
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol. 13 No. 14, 9 July 2010

AI Index: ACT 84/014/2010

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Amnesty International Reports & Statements:

9 July: Iran: Ai has urged the Iranian authorities not to execute by any method a 43-year-old woman convicted of adultery, following an official statement that she will not be executed by stoning. The Iranian Embassy in London announced that Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani would not be stoned to death. However, fears remain that the mother-of-two could be hanged, as she has been convicted of “adultery while married”. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/iran-must-not-execute-woman-spared-stoning-death-any-means-2010-07-09>

9 July: China: Chinese security forces cancelled a documentary screening by an HIV/AIDS education group, which Ai is strongly criticising as part of the ongoing harassment of peaceful public health educators. China’s internal security police questioned staff of the Beijing HIV/AIDS education NGO Aizhixing Institute of Health Education on 7 July and instructed them to cancel the show planned for 8 July. The film screening did not go ahead and the Aizhixing event-organiser has resigned from coordinating the event. Aizhixing staff have been so frequently subjected to questioning and harassment that the director Wan Yanhai left China in May 2010 to avoid constant police interrogations and detentions. The organization’s offices have been subjected to an endless series of government checks on their bank accounts, licenses, and fire safety, with the aim of disrupting work and intimidating staff. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/china-must-halt-harassment-and-censorship-hiv-aids-activists-2010-07-09>

8 July: Germany’s failure to thoroughly investigate claims of police ill-treatment and the use of excessive force has denied justice for victims of abuse, Ai said in a recent report. The report, *Unknown Assailant - Insufficient investigation into alleged ill-treatment by police in Germany*, details three deaths and 12 cases of serious injury following police action but it is believed that there could be many more. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/germany-must-investigate-police-abuse-claims-2010-07-08>

7 July: Kenya: Women and girls in Nairobi’s slums live under the constant threat of sexual violence, leaving them often too scared to leave their houses to use communal toilet and bathroom facilities, Ai said in a recent report. *Insecurity and Indignity: Women’s experiences in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya* details how the failure of the government to incorporate the slums in urban plans and budgets has resulted in poor access to services like sanitation, which hits women in slums and

informal settlements especially hard. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/kenya-fear-attack-leaves-women-prisoners-their-homes-2010-07-07>

7 July: UK: AI has called on the UK government to ensure that its inquiry into UK complicity in torture and other human rights violations of those detained abroad since 11 September 2001 is thorough, independent and as transparent as possible. The organization welcomes the inquiry, which the UK Prime Minister David Cameron announced yesterday, as an important first step towards achieving genuine accountability for past human rights abuses.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uk-torture-inquiry-must-be-independent-and-thorough-2010-07-07>

7 July: Tunisia: AI is calling on the Tunisian authorities not to imprison ailing journalist Fahem Boukadous, after a court upheld his four-year prison sentence over his reporting of 2008 protests against unemployment and high living costs. Fahem Boukadous is currently in hospital suffering from severe asthma. If Fahem Boukadous is imprisoned, Amnesty International would consider him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for his peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. "In the coming few hours, the police might come and take me out of the hospital. I am an opinion holder and a defender of rights. I am not scared of the arrest and the prison. What concerns me is my deteriorating health," Fahem Boukadous told AI.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/hospitalized-tunisian-journalist-facing-incarceration-2010-07-07>

6 July: Iran: AI is urgently calling on the Iranian authorities to halt the imminent execution of Mohammad Reza Haddadi, who could face death by hanging as soon as Wednesday 7 July for a murder he allegedly committed when he was 15 years old. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/iran-must-halt-imminent-execution-convicted-juvenile-offender-2010-07-06>

5 July: Syria: AI has called on the President of Syria to reveal exactly what happened to 52 prisoners who went missing during and after disturbances at a military prison that also left at least 22 people dead. The clashes between inmates and military police at Saydnaya Military Prison near Damascus began on 5 July 2008. Unconfirmed reports say the violence erupted after police officers shot dead nine Islamist prisoners. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/syria-must-reveal-truth-about-2008-prison-disappearances-2010-07-02>

29 June: Libya: AI has called on the Libyan government to thoroughly investigate the killing of up to 1,200 inmates of Abu Salim Prison in Tripoli on 29 June 1996, to bring those responsible to justice and to provide adequate reparation for families. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/libya-urged-thoroughly-investigate-1996-mass-prison-killings-2010-06-29>

29 June: Zimbabwe: Three human rights monitors were captured and beaten with logs by Zanu-PF supporters on Sunday, in the latest incident since a process of consultation over a new Zimbabwean constitution began on 16 June. AI has warned that Zimbabwe could be hit by a new wave of political violence, following a spate of attacks on human rights activists by supporters of President Robert Mugabe's Zanu-PF party in the past week. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/attack-activists-sparks-fears-new-wave-zimbabwe-violence-2010-06-29>

Right to Health

Brazil. Access to health care in Brazil's favelas is poor, but several innovative projects in Rio de Janeiro are starting to improve the situation, reports the Lancet.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2810%2961064-1/fulltext>

Vacancies

The Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD) seeks a Head of Programmes to join the senior management team of FORWARD. You will be required to provide leadership, oversee the planning, management and delivery of the national community and youth programmes that support migrant and refugee communities that practice FGM. The role requires

experience in people management, partnership working, facilitation skills, programme development and the women's voluntary sector. More information at www.forwarduk.org.uk The deadline for application is Thursday 22 July 2010.

The Harvard University François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights seeks a scholarly and enterprising academic who is interested in expanding the reach and role of one of the world's leading journals on health and human rights. New application deadline is 31 August 2010. Applications should be sent to: Jennifer Leaning, MD, SMH, Director Harvard University FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, or by email to: hhrjournal@hsph.harvard.edu.

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