
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Al Bulletin Vol.12 No.11, 5 June 2009

AI Index: ACT 84/011/2009

Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

Contents:

Amnesty International reports & statements News articles

Children

Death Penalty

Food Security and Poverty

Health Services

Health Workers

HIV and AIDS

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases

Mental Health

Prisons

Refugees and Migrants

Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Torture

Violence against Women

Women's Rights

Conferences/Courses

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements:

3 June: USA: Texas carried out its 200th execution under the eight-and-a-half year governorship of Richard Perry on Tuesday. Terry Lee Hankins, 34, was executed by lethal injection shortly after 6pm Texas time. He had been sentenced to death in 2002 for the murder of two of his wife's children in 2001.

 $\frac{http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/texas-carries-out-200th-execution-under-current-governor-20090603}{\text{current-governor-20090603}}$

1 June: Myanmar: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's continued detention in Myanmar puts the human rights spotlight on a country that has denied both economic rights and freedom of expression to its people in the past year.

http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/opposition-leader039s-detention-keeps-spotlight-myanmar-20090601

1 June: Saudi Arabia: A "horrific" public execution and crucifixion of a man in Saudi Arabia has been condemned by Amnesty International. Ahmed bin 'Adhaib bin 'Askar al-shamlani al-'Anzi was beheaded and his body crucified in a public place in Riyadh.

http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/man-beheaded-and-crucified-saudi-arabia-20090601

28 May: International: More than six decades of human rights failures by governments have been exacerbated by the world economic crisis, which brought the problems of poverty and inequality to the fore, according to Amnesty International's Secretary General. http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/feature-stories/economic-crisis-reveals-deeper-human-rights-problems-20090528

27 May: International: A new Amnesty International campaign to give a voice to people living in deprivation will empower "prisoners of poverty" as previous campaigns empowered prisoners of conscience, says Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Khan. http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/empowering-worlds-poor-20090527

26 May: India: Dr Binayak Sen, who spent two years in an Indian prison as a Prisoner of Conscience, was released after being granted bail by the Supreme Court. http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/good-news/indian-doctor-binayak-sen-released-prison-bail-20090526

22 May: USA: US President Barack Obama restated his commitment to closing the Guantánamo detention facility and to ending the use of the so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" approved under the previous US administration.

http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/president-obama-defends-guant%C3%A1namo-closure-endorses-indefinite-preventive-detent

Children:

Ireland: Ireland will reform its social services for children in line with the recommendations of a report cataloguing decades of abuse by priests published last week, Prime Minister Brian Cowen said. *Reuters* (26 May): http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE54P4GP20090526

Mozambique: A five-day nationwide campaign in Mozambique has brought vitamins, vaccinations and nutrition screening to over 3 million children under the age of five, the latest effort to bring the country closer to reaching the globally agreed target of reducing child mortality by two-thirds by 2015. *UN News Centre* (27 May): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30926&Cr=vaccination&Cr1=

Pakistan: With 38 per cent of children moderately or severely underweight even before food and fuel prices spiked, the increases have started to push the country's poorest dangerously close to the point of no return. *UNICEF* (29 May):

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/pakistan 49842.html

South Africa: A report compiled by Solidarity Helping Hand said while there are about 60 cases of child rape in South Africa every day, more than 88% of child rapes are never reported. *Health* 24 (3 June): http://www.health24.com/news/Child_safety/1-943,51151.asp

UK: Children should only be allowed to start school if they have been vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella, a leading public health expert has said as measles cases in the UK hit a record high. *The Guardian* (3 June): http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/jun/03/mmr-jabcompulsory-schoolchildren

USA: On a bipartisan 23-15 vote, the California Senate has approved legislation that would allow courts to review cases of juveniles sentenced to life without parole after 10 years, potentially allowing some individuals to receive a new sentence of 25 years to life. *Inquirer.net* (4 June): http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20090604-208810/Calif-Senate-OKs-bill-on-juvenile-delinquents

Death Penalty:

Pakistan: Amnesty International has said in its reports that as many as 7000 prisoners have been awarded capital punishment in Pakistan while 36 detainees were sentenced to death last year alone. *The News International* (29 May): http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=78933

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabian officials beheaded and then publicly displayed the body of a convicted killer in Riyadh. *CNN* (30 May):

http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/05/30/saudi.arabia.execution/

USA: A UN Special Investigator Philip Alston has criticized the application of the death penalty in the United States, saying it sometimes leads to miscarriages of justice. *Voice of America* (3 June): http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-03-voa56.cfm

Food Security and Poverty:

Africa: The Jubilee Debt Campaign is calling for an immediate US\$400 billion debt cancellation for developing countries to avoid returning to a 1980s-style crisis. *IRIN* (1 June): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84648

Bangladesh: One week after Cyclone Aila struck southern Bangladesh, survivors in some areas are facing acute shortages of drinking water after many water sources were contaminated. *IRIN* (2 June): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84650

International: The global economic crisis is exacerbating human rights abuses, Amnesty International has warned. *BBC News* (28 May): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8071347.stm

Madagascar: The United Nations humanitarian arm said today it has allocated \$6.45 million to help 190,000 people in the rural southern regions of Madagascar who are suffering from the combined effects of drought, cyclones, and political instability. *UN News Centre* (2 June): <a href="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr2="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr2="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr2="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr2="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr2="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30998&Cr=madagascar&Cr2="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?

South Africa: Grain South Africa, an association representing grain farmers, said in a statement on 4 June that between 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009, the price of white maize had fallen by 14 percent, and that of wheat by 35 percent, but between March 2008 and March 2009, bread prices had risen by 25 percent and maize-meal by 6.33 percent. *IRIN* (4 June): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84709

Health Services:

Africa: African governments are failing to offer even the most basic healthcare that could save lives. *IRIN Plus News* (3 June): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84687

Brazil: Handed down from generation to generation, traditional knowledge about medicinal plants has reached state laboratories in Brazil through a programme that has already identified 71 native and exotic species for producing herbal medicines. *IPS* (1 June): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47057

International: The World Health Organisation (WHO) urged Friday that rotavirus vaccines be included in routine immunisation schedules of countries around the world in order to provide global protection against the most common and lethal form of diarrheal disease. *IPS* (5 June): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47109

South Africa: South Africa's adoption of a "liberal immigration policy" for Zimbabweans is placing greater burdens on the already stretched health care system, the international relief NGO, Médecins Sans Frontières has said. *IRIN* (2 June): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84669

Zambia: The governments of the Netherlands and Sweden announced they had suspended aid after a whistleblower alerted Zambia's Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] to the embezzlement of over US\$2 million from the health ministry by top government officials. *IRIN Plus News* (27 May): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84578

Health Workers:

Benin: Benin has suspended indefinitely a polio vaccination campaign because of a health workers' strike, as polio re-emerges in several West African countries. *IRIN* (29 May): http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84624

South Africa: Health care workers in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province, on the east coast, are at much higher risk of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) than the general public, according to new research. *IRIN Plus News* (1 June): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?Reportld=84645

Spain: The World Health Organization was awarded the 2009 Prince of Asturias Prize for International Cooperation on Wednesday "for its work in safeguarding the fundamental right of every human being to health. *Latin American Herald* (3 June): http://www.laht.com/article.asp?Articleld=335909&Categoryld=12395

HIV and AIDS:

Africa: If governments were responsible for treating people living with HIV, and NGOs for supplementary needs like prevention, testing and food, there would be less duplication of services, civil society activists attending the recent Global Citizens Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, were told. *IRIN Plus News* (1 June): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84646

International: The war against HIV/AIDS, which has too often been fought in plush offices and conference centres, needs to be reclaimed by people in developing countries, who are most affected, or it will continue to be a losing battle. *IRIN Plus News* (28 May): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84601

International: Providing HIV prevention, care and treatment services at well-equipped local clinics could be the key to success in fighting the pandemic in the developing world, a new report by the international anti-poverty NGO, Action Aid, has said. *IRIN Plus News* (27 May): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84567

International: The main focus for HIV prevention work is still encouraging people to use condoms. But in this week's Scrubbing Up health column, HIV expert Michael Carter says increasing the numbers taking medication would reduce infections to the same degree. *BBC News* (27 May): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8068074.stm

Lesotho: A health centre in one of Lesotho's poorest districts has scored significant success in implementing a prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) programme, but health experts warn that a number of factors, including cultural beliefs and stigma, threaten to derail it. *IPS* (21 May): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46933

Swaziland: A Swaziland parliamentarian has apologised after calling for HIV-positive people to be branded on the buttocks to stop the spread of the virus ravaging the country. *Reuters* (28 May): http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE54R0BE20090528

Uganda: Most teenagers find adolescence a confusing time, but it is even harder for young people who are HIV-positive and have no one to turn to. *IRIN Plus News* (4 June): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?Reportld=84708

Zambia: The Netherlands and Sweden have frozen \$33 million in aid for Zambia's fight against HIV/AIDS and other health programmes because of official corruption, ministers said on Thursday. *Reuters* (28 May): http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE54R0EB20090528

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

International: The Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance) announced at the Global Health Council Conference today that four new drug discovery collaboration agreements have been signed. All four projects have the potential to generate compounds active against drug-resistant tuberculosis and show promise to advance the science of TB drug development. Stop TB Partnership (27 May): http://www.stoptb.org/news/readmore4.asp
Also see TB Alliance press release: http://www.tballiance.org/newscenter/view-brief.php?id=851

Nigeria: The Nigerian government believes that by 2013 malaria will cease to be a major public health problem in the country because families will have universal access to prevention and treatment, which will ultimately lead to malaria eradication in Nigeria, according to a document prepared by the National Malaria Control Program of the Federal Ministry of Health in Abuja, Nigeria. *Medical News Today* (3 June): http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/152372.php

Pakistan: Pakistan has obtained international support for its efforts to fight tuberculosis and lower infant and maternal mortality rates, Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani, the health minister, said recently after returning from the 62nd World Health Assembly. *Medical News Today* (2 June): http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/152304.php

South Africa: A new trial to test the efficacy of a tuberculosis (TB) booster shot for babies is about to start in South Africa, but when your subjects are too young to eat solids, the challenge rises to a new level. *IRIN Plus news* (4 June): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84693

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka is facing a dengue epidemic as both the numbers of dengue cases and deaths for the first five months have surpassed those of the whole year of 2008, China's Xinhua news agency quoted the island's official newspaper as saying Saturday. *Bernama* (30 May): http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsworld.php?id=414720

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's refugee camps are being called "an epidemic waiting to happen." The overcrowding combined with monsoon rains and bad sanitation threatens the camps with cholera and typhoid. *Mission Network* (3 June): http://mnnonline.org/article/12746

Mental Health:

Ireland: The Inspector of Mental Health Services has said that compliance and understanding of regulations relating to seclusion, restraint, and electro-convulsive therapies remains disappointing despite some progress being achieved in 2008, according to his new annual report. *Irish Medical News* (4 June): http://www.imn.ie/index.php/current-issue/news/1631-mental-health-services-disappointing

UK: Urgent action should be taken to protect the human rights of people with dementia in care homes, a charity Alzheimer Scotland has said. *BBC News* (28 May): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8070748.stm

Prisons:

EU/USA: European countries lined up to applaud President Obama's order that the Guantánamo Bay detention centre should be closed within a year. But the European Union has so far failed to offer the American president the assistance he needs to meet this ambitious target. *The Guardian* (4 June): http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jun/04/obama-europe-guantanamo-detainees

Iran: A student activist and leading defender of the rights of political prisoners and their families, Javid-Tehrani has spent the last 10 years in and out of prison. He is currently held in the "doghouse" section of the infamous Gohar Dasht prison in Karaj city, north of Tehran, with his hands and feet cuffed. *Human Rights Watch* (23 May): http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/05/23/iran-political-prisoner-s-life-danger

Laos: British consular officials in Laos are hoping to visit a pregnant Briton in prison after she was jailed for life for narcotic smuggling. *BBC News* (4 June): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8082412.stm

USA: The US Defence Department strongly rejected a British newspaper report alleging photographs of abuse at Iraqi prisons including images of rape and sexual assault. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (29 May): http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/us-rejects-report-on-iraq-prison-photos-20090529-bp5b.html

USA: The apparent suicide of a Yemeni detainee at Guantanamo Bay underscores the urgent need for the United States to reach agreement with Yemen on sending uncharged prisoners home. *Human Rights Watch* (3 June): http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/06/03/usyemen-negotiate-return-guantanamo-detainees

Refugees and Migrants:

International: The top United Nations refugee official has called on the European Union to ensure that migration control measures do not undermine fundamental rights of asylum-seekers and refugees. *UN News Centre* (2 June):

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31002&Cr=unhcr&Cr1=europe

Pakistan: Calling the scale of the displacement of civilians fleeing clashes between the Government and militants in north-west Pakistan "unprecedented," the top United Nations humanitarian official today called on donors to fund an appeal for over \$500 million to help the over 2 million uprooted. *UN News Centre* (28 May):

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30954&Cr=pakistan&Cr1=

Pakistan: UNICEF has appealed for an additional \$41.4 million to provide urgent assistance to people displaced by fighting in northwest Pakistan. Over half of the displaced are children. *UNICEF* (26 May): http://www.unicef.org/media/media_49793.html

Sri Lanka: The United Nations refugee agency and its partners are working to ensure that the hundreds of thousands of people who were uprooted by clashes between Sri Lankan Government forces and Tamil rebels are able to return to their homes. *UN News Centre* (2 June): <a href="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30990&Cr=Sri+lanka&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?Ne

UK: There are an estimated 10,000 Congolese asylum seekers in the UK, many of whom are at risk of being forcibly removed. The sending back of such people to the Democratic Republic of the Congo was suspended in 2007 but recently resumed. *The Guardian* (27 May): http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/27/drc-congo-deport-torture

Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

Australia: A national campaign launched today aims to reduce the rate of sexually transmitted infections among Australians, especially young people and Indigenous people. *Newswire* (1 June): http://www.webnewswire.com/node/455994

Bolivia: A new Bolivian government programme will provide special payments to pregnant women and mothers with children up to the age of two, with the aim of cutting the country's maternal and infant mortality rates. *IPS* (3 June): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47082

India: Young girls pushed into prostitution in Goa are more likely to think about suicide or attempt to commit suicide as compared to their counterparts from other states, as they feel extremely stigmatized and live under the daily threat of disclosure and exclusion from their communities, reveals a study. *IPS* (4June): http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/Sex-workers-in-Goa-more-likely-to-end-life/articleshow/4614635.cms

Nicaragua: The United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT) described the criminalisation of abortion under any circumstances in Nicaragua as a violation of human rights. *IPS* (28 May): http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47011

Nigeria: Nigeria's maternal mortality rate is still comparable to those countries at war or [just emerging from war]," lyabo Obasanjo-Bello, who chairs the Nigerian senate health committee, told IRIN. *IRIN* (3 June): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84689

Senegal: A Senegalese court sentenced two women to six months in jail for circumcising a baby girl, rights watchdog Raddho said of a case that sparked clashes between religious protesters and police. *AFP* (28 May): http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jJTg-0qv64Eai5Dzs4L-MpPRyQPg

Tanzania: Abortion is illegal in Tanzania (except to save the mother's life or health), so women and girls turn to amateurs, who may dose them with herbs or other concoctions, pummel their bellies or insert objects vaginally. Infections, bleeding and punctures of the uterus or bowel can result, and can be fatal. *The New York Times* (1 June): http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/02/health/02abort.html

Torture:

UK: A Briton held on suspicion of terrorism in Bangladesh is to sue Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, alleging she allowed his torture, the Home Office has confirmed. *BBC News* (27 May): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8069455.stm

USA: The former commander of U.S. forces in Iraq who retired over the Abu Ghraib prison scandal is calling for a truth commission to investigate Bush-era policies behind the abuse and controversial interrogations of detainees. *CNN* (2 June): http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/06/02/us.torture.sanchez/?iref=mpstoryview

Violence against Women:

Cameroon: Talk openly about rape. That is the gist of a new campaign in Cameroon, where according to a study an estimated 432,000 women and girls have been raped in the past 20 years. *IRIN* (2 June): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84670

Cuba: The Cuban Constitution and numerous laws assure women's equality and the protection of the family, but the abuse that occurs in the intimacy of the home doesn't always escape the fear and prejudice, nor is it reported to the authorities or tabulated in statistics. *Havana Times* (25 May): http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=9171

Democratic Republic of Congo: Military operations and rebel reprisals in eastern Congo -- plus corporate mineral interests -- have fuelled a surge in sexual violence since January this year. Activists are pushing to hold rapists and companies accountable. *Women's E-News* (24 May): http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/4021/context/archive

Indonesia: Among the alleyways of Dolly, in Indonesia's second-largest city, it is not difficult to find thousands of young women lured by the prospects of a better life working as commercial sex workers. *IRIN* (3 June): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84678

Kenya: Amnesty International reports that during the post-election violence and in the conflict in the Mount Elgon area, women and girls were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence. *Daily Nation* (28 May): http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/603992/-/ujpav8/-/

Women's Rights:

Afghanistan: The rights of women in Afghanistan are deteriorating. It's a constant struggle to avoid a return to the days of the Taliban, when women were forbidden to get an education or even go shopping on their own. *ABC News* (29 May): http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2584949.htm

International: Women and girls are the poorest of the poor because of the extreme forms of discrimination that persist in many parts of today's world. *ActionAid* (1 June): http://www.actionaid.org/main.aspx?PageID=21

Iran: Presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi has vowed to review laws that discriminate against women in Iran if he wins an upcoming election. *BBC News* (30 May): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/8075603.stm

Conferences/Seminars/Courses

International Conference on Healthcare & Trade

10-11 December 2009. Rotterdam. The Netherlands

The International Conference on Healthcare and Trade will focus on the influence of the law of both the European Union and the World Trade Organization on trade in health services, health insurance services and health goods (pharmaceuticals). The application of the EC Treaty, the GATS and the TRIPS to national regulation of health services, health insurance services and pharmaceuticals raises questions of applicability of, compatibility with and possible exceptions to the provisions of these instruments. In these areas, these questions have not yet been answered conclusively and further research and discussion in this area is ongoing. The conference aims to contribute to the discussion, attempting to formulate both legal and economic answers to these questions. For more information see: http://www.erasmusobservatoryonhealthlaw.nl/eventss/

Course: Leadership in Health Promotion: Complexity, innovation and closing the gap of implementation

17-21 August 2009, Lugano, Switzerland

The Summer School is organised by the Swiss School of Public Health+ (SSPH+), in collaboration with La Trobe University, School of Public Health and with the World Health Organization.

A full course brochure is available at:

http://www.ssphplus.ch/IMG/pdf/ssph_broch_Summer_2009_course_7.pdf

Workshop: New Directions in Bioethics

29-30 June, London, UK

This workshop brings together a number of well-known speakers to present work in progress on bioethics. Papers will focus on neglected issues in public health ethics, research ethics and methodology in bioethics, as well as addressing some more familiar bioethical issues. This event is supported by the UCLH/UCL Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre. For further details see the conference website: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpih/new-directions-in-bioethics

International Master in Mental Health Policy and Services

This course has been developed by the University of Lisbon, in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The course has two main objectives: 1 - Develop the knowledge and the skills that are required to participate in the formulation and implementation of mental health policies, plans and services; 2 - Develop capacity to conduct research projects in the area of mental health policy and services. The Masters will start on the 7th September 2009, with a two-week residential session, at the Faculdade de Ciências Médicas campus in Lisbon, Portugal. A second two-week residential session will take place in Lisbon, from 29 March to April 2010. Between the two residential sessions, the students will participate in e-learning teaching activities (lectures, work exercises, essays) under the orientation of supervisors. The second year of the Course will be dedicated to the development of a project and the elaboration of the dissertation, under the orientation of a supervisor. The deadline for applications is July 31 2009. For further information please contact Catarina Pedro: catarinapedro.sm@fcm.unl.pt or visit: www.fcm.unl.pt/masterint

Publications:

ActionAid, "Primary concern: why primary healthcare is key to tackling HIV and AIDS", May 2009. Available online at: http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf%5CPrimary%20Concern%20-%20why%20primary%20healthcare%20is%20key%20to%20tackling%20HIV%20and%20AIDS.pdf

Axelson H et al., "Health financing for the poor produces promising short-term effects on utilization and out-of-pocket expenditure: evidence from Vietnam", *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2009, **8**:20doi:10.1186/1475-9276-8-20. Available online at: http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/8/1/20

Beckfield J and Krieger N, "Epi + demos + cracy: Linking Political Systems and Priorities to the Magnitude of Health Inequities—Evidence, Gaps, and a Research Agenda", *Epidemiologic Reviews* 2009; doi: 10.1093/epirev/mxp002 - May 27, 2009. Available online at: http://epirev.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/mxp002?ijkey=xaXgimZNzdGpbSc&keytype=ref

Henderson C and Thornicroft G, "Stigma and discrimination in mental illness: Time to Change", *The Lancet*, Volume 373, Issue 9679, 6 June 2009. Available online at: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61046-1/fulltext

Kristiansson C et al, "Access to health care in relation to socioeconomic status in the Amazonian area of Peru", *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 2009, **8**:11 doi:10.1186/1475-9276-8-11. Available online at: http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/pdf/1475-9276-8-11.pdf

MacInnes T and Kenway P, "London's Poverty Profile", UK City Parochial Foundation and New Policy Institute, 2009. Available online at:

http://www.londonspovertyprofile.org.uk/downloads/LondonPovertyProfile.pdf

Mule NJ et al., "Promoting LGBT health and wellbeing through inclusive policy development", *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2009, **8:**18doi:10.1186/1475-9276-8-18. Available online at: http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/8/1/18

Murray L and Burnham G, "Understanding childhood sexual abuse in Africa", *The Lancet*, Volume 373, Issue 9679, 6 June 2009 Available online at: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)60344-5/fulltext

Physicians for Human Rights and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, "Nowhere to Turn: Failure to Protect, Support and Assure Justice for Darfuri Women", May 2009. Available online at: http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/library/report-2009-05-31.html

Thomson S, Foubister T and Mossialos E, "Financing health care in the European Union: challenges and policy responses" World Health Organization 2009, on behalf of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Available online at: http://www.euro.who.int/document/E92469.pdf

Tomlinson M, Rudan I, Saxena S, Swartz L, Tsai AC and Patel V, "Setting priorities for global mental health research", Bulletin of the World Health Organization - Volume 87, Number 6, June 2009. Available online at: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/6/08-054353/en/index.html

Shah More N et al., "Inequalities in maternity care and newborn outcomes: one-year surveillance of births in vulnerable slum communities in Mumbai", *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2009, **8:**21doi:10.1186/1475-9276-8-21. Available online at: http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/8/1/21

Word Health Organization, "World Health Statistics 2009", May 2009. Available online at: http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/en/

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to: Health@amnesty.org

Health and Human Rights Team Amnesty International - International Secretariat

Tel: +44 20 7413 5522 Fax: +44 20 7956 1157

Al web-site: http://www.amnesty.org/

Al Health Professional web-site: http://www.amnesty.org/en/health-and-human-rights