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Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements:

29 June: Iran: Amnesty International is gravely concerned that several opposition leaders detained in the wake of the 12 June elections may be facing torture, possibly to force them to make televised “confessions” as a prelude to unfair trials in which they could face the death penalty.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/iran-detained-political-leaders-risk-torture-possibly-force-%E2%80%9Cconfessions>

22 June: Somalia: Amnesty International is calling on the Al-Shabab armed group not to carry out amputations on four men accused of robbery tomorrow morning in Mogadishu.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/somalia-al-shabab-should-not-carry-out-amputations-20090622-0>

22 June: International: “End the Death Penalty for Drug-Related Offences”, Joint Statement by The Anti Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN), of which Amnesty International is a member, Human Rights Watch and the International Harm Reduction Association.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/end-death-penalty-drug-related-offences-20090622>

20 June: International: Governments in Europe are putting lives at risk by denying refugees protection. On World Refugee Day, the doors to Europe are closing as the rights of those seeking sanctuary are ignored.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/world-refugee-day-lives-danger-governments-deny-refugees-protection-euro>

18 June: Cambodia: Amnesty International has condemned the Phnom Penh authorities for evicting 20 families living with HIV/AIDS from their homes in Borei Keila. They have been moved outside of the city to a resettlement site, Tuol Sambo, where there is no clean water or electricity and limited access to medical services.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/cambodia-families-living-hiv-aids-evicted-20090618>

Children:

Benin: Four years after the launch of the School Fee Abolition Initiative (SFAI), 40 representatives from Congo, Mali, Togo and Benin convened a five-day workshop in Cotonou last week to assess the programme's results and share their experiences. *UNICEF* (29 July):

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/benin_50115.html

China: Police across China have rescued 23 children in a nationwide crackdown on child trafficking from poor provinces, state media said. *International Planned Parenthood Federation* (22 June): <http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/China+police+rescue+trafficked+children.htm>

International: A recent study finds intimate-partner abuse rising among teens and their parents during the recession. At the same time, tighter school budgets hamper efforts to teach prevention in health class. *Women's E News* (26 June):

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/4049>

International: The global economic crisis, which has pushed millions more into extreme poverty, is threatening to have a devastating impact on the health of women and children. *IPS* (15 June):

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47224>

Ivory Coast: Scores of young girls, some as young as 10, are selling their bodies at Adjamé market to make money according to a local NGO. *IRIN* (25 July):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85009>

Sierra Leone: Kroo Bay is a slum shantytown built on a rubbish dump and fetid swamp in Freetown. One in four children here will die before their fifth birthday. *The Guardian* (16 June):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/video/2009/jun/16/sierra-leone-slum-children>

Syria: Syria has made advances in achieving globally agreed development targets related to women and children, but still faces challenges in ensuring quality education, according to the head of the United Nations Children's Fund. *UN News Centre* (30 June):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31317&Cr=syria&Cr1=>

Death Penalty:

Egypt: More than 200 death sentences have been handed down since the beginning of the year, including 68 in June alone, according to official sources at the justice ministry. *The National* (28 June):

<http://www.thenational.ae/article/20090629/FOREIGN/706289842/1135>

USA: The state of California's new procedure for carrying out executions by lethal injection violates international human rights law, Human Rights Watch said. *Human Rights Watch* (29 June): <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/06/29/us-california-execution-procedure-violates-rights>

Vietnam: Vietnam on Friday removed rape and several other offences from the list of crimes punishable by death, an official said, but deputies maintained capital punishment for narcotics trafficking. *AFP* (19 June): http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hmkUuo_IgRqF2ga3u6TYUog6FJpw

Food Security and Poverty:

Africa: The governing body of the United Nations trade and development agency has convened a meeting today in Geneva to highlight the need to keep the food crisis affecting Africa from being forgotten as governments focus on tackling the global economic crisis. *UN News Centre* (30 June): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31318&Cr=food+crisis&Cr1=>

Afghanistan: Thousands of people who lost their houses in January-May flooding in different parts of Afghanistan need help to repair or rebuild their homes, or find new ones, before winter. *IRIN* (1 July): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85079>

International: The United Nations committee tasked with building alliances in the global fight against hunger has warned that the world financial crisis will aggravate malnutrition among the most vulnerable in developing countries. *UN News Centre* (25 June): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31273&Cr=financial+crisis&Cr1=hunger>

OPT: A new report by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) paints a grim picture of life in the Gaza Strip: insufficient housing, damaged infrastructure, limited access to clean water and the discharge of raw sewage into the sea. *IRIN* (30 June): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85052>

Health Services:

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://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47057>

Swaziland: As the global economic downturn begins to take its toll on developing countries, Swaziland's health system - already strained by the burden of HIV/AIDS - has come under severe threat. The third of the national health budget which comes directly from donor agencies is abruptly drying up. *IPS* (9 June): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47164>

Health Workers:

Europe: New moves aimed at preventing over one million injuries caused each year to healthcare workers have come a step closer. *The Parliament* (10 June): <http://www.theparliament.com/latestnews/news-article/newsarticle/new-eu-wide-rules-aimed-at-protecting-health-workers/>

Zambia: Striking health workers in Lusaka, Livingstone and Kitwe yesterday resolved to call off their boycott as police in Ndola arrested five nurses for unlawful assembly when they met at Kansenshi

cemetery for a meeting with other striking health workers. *All Africa* (30 June): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200906300565.html>

HIV and AIDS:

Africa: A staggering 70% of African people on antiretroviral treatment (ART) are at risk of losing this life saving treatment in the next 12 months due to the economic crisis, according to a recent World Bank report. Considering that only one in three HIV-positive people in Africa actually receive ART, the economic crisis holds a serious health threat to the continent. *Health 24* (11 June): http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920,51301.asp

International: Immigration laws and stringent requirements for accessing free health care create often insurmountable barriers to treatment and care for migrants living with HIV, Human Rights Watch noted in its report released last week. *IRIN Plus News* (23 June): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84967>
Source: Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/06/18/discrimination-denial-and-deportation-0>

International: New research suggests that HIV infection increases the risks of heart attack and stroke as much as traditionally recognised risk factors such as diabetes and smoking, according to the results of a study in the journal *AIDS*. *Health 24* (23 June): http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920,51439.asp

International: Food aid and plastic sheeting are the hallmarks of every disaster, but not always condoms and antiretrovirals, even though humanitarian agencies recognize the link between emergencies and the increased risk of HIV and AIDS. *IRIN Plus News* (10 June): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84795>

International: Findings from a clinical trial in Haiti bring the first conclusive evidence that HIV-positive people in developing countries have a significantly better chance of survival if they start antiretroviral (ARV) treatment earlier. *IRIN* (10 June): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84791>

Namibia: Two HIV-positive Namibian women who allege they were sterilised against their will in public hospitals are seeking redress through the courts, the first of more than 20 known cases, according to the International Community for Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW). *IRIN* (25 June): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85012>

Uganda: The rising cost of food in northern Uganda is forcing HIV-positive new mothers to turn to risky alternatives to formula milk or exclusive breastfeeding, as recommended by health professionals. *IRIN Plus News* (26 June): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85032>

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

International: The cautious tone taken by World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General Margaret Chan when she declared an H1N1 influenza virus pandemic Thursday was only modified when she expressed concern over the potential effects of the virus in developing countries, and among young pregnant women in particular. *IPS* (11 June): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47192>

International: For the first time in nearly half a century, the world may be on the verge of adding a new drug to its arsenal against tuberculosis (TB) – one that would not only drastically improve the

treatment of TB and its multidrug-resistant strains, but also shorten it. *IRIN Plus News* (17 June): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84888>

Maternal Mortality:

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://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47082>

Senegal: In Senegal's southern region, 58 percent of deliveries take place at home without any medical assistance, according to state reproductive health officials in Kolda, a town 425 km from the capital, Dakar. Women in the region suffer from exceptionally high rates of fistula. *IPS* (30 June): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47474>

Mental Health:

South Africa: Although mental disorders, such as depression and dementia, are commonly associated with HIV, they remain largely undiagnosed in South Africa. Lack of human and financial resources for mental health are the main reason for this, researchers say. *IPS* (8 June): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47138>

Prisons:

Iran: Harsh interrogation conditions and inadequate medical care are threatening the life of the detained prominent Iranian reformist Saeed Hajjarian. *Human Right Watch* (1 July): <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/01/iran-release-disabled-reformist>

Myanmar: Myanmar should release all political prisoners, including the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today ahead of a planned visit to the Asian country for talks with the leadership on key issues. *UN News Centre* (30 June): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31322&Cr=myanmar&Cr1=>

Refugees and Migrants:

Bangladesh: Over the past two months the local authorities in Cox's Bazaar District, south-eastern Bangladesh, have torn down scores of makeshift huts belonging to an estimated 1,000 Rohingya refugees. *IRIN* (29 June): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85050>

Democratic Republic of Congo: Continuing clashes between armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have forced civilians to abandon their homes in North Kivu and affected aid operations, a UN official said. *IRIN* (1 July): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85081>

Pakistan: Extra funding is urgently needed to strengthen disease control efforts, re-stock rapidly dwindling supplies of essential drugs and improve access to reproductive health services in north-western Pakistan, where some 2 million people have been uprooted by violence. *UN News Centre* (30 June): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31323&Cr=pakistan&Cr1=>

Thailand: With a look of apprehension on his face, a traditional woven pink bag slung over his shoulder and his wife and baby daughter at his side, a young school teacher today became the 50,000th refugee from Myanmar to be resettled from Thailand under the largest resettlement programme in the world. *UNHCR* (30 June): <http://www.unhcr.org/4a4a178f9.html>

Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

Africa: The quality of life of women and children - particularly poor women, rural women, and women from ethnic and indigenous minorities - is a strong measure of real change for the world's most vulnerable people. During the month of June, women's sexual and reproductive health rights received some welcome attention. *IPS* (30 June): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47475>

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://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47082>

International: Criminalizing abortion does not decrease the number of women who need terminations but only adds to their predicament. *International Planned Parenthood Federation News* (19 June): <http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/An+international+abortion+underground.htm>

Rwanda: The Rwandan Parliament should remove provisions in a draft law that would mandate compulsory HIV testing and require the sterilization of all individuals with intellectual disabilities. *Human Rights Watch* (1 July): <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/07/01/rwanda-revise-reproductive-health-bill>

Senegal: In Senegal's southern region, 58 percent of deliveries take place at home without any medical assistance, according to state reproductive health officials in Kolda, a town 425 km from the capital, Dakar. Women in the region suffer from exceptionally high rates of fistula. *IPS* (30 June): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47474>

Torture:

Balkans: The torture of drug addicts who had turned to the Serbian Orthodox Church for help has sent shock waves across the country. *IPS* (30 June): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47428>

Kenya: Kenyan security forces beat and tortured hundreds of civilians in several communities during an October 2008 disarmament operation in Kenya's northeastern Mandera districts, Human Rights Watch said. *Human Rights Watch* (29 June): <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/06/29/kenya-bring-prosecutions-torture-northeast>

Violence against Women:

Bolivia: Eight men from a Mennonite community in Bolivia have been arrested and accused of raping at least 60 women from their farming settlement in the eastern Santa Cruz region, a prosecutor said on Tuesday. *Reuters* (24 May): <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-40557220090624>

Democratic republic of Congo: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced his deep distress at the rape of some 20 female inmates during an attempted escape from a prison in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and called on authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice. *UN News Centre* (23 June): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31246&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo>

International: Women's rights activists, senior military figures and top United Nations officials met in New York this week to discuss what the world body's former humanitarian chief Jan Egeland described as "one of the biggest conspiracies of silence in history" – the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. *UN News Centre* (24 June):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31258&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=>

International: On Jun. 19, 2008, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1820, expressly addressing the problems of sexual violence in conflict situations. One year later, three experts in the field gathered to speak at the United States Institute of Peace to evaluate the implementation of 1820 and consider how it might better prevent this widespread crime. *IPS* (16 June):

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47241>

Conferences/Seminars/Courses:

Conference: 6th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health, 'Equity, Human Rights and Access to Care'

6-10 September 2009, Verona, Italy

The central focus of this conference, organised by the Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH), will be on its main theme: Equity, Human Rights and Access to Care. This event aims to deal with the classical aspects of tropical medicine including basic science, diagnostic/therapeutics and disease control, and will include an emphasis on transferability of research results into actual practice. Discussions will also address the North-South gap in health research, in all main aspects: space devoted to global health in medical journals; role of researchers from the South in relevant publications; share of research which is actually devoted to priority areas; important gaps that remain to be filled in research in tropical medicine and international health; difficulties in financing health system research. For further information visit: <http://www.festmih.org/verona2009/>

Course: Intensive Course On Health, Development And Human Rights

7th-11th December 2009, UNSW, Sydney, Australia

The UNSW's Initiative for Health and Human Rights is pleased to announce its *Third Intensive Course on Health, Development, and Human Rights* from December 7 - 11 2009 at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. The course seeks to engage students, scholars, human rights practitioners, health professionals, advocates, development professionals and members of civil society in a dialogue about the reciprocal interaction between health, human development and human rights, as well as present practical tools stakeholders can use to incorporate a health, development and human rights framework into their work. For more information visit the Course website for more details: <http://www.ihr.unsw.edu.au/education/courses.html>

Publications:

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Asibu W, Chingoni J, Majawa D, CMPD, TARSC, REACH, "Promoting and protecting the health of orphans and vulnerable children in Monkey Bay, Malawi", Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa, 2009. Available online at:

<http://www.equinet africa.org/bibl/docs/CMPD%20PRA%20Report%20May09.pdf>

Case A, Paxson C, “The impact of the AIDS pandemic on health services in Africa: evidence from demographic and health surveys”, National Bureau of Economic Research, USA, 2009. Available online at: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15000>

Defence for Children International, “Palestinian Child Prisoners: The systematic and institutionalised ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities”, June 2009. Available online at: <http://www.dci-pal.org/english/publ/display.cfm?DocId=1166&CategoryId=8>

Human Rights Watch, “Kosovo: Poisoned by Lead: A Health and Human Rights Crisis in Mitrovica’s Roma Camps”, 23 June 2009. Available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/06/23/kosovo-poisoned-lead>

Human Rights Watch, “Discrimination, Denial, and Deportation: Human Rights Abuses Affecting Migrants Living with HIV”, 18 June 2009. Available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/06/18/discrimination-denial-and-deportation-0>

International Initiative on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights, “The Missing Link: Applied Budget Work as a Tool to Hold Governments Accountable for Maternal Mortality Reduction Commitments”, May 2009. Available online at: <http://righttomaternalhealth.org/resource/the-missing-link>

Jewkes R, Sikweyiya Y, Morrell R, Dunkle K, “Understanding men’s health and use of violence: interface of rape and HIV in South Africa”, Policy Brief, MRC South Africa, June 2009. Available online at: http://www.mrc.ac.za/gender/men_exec_smry.pdf

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McDevitt A, “The impact of conflict on women’s education, employment and health care”, Governance and Social Development Resource Centre, 2009. Available online at: <http://www.gsdr.org/docs/open/HD588.pdf>

Montgomery MR, “Urban poverty and health in developing countries”, Population Bulletin, Vol. 64, No. 2, Population Reference Bureau, June 2009. Available online at: <http://www.prb.org/pdf09/64.2urbanization.pdf>

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](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)60344-5/fulltext)

Nankabirwa J, Zurovac D, Njogu JN et al., “Malaria misdiagnosis in Uganda – implications for policy change”, *Malaria Journal*, BioMed Central, 2009. Available online at: <http://www.malariajournal.com/content/8/1/66>

Palmer A et al., “Does ratification of human-rights treaties have effects on population health?” *The Lancet*, Volume 373, Issue 9679, 6 June 2009. Available online at: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)60231-2/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)60231-2/abstract)

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, “Undocumented and seriously ill: residence permits for medical reasons in Europe”, 2009. Available online at: <http://www.picum.org/data/Undocumented%20and%20Seriously%20Ill%20Report%20Picum.pdf>

Powell-Jackson T, Morrison J, Tiwari S, Neupane B, Costello AM, "The experiences of districts in implementing a national incentive programme to promote safe delivery in Nepal", *BMC Health Services Research* 2009, **9**:97 (9 June 2009), Available online at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/9/97/abstract>

Raoul Wallenberg Institute, "Guidelines on International Human Rights Fact-Finding Visits and Reports", 2009. Available online at: <http://www.factfindingguidelines.org/>

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