

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol.10 No.13, 29 June 2007

AI Index: ACT 84/013/2007

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- 22/06/2007 [Pakistan: no to forcible return of Uighurs to China](#) (NEWS) ASA 17/034/2007
- 21/06/2007 [World Refugee Day 2007](#) (NEWS) POL 30/014/2007
- 20/06/2007 [Iran: Amnesty International appeals against planned executions by stoning](#) (NEWS)  
MDE 13/075/2007
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- 19/06/2007 [Sierra Leone: Gender laws mean greater rights and protection for women](#) (NEWS)  
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18/06/2007 [Palestinian Authority: Hamas and Fatah must end revenge killings, attacks and abductions](#)  
(NEWS) MDE 21/011/2007  
18/06/2007 [Greece: Impunity for ill-treatment by police must stop now!](#) (NEWS) EUR 25/007/2007

## News:

### Children

**Niger/Nigeria:** Emergency feeding centres in Niger draw mothers and children from neighbouring Nigeria where, according to Save the Children, the government health infrastructure has collapsed in rural areas. *IRIN* (13 June)  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72720>

**USA:** There has been a reported decline in the popularity of infant circumcision since the 1970s. The change is attributed to the high numbers of immigrants from cultures where circumcision is not widely practiced and to changing ideas about circumcision within American society. *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* (20 June)  
[http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci\\_6183236](http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_6183236)

**UK:** A motion was tabled for the British Medical Association's annual general meeting proposing that the government treat obese children as victims of neglect by their parents and 'encourage legal protection for the child and action against those parents', reports the *Guardian* (14 June):  
<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/news/0,,2102833,00.html>

### Death Penalty

**US:** A prisoner with terminal cancer is to be executed in Oklahoma. *Reuters* (25 June)  
[http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2529150720070625?src=062507\\_1335\\_DOUBLEFEATURE\\_student\\_loses\\_ruling](http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2529150720070625?src=062507_1335_DOUBLEFEATURE_student_loses_ruling)

**Rwanda:** The Rwandan Parliament has voted to abolish the death penalty, in a move to encourage the extradition of suspects accused of participation in the 1994 genocide. *The Monitor* (10 June)  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200706110090.html>

### Health Services

**Sudan:** Oxfam has withdrawn from Gereida, Darfur's largest refugee camp, because of fears for the safety of its workers. *Al Jazeera* (17 June)  
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/0B508D11-0252-45FF-A551-E8F4B75F76CD.htm>

**El Salvador:** Unions have rejected a government bill that they say opens the door to possible privatization of public health services. *Prensa Latina* (16 June)  
<http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID={2335DCD7-CB53-4281-B492-2DE78B3732B6}&language=EN>

**Uganda:** The WHO has announced a plan to enforce a new global initiative to make it difficult for medical workers in less developed countries to seek work in the developed world, reports *The Monitor* (20 June)  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200706191054.html>

**Zimbabwe:** A dentist discusses the difficulties of continuing his practice in Zimbabwe at a time of rapid inflation and economic crisis. *BBC News* (22 June)  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6768567.stm>

### HIV/AIDS

**Myanmar:** 51 activists in Yangon who were arrested on May 21 during a prayer campaign in support of Aung San Suu Kyi were freed on 26th June, but prominent HIV activist Phyu Phyu Thin remains in police detention and is said to be on hunger strike. *The Irrawaddy* (28 June)  
[http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=7698](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=7698)  
[http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2007-06-28T075700Z\\_01\\_B717958\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_NEWS-MYANMAR-DISSIDENTS-COL.XML&archived=False](http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2007-06-28T075700Z_01_B717958_RTRIDST_0_NEWS-MYANMAR-DISSIDENTS-COL.XML&archived=False)

**Indonesia:** A government reports suggests that there is a lack of awareness of HIV/AIDS in the region of Papua, where prevalence of HIV is 20 times higher than the national average. *Reuters* (19 June)  
[http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSJAK69156.CH\\_2400](http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSJAK69156.CH_2400)

**Rwanda:** A recent World Bank report suggests that Rwanda has been successful in reducing the prevalence of

HIV/AIDS from 11% seven years ago to the current rate of 3%. The drop is attributed to an emphasis on prevention. *Reuters* (16 June)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/inDepthNews/idUSL1636247920070616?pageNumber=1>

**South Africa:** The debate continues over the issue of HIV testing. Some medical professionals argue it should be compulsory rather than voluntary whilst activists warn that this could drive sufferers underground. *Mail and Guardian* (9 June)

[http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=310790&area=%2Finsight%2Finsight\\_national%2F#5087643213538444246](http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=310790&area=%2Finsight%2Finsight_national%2F#5087643213538444246)

**World:** Campaigners say that the G8 pledges to fight HIV/AIDS fail to address specific problems and plan solutions. *Mail and Guardian* (9 June)

[http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=310803&area=%2Fbreaking\\_news%2Fbreaking\\_news\\_international\\_news%2F#7599305075884718366](http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=310803&area=%2Fbreaking_news%2Fbreaking_news_international_news%2F#7599305075884718366)

## Mental Health

**UK:** Pressure groups have warned that the mental health bill currently going through Parliament is likely to unlawfully discriminate against ethnic minority groups, according to the *Guardian* (19 June)

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/socialcare/news/0,,2106345,00.html>

**US:** Mentally ill inmates in Georgia's prison system – many of whom are eventually released - are not getting enough treatment and care, and in some cases are getting worse. *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* (23 June)

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/06/22/0623metmental.html>

## Sexual and Reproductive Health

**Portugal:** Portugal has recently adopted new legislation that allows for abortion to be carried out up until the tenth week of pregnancy, although it imposes an obligatory period of reflection of three days for women seeking the procedure, and grants doctors the right to opt out on moral grounds. *Guardian* (22 June)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,,-6727654,00.html>

**Sudan:** Teenage pregnancy and marriage in southern Sudan is preventing girls from finishing their education. The policy of free education in the south encourages high numbers of girls to attend in the lower years, but the proportion of girls at school decreases as the girls get older. *IRIN* (18 June)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200706181334.html>

**UK:** An HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination to help prevent cervical cancer has been approved by a government committee in the UK. The planned strategy of vaccinating girls at the age of 12/13 has provoked some opposition from those worried it would promote sexual activity amongst this age group. *Times* (17 June)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/health/article1942916.ece>

**UK:** The BMA has passed a motion in favour of allowing for abortions to be carried out within the first trimester, with the approval of one doctor rather than two, as is currently required.

pard *Guardian* (28 June) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/medicine/story/0,,2113254,00.html>

*BMA* (27 June) <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/BMAnewsarm2007weds>

**USA:** Congress has passed a measure reversing the existing restrictions that deny aid to groups abroad which provide advice on abortions. President Bush is likely to veto the proposal according to *Reuters* (28 June)

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N28278864.htm>

## Events

**2 July, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Disparities in Key Health Indicators between Vulnerable Groups Living in Refugee and Host Communities.**

Case Study: Largo Refugee Camp and Host Community, Kenema District, Sierra Leone, Arlyne Beeche, MS, PhD Candidate, Department of International Health

Hosted by: Department of International Health, JHSPH

Location: Wolfe St. building, W4030, Baltimore, MD

<http://webapps.jhu.edu/eventslist/standardtemplate.cfm?date=07/02/2007&mode=daily&profile=publichealth>  
Baltimore, USA

**3 July, 7pm**

**Medical Justice Launch Party**

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Medical Justice campaigns for the rights of immigrants held in detention centres by offering legal and medical support to individuals and by lobbying to end abusive practices. Everyone invited. Suggested donation £10.

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/events/MJlaunchParty.htm>

London, UK

## 6 July

### **Genetic testing of children: How should we decide?**

The British Medical Association is holding a one-day conference entitled 'Genetic Testing of Children: How should we decide' at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London.

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

London, UK

## 13 July, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### **Relationship Contexts and Condom Use Among Adolescents and Young Adults**, Michiyo Yamazaki, PhD

Candidate, Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health

Hosted by: Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health

Location: Wolfe St. building, E4611, Baltimore, MD

[http://www.hopkinsglobalhealth.org/education\\_events/events](http://www.hopkinsglobalhealth.org/education_events/events)

Baltimore, USA

## 13 - 18 July

**Equity, Ethics and Right to Health: Challenges in a Globalized World** / 4th Brazilian Congress on Human and Social Science - 10th Latin-American Congress on Social Medicine - 14th International Congress on Health Policy

Bahia Convention Center

[www.congressosalvador2007.com.br/ingles/programacao/index.php](http://www.congressosalvador2007.com.br/ingles/programacao/index.php)

Salvador Bahia, Brazil

## Publications:

Asher, J. et al., 'The right to health; a toolkit for professionals.', *BMA*, June 2007

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

Brugha, R. 'Evaluation of HIV programmes.' Editorial, *BMJ*, June 2007 (subscription)

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/334/7604/1123?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=une+2007&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT>

BMA Board of Science, 'Domestic abuse.', *BMA*, June 2007 <http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/domesticabuse>

Kumar, P. 'Providing the providers – Remediating Africa's shortage of health care workers.', *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 21 June 2007

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/356/25/2564>

Li, J. 'Maternal mortality in Yunnan, China: recent trends and associated factors.' *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, July 2007 (subscription)

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1471-0528.2007.01362.x>

Meekers, D. et al, 'The Reach and Effect of Radio Communication Campaigns on Condom Use in Malawi.' *Studies in Family Planning* 38 (2), 113–120, June 2007 (subscription)

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2007.00114.x>

Mitka, M. 'For non-English speakers, drug label instructions can be lost in translation.' *JAMA*, 20 June 2007 (subscription)

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/extract/297/23/2575>

Ogilvy, et al, 'The exodus of health professionals from sub-Saharan Africa: balancing human rights and societal needs in the twenty-first century.' *Nursing Inquiry* 14 (2), 114–124, June 2007 (subscription)

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1440-1800.2007.00358.x>

Sanders, T. 'Protecting the health and safety of female sex workers: the responsibility of all.' *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, July 2007 (subscription)

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/action/showFullText?submitFullText=Full+Text+HTML&doi=10.1111%2Fj.1471-0528.2007.01378.x>

Wilson, D. et al, 'HIV prevention, care and treatment in two prisons in Thailand.', *Public Library of Science Medicine*, 26 June 2007

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0040204>

Yount, K. M. et al, 'Female Genital Cutting and HIV/AIDS among Kenyan Women.' *Studies in Family Planning*, Volume 38 Issue 2 Page 73-88, June 2007 (subscription)

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2007.00111.x>

'Environmental burden of disease; country profiles.' *WHO*, 13 June 2007

[http://www.who.int/quantifying\\_ehimpacts/countryprofiles/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/countryprofiles/en/index.html)

## **Job Vacancies:**

### **Volunteer Clinicians, London**

The Helen Bamber Foundation -- a collective of human rights specialists including doctors, lawyers, therapists, caseworkers and interpreters -- is seeking volunteer clinicians from a range of specialisms, including general practice, psychiatry, psychotherapy, neurology, orthopaedics or dermatology. This work will assist refugees and asylum seekers, and address issues of torture, trafficking and other gross human rights violations. The Foundation is located in Central London.

For further information contact Polly Rossdale, Clinical Administrator, on +44 20 7631 4492 or email

[polly@helenbamber.org](mailto:polly@helenbamber.org). For other information visit

[www.helenbamber.org](http://www.helenbamber.org).

### **Public Health Policy Analyst, Egypt**

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) has a job opening for a fulltime Public Health Policy Analyst to support the Health and Human Rights Program for a minimum of two years (subject to renewal). Apply by 10 July 2007. Based in Cairo, Egypt.

<http://www.eipr.org/en/job%20vacancy%20en.htm>

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