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24/05/2007 [India: Chattisgarh government detains human rights defender, refuses to arrest police officials suspected of involvement in unlawful killings of adivasis](#) ASA 20/013/2007

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23/05/2007 [Amnesty International Report 2007. Facts and Figures](#) POL 10/007/2007

23/05/2007 [Report 2007: Politics of fear creating a dangerously divided world](#) POL 10/009/2007

23/05/2007 [Russian Federation: What justice for Chechnya's "disappeared"? Executive Summary](#) EUR 46/020/2007

23/05/2007 [Lebanon: Concerns on fighting between army and Fatah al-Islam group](#) MDE 18/003/2007

22/05/2007 [Zimbabwe: human rights in crisis. Shadow report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) AFR 46/016/2007

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[Pakistan: Authorities must protect rights of all](#) ASA 33/007/2007
[USA: Prisoner-assisted homicide - more 'volunteer' executions loom](#) AMR 51/087/2007

Asylum seekers/ Refugees / Migrants:

Kenya: Ongoing fighting in the Mount Elgon district of Kenya is preventing access to education and healthcare. According to the Kenyan Red Cross, many of the 60,000 displaced people have experienced skin infections, malaria, upper respiratory tract infections and malnutrition. *Irin* (22 May):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72175>

Sudan: Fears have been expressed of a public health crisis in southern Sudan as refugees return to the region from the northern states and from neighbouring countries. *Irin* (23 May):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72347>

UK: Campaigners have highlighted the rise in self harm in Britain's detention centres, particularly at Yarl's Wood where hundreds of women, many of whom have claimed asylum, are being held. *Observer* (24 May):

http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,2083892,00.html

Children:

Iraq: Mental health specialists in Iraq report a rise in domestic violence directed against children largely a result of the violence that has gripped Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003. *Irin* (22 May):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72350>

Nigeria: American pharmaceutical company Pfizer is facing criminal charges in Nigeria for a clinical trial conducted in the state of Kano over a decade ago. Pfizer is accused of administered an untested drug, Trovan Floxacin, to 200 Nigerian children during a meningitis epidemic, resulting in multiple deaths and disabilities. *The New Zealand Herald* (1 June):

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/2/story.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10443009

Health Services:

USA: Some 45 million, or 15 percent of people in the USA lacked health insurance in 2005. This was up 3% on the previous year, and is likely to be higher now due to rising healthcare costs and the sharp reduction in employee benefits. *Reuters* (1 June):

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN4P41784820070523>

Zimbabwe: Healthcare workers have warned of a severe shortage of critical drugs in Zimbabwe's public hospitals and clinics, forcing patients to buy medication at high prices from private pharmacies. *AllAfrica* (1 June):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200705280091.html>

HIV/AIDS:

Cameroon: Campaigners have welcomed the provision of free antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to all who need them as part of the Cameroon government's 2006-2010 national plan to combat HIV /AIDS. However, they have expressed concern about low stocks of ARVs and potentially prohibitive transport costs to and from treatment centres. *Irin* (4 June): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72485>

China: China has barred a prominent AIDS activist and his wife from leaving the country just hours before the couple were due to embark on a tour of nine European countries. *Reuters* (18 May): <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK356204.htm>

Southern Africa: The legalisation of same-sex marriages in South Africa in 2006 has not had the hoped for effect of speeding up the adoption of similar legislation in adjoining countries, according to researchers and activists attending an HIV / AIDS conference in South Africa. Those living under discriminatory legislation outlawing homosexuality are often excluded from accessing health care. *Irin* (25 May): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72132>

Swaziland: Disintegration of the extended Swazi family, partly as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, has created a new phenomenon of urban homelessness. *Relief Web* (24 May): <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/SHES-73HMUW?OpenDocument>

Thailand: As the Thai government's patent dispute with the US pharmaceutical company Abbott Laboratories continues, for most of the 8,000 Thais requiring second-line drug Kaletra the treatment is unavailable. *Reuters* (22 May): <http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKBKK12342120070522?pageNumber=2>

Human Rights:

UK: Reed Elsevier, publisher of "The Lancet" has bowed to pressure from shareholders, doctors, and campaigners by agreeing to stop organising arms fairs. *The Times* (2 June): http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/media/article1873095.ece

Prisoners:

USA: Fishkill state prison is the first in the USA to open a special unit for inmates with dementia. Both tough-on-crime laws which bring longer sentences, and improvements in health care have led to there being more elderly inmates. *Guardian* (29 May): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,-6668313.00.html>

USA: An unnamed Saudi Arabian national has died from apparent suicide at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. He is the fourth Guantanamo detainee to commit suicide since the opening of the camp in January 2002, where prisoners are increasingly held in solitary confinement and denied access to independent psychological care. *Reuters* (30 May): <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSNASU5300120070531>

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

China: A growing trend for single women to have abortions – frequently more than one – is being blamed on the lack of reproductive education and the social stigma attached to being a single mother in China. *The New York Times* (17 May)
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/13/world/asia/13abortion.html?ex=1180584000&en=0e7b907a12743e55&ei=5070>

Medical News (17 May): <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=71063>
(summary here – no registration required)

India: Maternal mortality rates are falling in Rajasthan, northern India, by the creation of a maternal helpline by which women in labour can request a taxi to transport them to their nearest healthcare clinic. *Reuters* (23 May):
<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSDEL728320070523>

Israel/Occupied Territories: Delays at checkpoints have resulted in dozens of unattended roadside births, some of which have ended in deaths. *UNFPA* (15 May)
<http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=972>

South Africa: A revival in the traditional practice of virginity testing amongst Zulu women in South Africa has provoked debate between supporters, who consider the test to be a means of encouraging sexual abstinence, and critics who fear the practice can lead to an increase in the risk of rape because of the mistaken belief that sex with a virgin is a means of curing AIDS. *BBC* (22 May):
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6677745.stm>

UK: Unassisted birth, or “freebirth” is gaining in popularity, described by its proponents as a natural and healthy choice for the woman and child. Critics argue that giving birth alone is risky and that the rights of the child should not be compromised by the rights of the mother to choose how to give birth. *Reuters* (22 May):
<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSL2148514320070522?pageNumber=1>

Events:

5-8 June: 3rd South African AIDS Conference: Building consensus on Prevention, Treatment, and Care. Durban, South Africa. <http://www.sa-aidsconference.com/>

4-7 July. International Women’s Summit: Women’s Leadership Making a Difference on HIV and AIDS. Nairobi, Kenya. (World YWCA in conjunction with the World Council Meeting).
http://www.worldywca.info/index.php/ywca/world_council_07/iws_women_s_summit

Publications:

Kapp, Clare. ‘South Africa Unveils New 5-Year HIV/AIDS Plan’. *The Lancet*. Vol. 369, Issue 9573, p1589-90. 12 May 2007.
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607607272/fulltext>

Oxman, A. et al, “Use of evidence in WHO recommendations” *The Lancet*. (9 May 2007)
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607606758/fulltext?isEOP=true>

Hill, S. and Pang, T. ‘Leading by example: a culture change at WHO’ (Comment on ‘Use of evidence in WHO recommendations’) *The Lancet* (9 May 2007)
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS014067360760676X/fulltext?isEOP=true>

Renni, S. et al, 'Male circumcision and HIV prevention: ethical, medical and public health tradeoffs in low-income countries' *Journal of Medical Ethics*. Vol 33, Issue 6. pp. 357-361. 1st June 2007

<http://jme.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/33/6/357>

'Institutionalised Inequity; not just a matter of money' *Australian Medical Association Report Card Series 200.7*

http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-73EVLV#end_of_page

'The use of drugs as weapons' *British Medical Association*. May 2007

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/drugsasweapons>

'Help wanted; confronting the healthcare worker crisis' *Médecins Sans Frontières*. 18 May 2007.

http://www.msf.org/msfinternational/invoke.cfm?objectid=AD90630F-15C5-F00A-25723C556AA2E57E&component=toolkit.report&method=full_html&mode=view

'Epidemic of Inequality: Women's Rights and HIV/AIDS in Botswana & Swaziland' *Physicians for Human Rights*. May 2007

<http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/library/report-2007-05-25.html>

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