigma against people living With disease and endangering human rights. *Medical News Today* (11 February): <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/96816.php>

Namibia: As a result of their HIV status, several young women have, unknowingly, and in some cases forcibly, been sterilised in Namibia. *AllAfrica* (12 February): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802120307.html>

Uganda: The Uganda Women Lawyers Association (FIDA) has initiated an HIV/AIDS project to address the many issues surrounding unfair treatment of people living with HIV/in that country. *AllAfrica* (13 February): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802140567.html>

Prisoners:

Bosnia-Herzegovina: A new report launched by Amnesty International has suggested that the attitudes of police, prison officials, and prosecutors, are encouraging ill-treatment of persons in detention in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *AKI English* (6 February): <http://www.adnkronos.com/AKI/English/Security/?id=1.0.1849541350>

Ethiopia: 179 prisoners have been reported as now being infected with scabies in an Ethiopian jail. *The International News* (14 February): <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=96351>

Malaysia: A new approach in Malaysia places more focus on allowing prisoners to maintain a healthy relationship with their families. *NST Online* (11 February): http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Monday/Frontpage/20080211085735/Article/index.html

Pakistan: The Pakistani Health Department has been ordered to ensure that hepatitis treatments are more easily available to prisoners in detention. *The International News* (14 February): <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=96304>

Russia: Russian oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who had been protesting the treatment of his business associate Vasily Alexanian in prison, has ended his 14-day hunger strike in prison. *JTA* (12 February): <http://www.jta.org/cgi-bin/iowa/breaking/106939.html>

Saudi Arabia: The National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) has been investigating claims that an inmate, diagnosed with colon cancer is being denied access to medical care. *Arab News* (4 February): <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1§ion=0&article=106451&d=4&m=2&y=2008&pix=kingdom.jpg&category=Kingdom>

Uganda: Many prisoners are forced to cope with AIDS in Uganda's prisons while having very little if any knowledge of the disease, how to protect themselves, or the options for treatment open to them. *Reuters* (14 February): <http://www.alertnet.org/db/blogs/33567/2008/01/14-123232-1.htm>

UK: The chief inspector of prisons in Scotland has described Scotland's only female prison as "a victim of its own success", as it was offering a better way out for the country's most vulnerable women than inadequate and insufficient support services. *The Scotsman* (14 February): <http://thescotzman.scotzman.com/scotland/More-women-jailed-but-should.3770631.jp>

USA: A court has ordered that a starving inmate may be force-fed by the prison staff if he approaches a stage where he faces permanent organ damage or death. *Courant.com* (1 February): <http://64.233.183.104/search?q=cache:P2V9hyIQ9DAJ:www.courant.com/news/local/hc-forcefeed0201.artfeb01,0,5789139.story+courant+force-fed&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=uk>

USA: A long-running sex-abuse scandal inside Texas youth prisons, which centred on a 16-year-old who was allegedly molested by a male guard, has prompted wide-ranging reforms inside the state's juvenile corrections agency. *The Chicago-Tribune.com* (13 February): http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-paris_wittfeb13,0,288974.story

USA: Officials who are responsible for the health of prisoners must constantly weigh the relative importance of security, privacy and health as they attempt to care for a population that is not only transient, but is also disproportionately afflicted with mental illness, substance abuse and debilitating illnesses. *Gotham Gazette* (11 February): <http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/issueoftheweek/20080211/200/2427>

Right to Health:

Angola: The Red Cross has announced a decision to invest USD 100,000 in the development of water boreholes to facilitate increased access to this resource. *AllAfrica* (13 February): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802130646.html>

International: The International Year of Sanitation offers a unique opportunity to really tackle a global crisis and save lives. *Developments* (Issue 40, 2008): <http://www.developments.org.uk/articles/water>

USA: A new Oregon state bill which will let voters decide if health care is a "fundamental right" has progressed to the Senate. *The Oregonian* (14 February): <http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1202961317128370.xml&coll=7>

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

India: Grassroots social workers and the community of transsexuals are spearheading a campaign to save the girl child. News Post India (5 February): <http://newspostindia.com/report-35388>

Nepal: Nepalese women under the shadow of domestic violence. *Lancet* 2008; 371:547-548. <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608602548/fulltext>

South Africa: HIV/AIDS policies and programmes have been criticised for disregarding the sexual needs of people living with the virus. *AllAfrica* (8 February): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802080955.html>

Torture:

USA: The US Congress has moved to prohibit the CIA from using water-boarding and similarly harsh interrogation methods on terror suspects. *Associated Press* (14 February): <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gdJhj2JFAlwZmtY7JFrg4j97CtwQD8UPPSF02>

Violence against Women:

Ghana: There has been an urgent call for a stronger commitment from governments to end female genital mutilation and to do more to protect the rights of women and girls. *AllAfrica* (9 February): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802110070.html>

Italy: Human rights activists in Italy have asserted that some women from minority communities are being physically restrained in their homes in some rural areas. *AKI English* (14 February): <http://www.adnkronos.com/AKI/English/Religion/?id=1.0.1876380527>

Nepal: Domestic violence against women, including beatings by husbands. Dowry-related murders, and physical and psychological harassment by families is rampant in Nepal, one of the poorest

countries in the world. *The Lancet* (February 2008):
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608602548/fulltext>

Publications:

Stephanie A Nixon and Lisa Foreman. Exploring Synergies between human rights and public health ethics: a whole greater than the sum of its parts. *BMC International Health and Human Rights* 2008, **8**:2 (31 January 2008): <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-698x-8-2.pdf>

Nguyen TA, Oosterhoff P, Hardon A, Nguyen Tran H, Coutinho RA, Wright P. A hidden HIV epidemic among women in Vietnam *BMC Public Health* 2008, **8**:37 (28 January 2008):
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/8/37/abstract>
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/openaccess>

Olson B, Soldz S, Davis M. The ethics of interrogation and the American Psychological Association: A critique of policy and process *Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine* 2008, **3**:3 (29 January 2008): <http://www.peh-med.com/content/3/1/3>

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