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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
- Water and Sanitation
- Women's Rights

Conferences/Courses

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements:

27 August: Afghanistan: As uncertainty surrounds the outcome of presidential elections in Afghanistan, civilians are at greater danger than at any time since the fall of the Taleban, Amnesty International warned today following a series of attacks on civilians by anti-government groups in Kandahar and today's attack on a hospital clinic by a NATO helicopter.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/afghanistan-kandahar-bombing-and-nato-clinic-attack-highlight-increasing>

26 August: Nigeria: One of Nigeria's most influential states has taken an important step towards abolition of the death penalty by pardoning and releasing three condemned prisoners. A further 37 death row inmates in Lagos state had their sentences commuted, including 29 who will now face life imprisonment.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/good-news/death-row-prisoners-freed-nigeria-20090826>

26 August: Thailand: The government of Thailand resumed its use of judicial state killing after a six-year hiatus on Monday, when two men were executed by lethal injection at Bang Khwang prison, central Thailand.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/thailand-first-executions-six-years-20090826>

25 August: Malaysia: The Malaysian government should extend the reprieve from caning granted to Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno indefinitely after Ramadan and use this as an opportunity to abolish the punishment, Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/photographic-evidence-shows-cruelty-caning-malaysia-20090825>

17 August: Iran: Allegations that election protesters were tortured and raped in detention must be urgently investigated by the Iranian authorities, Amnesty International's Secretary General said on Saturday.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/independent-investigation-needed-rape-and-torture-detention-iran-20090817>

Children:

Burkina Faso: A growing number of urban families in northwestern Burkina Faso refuse to hospitalize their children diagnosed as severely malnourished because they fear being stigmatized, according to hospital officials in a regional nutrition recovery centre. *IRIN* (25 August):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85854>

DRC: UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman met with victims of rape and violence in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They included a 15-year-old girl who she had met in 2006 during her first visit to this poverty and conflict-ravaged country. *UNICEF* (28 August): http://www.unicef.org/press/news_detail_full_story.asp?news_id=1367

Indonesia: An NGO in Jakarta is waging a war against the widespread problem of iron-deficiency anaemia in the country, one school and village at a time. *IRIN* (27 August):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85882>

South Africa: Each year in South Africa, an estimated 76,600 women, newborns and children die from preventable and treatable causes, putting the country among only a dozen in the world that have backtracked on the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing child mortality by 2015. *IRIN* (26 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85874>

UK: Children detained in prisons and young offenders institutions are exposed to such 'dire conditions' that they are living in 'modern day dungeons', according to a hard-hitting report by the Howard League for Penal Reform. *Public Finance* (20 August):

<http://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2009/08/children-jailed-in-dire-conditions/>

USA: The United Nations advocate for children and armed conflict has welcomed the release of Mohammed Jawad, one of the youngest detainees in Guantánamo Bay, and called for all juvenile detainees at the detention camp to be released. *UN News Centre* (26 August):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31864&Cr=Guantánamo&Cr1=>

Death Penalty:

China: Two-thirds of organ donors in China are executed prisoners, state media reported today, as health officials launched a national donation system. *The Guardian* (26 August): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/26/china-organ-donation-prisoners>

Thailand: The European Union and human rights activists have condemned the recent execution of two convicted drug traffickers in Thailand -- the country's first use of the death penalty in six years. *APF* (28 August): <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iCnZVpF7Y4l8kZKyIIcQdzcftocA>

USA: A former death row warden discusses the impact of executions on correctional officers. *Death Penalty Information Center* (19 August): <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/new-voices-former-death-row-warden-discusses-impact-executions-correctional-officers>

Food Security and Poverty:

Africa: Countries tackling food insecurity and climate change adaptation can greatly benefit from agroforestry - integrating fleshy plants and trees into their farming systems, environmental specialists say. *IRIN* (28 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85898>

India: The drought situation, which has gripped nearly half of the country, could delay the government's ambitious plans to ensure early food security for all citizens, economists and analysts said. *Daily News and Analysis* (27 August): http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report_drought-may-stall-food-security-act_1285430

Nepal: Nepal's food-insecure hill and mountain villages are not the only areas where malnutrition is rife: People living in the fertile southern plains of the Terai region, the country's industrial and agricultural heartland, are also malnourished, according to local nutritionists. *IRIN* (28 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85897>

Somalia: More than half of the Somali population is in need of humanitarian aid, the UN says, as it warns of deteriorating conditions since the start of the year. *BBC* (25 August): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8219735.stm>

Health Services:

Afghanistan: US and Afghan forces attacked a clinic in eastern Afghanistan where a Taliban leader was being treated for injuries he sustained last week, Nato has said. *BBC* (27 August): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/8224147.stm

China: China has inaugurated a voluntary organ donor program, hoping to overhaul a system that now harvests a vast majority of its organs from black-market sellers and executed prisoners and leaves millions of ailing people without hope of getting transplants. *New York Times* (27 August): <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/27/world/asia/27china.html>

Israel/OPT: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that unless the siege of Gaza is lifted and a political solution implemented, Gaza's badly damaged health system will go from very bad to worse. *IPS* (26 August): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48223>

UK: Health lobby group the Patients Association has published a report detailing 16 cases of neglect in hospitals. While accepting that only a small percentage of patients are unhappy with their experiences, the association says its case studies are indicative of "appalling" standards

offered to hundreds of sick people across the UK each year. *BBC* (27 August): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8224055.stm>

Health Workers:

South Africa: A shortage of skilled health staff has left South Africa in a difficult position as it tries to combat a "cocktail of epidemics". *IOL* (26 August): http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=vn20090826041807644C184089

Yemen: Aid organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to help civilians in the northern Yemeni governorate of Saada after renewed clashes there between the army and the al-Houthi Shia rebels. *IRIN* (25 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85837>

Zimbabwe: Millions of Zimbabweans already have no access to basic health care, and the health services have been in decline over a number of years. But the three-week strike by doctors has only magnified their dire circumstances. The situation has forced many families to make these impossible life and death decisions about their loved ones. *IPS* (24 August): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48195>

HIV and AIDS:

International: HIV positive mothers have been encouraged to exclusively breastfeed for six months as this helps reduce malnutrition and infant deaths. *Newsnet* (28 August): <http://www.newsnet.co.zw/index.php?nID=16762>

Niger: Despite a two-year-old law in Niger penalizing discrimination against people infected with HIV, seropositive women say they still receive substandard health care, are denied employment and risk losing their children because of their status. *IRIN* (19 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85782>

Rwanda: A new health centre offering care and support to children living with HIV is the first step in rolling out child-centred HIV services across Rwanda. About 19,000 children are living with HIV in the central east African republic, according to United Nations figures. *SOS Children* (28 August): <http://www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk/charity-news/rwandahivcentre.htm>

South Africa: A study on men having sex with men (MSM) in Malawi shows that, as elsewhere in the developing world, this vulnerable group is at greater risk of contracting HIV and AIDS than the general population. Moreover, their risk status is exacerbated as governments fail to target them for health services or information to stem HIV transmission. *IPS* (18 August): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48130>

South Africa: One in six HIV-positive people in the world live in South Africa, which is also experiencing a parallel tuberculosis (TB) epidemic, but years of weak leadership, poor policy implementation and inadequate resources have undermined efforts to control the twin health emergencies. *Plus News* (27 August): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85889>

Tajikistan: A northern Tajik province is reporting a large increase in the number of new cases of HIV this year, RFE/RL's Tajik Service reports. *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* (5 August): http://www.rferl.org/content/HIVAIDS_Cases_On_The_Rise_In_Northern_Tajikistan/1807478.html

USA: Although previous research in African countries has shown that circumcision helps reduce a man's risk of contracting HIV through heterosexual intercourse, a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests the procedure does not provide protection for men who have sex with men -- one of the groups most at risk for the virus in the U.S. *Medical News Today* (28 August): <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/162183.php>

West / Central Africa: Thirty civil society organizations involved in the HIV response in West and Central Africa (WCA) identified six priority areas for action to accelerate the movement towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the region. *UNAIDS* (21 August): http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2009/20090821_UA_West_Central_Africa.asp

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

Chile: The discovery of swine flu in birds in Chile raises concerns about the spread of the virus, the UN warns. *BBC* (27 August): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8224923.stm>

India: While the swine flu pandemic has not hit India too hard, it has sorely tested the country's ailing health delivery system and its plans to remedy the situation through 'private-public partnerships.' *IPS* (15 August): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48102>

Uganda: Two senior United Nations officials are currently in Uganda to review the country's progress in controlling malaria, which every year kills an estimated 1 million people, most of them children in Africa. *UN News Centre* (21 August): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31826&Cr=malaria&Cr1=>

US: According to the World Health Organization, there are about 50 million new cases of dengue fever around the world each year and about 2.5 billion people, two-fifths of the world's population, are at risk. The disease is spreading, along with the mosquitoes that carry it, into areas like Texas in the United States that are far from the tropics where dengue has been present for a long time. *VOA* (27 August): <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-27-voa38.cfm>

Prisons:

Cameroon: In a prison in northern Cameroon an average of five prisoners die per month due to lack of medical attention. That is one of the conclusions of a government human rights commission, which says rights violations in prisons persist in the face of authorities' "indifference". *IRIN* (26 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85872>

DRC: Fifty-eight prisoners have died over the past two years because of poor conditions in the jail in Bunia, a town in northeast Democratic Republic of Congo, say human rights workers. *IRIN* (28 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85900>

France: The French government today announced measures to tackle the shocking rate of suicides in prisons, including giving vulnerable prisoners tearable bedding and single-use paper pyjamas to stop them hanging themselves in their cells. *The Guardian* (18 August): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/18/france-government-prisons-suicide-rate>

Indonesia: At least four inmates serving their jail terms in maximum security prisons on Nusa Kambangan Island have contracted HIV, an official said Thursday. *The Jakarta Post* (28 August):

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/08/27/four-inmates-contract-hiv-nusa-kambangan-prison.html>

Iran: An Iranian MP said today there is proof that some reformists were sexually abused in prison after the disputed presidential election in June. *The Guardian* (27 August):
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/27/iran-ayatollah-khamenei-us-uk>

UK: Justice Secretary Jack Straw has defended conditions at two jails in Lancashire, after a report about prison overcrowding in England and Wales. *BBC* (26 August):
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lancashire/8222407.stm>

Refugees and Migrants:

Central African Republic: UNHCR staff have found more than 2,000 displaced civilians living in appalling conditions some 400 kilometres north of Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic (CAR), sick, hungry and forced to drink water alongside their cows. *UNHCR* (26 August):
<http://www.unhcr.org/4a9504e96.html>

Pakistan: With many health centres in north-western Pakistan having been destroyed or looted during recent clashes between Government forces and militants, the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) today expressed apprehension about supporting the 1.5 million uprooted people returning to their homes. *UN News Centre* (27 August):
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31868&Cr=pakistan&Cr1=>

Sri Lanka: Sphere standards at internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in northern Sri Lanka are being undermined due to overcrowding, say aid workers. *IRIN* (24 August):
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85829>

Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

Australia: Australian women have finally been given the option of medical abortion for early termination of pregnancy, following the launch of this service by leading sexual and reproductive healthcare provider, Marie Stopes International. *Journalism.co.uk* (14 August):
<http://www.journalism.co.uk/66/articles/535463.php>

Chile: Some 30 members of the Chilean Health Ministry's Consultative Council on Gender and Women's Health have asked the government to enforce a directive ordering humane and compassionate treatment for women who have had an abortion. *IPS* (28 August):
<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48250>

Indonesia: Women's rights groups who are campaigning for widening the scope of abortion in Indonesia are calling for an amendment to a colonial era law that puts poor women at risk. *IPS* (24 August): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48189>

International: A June report from the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) suggests children of all countries and cultures are entitled to sexual and reproductive education beginning at age five. *CNS News* (25 August):
<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/52988>

International: EC helps women meet the significant challenge of how to avoid unplanned pregnancies over their lengthy fertile years. Why is it being attacked? *IPPF* (28 August):

<http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Emergency+Contraception+Have+We+Come+Full+Circle.htm>

South Africa: Birth rates amongst 15 to 19-year-olds declined in all population groups between 1996 to 2001, a study revealed. *Health 24* (28 August): <http://www.health24.com/news/Teens/1-950,52316.asp>

Torture:

UK/USA: Lawyers for four Britons who formerly were held at Guantanamo Bay returned to the Supreme Court on Monday, seeking the first ruling by the Justices on claims of torture of terrorism suspects by U.S. agents. *Scotus Blog* (24 August): <http://www.scotusblog.com/wp/tracking-new-cases-torture-case-returns/>

USA: U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday named a special prosecutor to probe CIA prisoner abuse cases, a move that could distract President Barack Obama from his drive to reform the healthcare system. *Reuters* (25 August): <http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE57N3CA20090825>

Violence against Women:

Bahamas: A proposed amendment to Bahamian law will formalise by law the protection of women against violence. *Bahamas Islands Info* (27 August): http://www.bahamaislandsinfo.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3597:violence-against-women&catid=37:Editorial%20comments%20from%20our%20Editor%27s%20point%20of%20view&Itemid=175

Egypt: A new report published by Children of the Earth Foundation reported over 500 cases of sexual harassment, 19 murders of women and 8 cases of rape. Staggering these figures may be for one year, the report on violence against women reported the numbers were for the month of July. *Bikyamasr* (27 August): <http://bikyamasr.wordpress.com/2009/08/27/bm-women-report-says-sexual-harassment-in-egypt-staggering/>

India: India is well on its way to being the rape capital of the world. With most offenders taking solace in the idea that they can get away with it, there seems no solution in sight to the problem at the moment. *Merinews* (28 August): <http://www.mernews.com/article/india-the-rape-kingdom/15782707.shtml>

South Africa: A South African lawyer who has also worked as an academic in the human rights field and a campaigner against domestic violence has taken over as the new United Nations independent expert to tackle violence against women. *UN News Centre* (27 August): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31870&Cr=violence&Cr1=women>

Sudan: The police component of the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping operation in Darfur has established a special investigations unit to monitor and report on crimes involving sexual and gender-based violence, a prevalent problem in the western Sudanese region. *UN News Centre* (18 August): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31790&Cr=Darfur&Cr1=>

UK: Nurses and midwives are today being asked to take part in a new government study into female genital mutilation. *Nursing Times* (27 August): <http://www.nursingtimes.net/whats-new-in-nursing/acute-care/government-launches-study-into-female-genital-mutilation/5005663.article>

USA: More than \$246,000 in Recovery Act funds was awarded to a Michigan Tribal coalition by the Office on Violence Against Women, Attorney General Eric Holder announced today. *The Bay City Times* (24 August): http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2009/08/tribes_get_federal_dollars_to.html

Venezuela: Venezuela's leader may be a self-proclaimed feminist, but his country still has a shocking record on domestic violence. *New Statesman* (27 August): <http://www.newstatesman.com/south-america/2009/08/venezuela-women-violence>

Water and Sanitation:

Ethiopia: The United Nations humanitarian wing reported today that a critical water shortage in Ethiopia's Somali region is threatening the health of the local communities who are being forced to use abandoned ponds and wells for drinking water, which may increase the risk of water-borne diseases. *UN News Centre* (25 August): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31849&Cr=Ethiopia&Cr1=>

International: The growing commercialisation of water - and the widespread influence of the bottling industry worldwide - is triggering a rising demand for the legal classification of one of the basic necessities of life as a human right. *IPS* (13 August): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48077>

Kenya: Scientists meeting in Nairobi are urging Africa's leaders to develop more sustainable models for the continent's water use. Kenya is currently suffering under a serious drought that is leaving millions hungry and stifling the country's economic recovery. *VOA* (26 August): <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-26-voa56.cfm>

Pakistan: Tharparker District in Sindh Province, southern Pakistan, is among the most arid regions in the country. Limited rainfall, brackish underground water and the private ownership of wells by an elite minority have made access to potable water very difficult for much of the district's 900,000 mostly rural inhabitants. *IRIN* (23 August): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85821>

Women's Rights:

Ghana: Women are celebrating a hard-won victory for gender rights after intense public protests led to the re-arrest of the country's police boss - a self-confessed wife-killer. *allAfrica* (24 August): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200908241344.html>

USA: Under the current healthcare system, many women have become a medical underclass. So why do so many oppose a healthcare overhaul? *The Nation* (21 August): <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090831/lerner>

Conferences/Seminars/Courses:

20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion,
11-15 July 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

The aim is to reach beyond the public health and health promotion sector and to provide a great opportunity to facilitate and advance the work for health promotion and disease prevention in the context of sustainable development. The conference will provide opportunities to:

- o present and discuss state-of-the-art knowledge and cross-cutting issues in health promotion and sustainable development,
- o showcase and challenge best practice in health promotion, with focus on sustainability, and
- o initiate strong alliances and partnerships for promoting sound policies and practices that positively impact the health of people, societies and the planet.

For further information visit: <http://www.iuhpeconference.net/index.php>

Publications:

Amin T, Rajkumar R, Radhakrishnan P, Kesselheim AS, “Expert Review of Drug Patent Applications: Improving Health in the Developing World”, *Health Affairs*, 25 August 2009, doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.28.5.w948. Available online at: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.28.5.w948/DC1>

Bhuiya A, Hanifi SMA, Urni F, Mahmood SS, “Three methods to monitor utilization of healthcare services by the poor”, *International Journal for Equity in Health*, August 2009, 8:29 doi:10.1186/1475-9276-8-2. Available online at: <http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/pdf/1475-9276-8-29.pdf>

Chopra M et al., “Achieving the health Millennium Development Goals for South Africa: challenges and priorities”, *The Lancet*, Early Online Publication, 25 August 2009. Available online at: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)61122-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61122-3/fulltext)

Coovadia H et al., “The health and health system of South Africa: historical roots of current public health challenges”, *The Lancet*, Early Online Publication, 25 August 2009. Available online at: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)60951-X/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)60951-X/fulltext)

Foster Halabi S, “Participation and the right to health: Lessons from Indonesia”, *Health and Human Rights*, Volume 11, No. 1, 2009. Available online at: <http://hhrjournal.org/index.php/hhr/article/view/129>

Gillum TL, Sun CJ, Woods AB, “Can a health clinic-based intervention increase safety in abused women? Results from a pilot study”, *Journal of Women’s Health*, 2009 Aug;18(8):1259-64. Available online at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19627223>

Human Rights Watch, ““They Want Us Exterminated”: Murder, Torture, Sexual Orientation and Gender in Iraq”, August 2009. Available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/08/17/they-want-us-exterminated-0>

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Suresh G, Furr LA, Srikrishnan AK, “An Assessment of the Mental Health of Street-Based Sex Workers in Chennai, India”, *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, Vol. 25, No. 2, 186-201, 2009. Available online at: <http://ccj.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/25/2/186>

UNAMA/OHCHR, “Silence is violence: End the abuse of women in Afghanistan”, July 2009. Available online at: <http://unama.unmissions.org/Portals/UNAMA/vaw-english.pdf>

UNDP, “Arab Human Development Report 2009: challenges to human security in Arab countries”, August 2009. Available online at: <http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/other/ahdr/ahdr2009e.pdf>

UNFPA, "Global Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting", 2009. Available online at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/2188>

World Health Organization, "Global prevalence of vitamin A deficiency in populations at risk 1995-2005", August 2009. Available online at:
http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/micronutrients/vitamin_a_deficiency/9789241598019/en/index.html

Yamin AE, "Suffering and powerlessness: The significance of promoting participation in rights-based approaches to health", *Health and Human Rights*, Vol. 11, No 1, 2009. Available online at:
<http://hhrjournal.org/index.php/hhr/article/view/127>

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Health@amnesty.org

Health and Human Rights Team
Amnesty International - International Secretariat
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