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**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**  
**NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

AI Bulletin Vol.10 No.15, 27 July 2007  
AI Index: ACT 84/015/2007

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### **Amnesty International reports & statements:**

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- 17/07/2007 [Iran: Execution of child offender imminent](#) MDE 13/087/2007

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ASA 38/001/2007  
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13/07/2007 [Iran: Violations of human rights continue unabated](#) MDE 13/085/2007

## Asylum seekers / Refugees / Internally Displaced People (IDPs):

**Egypt:** Palestinian patients stranded at Rafah border crossing will receive free medical treatment from the Egyptian state, according to *People's Daily Online* (16 July):

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/6216013.html>

*Reuters* (17 July):

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSL171210520070717?pageNumber=1>

**Jordan:** The UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) says it is unable to provide refugees with the full range of drugs necessary to treat diabetes because of the cost involved.

*IRIN* (22 July):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73357>

## Children:

**Nigeria:** UNICEF figures show that maternal and infant mortality rates in Nigeria are rising, due to lower levels of female education in the north of the country, and disruption to health provision in parts of the south. *This Day* (16 July):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200707160062.html>

**UK:** The coroner responsible for investigating the death of 15-year-old Gareth Myatt, who died in detention after being restrained by guards, warned the British government not to delay in acting on his recommendations to prevent further deaths. *Guardian* (19 July):

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/homeaffairs/story/0,,2129667,00.html>

See *Guardian* (4 July): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/prisons/story/0,,2117944,00.html> for article on Gareth Myatt's death.

## Death Penalty:

**Kenya:** Government ministers and other prominent figures have been speaking out against the death penalty, leading human rights campaigners to hope for a change in the law. The last known official execution in Kenya was carried out in 1987. *Inter Press Service* (9 July):

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=38474>

**Rwanda:** The death penalty has been abolished in Rwanda. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) made abolition a key condition before suspects accused of involvement with the genocide of 1994 could be transferred back to the country. *News24* (26 July):

[http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447\\_2154269,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447_2154269,00.html)

**USA:** The North Carolina Medical Board has responded to a state lawsuit over the board's policy of disciplining any physician who participates in an execution. The state has asked that the board be prohibited from disciplining doctors who take part in executions. *WRAL* (18 July): <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/1605912/>

## Health Professionals:

**China:** Jiang Yanyong, a military doctor who exposed an attempt to cover up the SARS outbreak in 2003, has been barred from travelling to the United States to collect the Heinz R. Pagels Human Rights of Scientists Award, said Jiang's friend AIDS activist Hu Jia, according to Reuters (13 July) – see end of article: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKPEK48120070713>

## Health Services:

**World:** This article examines various methods for tackling malaria, the biggest killer of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa, and argues that a combination of DDT spraying, bed nets, and anti-malarial drugs could lead to the eradication of the disease. *Policy Innovations* (11 July): <http://www.policyinnovations.org/ideas/briefings/data/malaria>

**Cote d'Ivoire:** Concerns are expressed about the reintroduction of user fees for medical services, as the peace process inches forward and NGOs providing free emergency medical services start to withdraw, according to *IRIN* (19 July): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73329>

**Swaziland:** Healthcare services are struggling to cope with high rates of HIV/AIDS patients. Home-based care is being cited by some health care workers as a potential solution. *IRIN* (16 July): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73237>

## HIV/AIDS:

**Indonesia:** Legislators in the Indonesian province of Papua are debating whether to approve a bill allowing microchips to be implanted in people with HIV. *BBC News* (24 July): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/6913869.stm>

**Libya:** The six medics accused of deliberately infecting Libyan children with HIV have been allowed to fly home to Bulgaria, where the president pardoned them thus ending all their legal liabilities. *The New York Times* (24 July): <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/24/world/europe/24cnd-Bulgaria.html?ref=africa>  
*The Tripoli Post* (27 July): <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=1003> for protests in Libya about the pardon.  
*AI Press Release*: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGMDE190132007>

**World:** A total recall of Viracept, an antiretroviral drug widely used in developing countries, has disrupted treatment for thousands of patients. *The New York Times* (21 July): [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/23/health/23recall.html?\\_r=1&hp=&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnlnx=1185189306-8GCyuHBCoKqrGe53FbDi5Q](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/23/health/23recall.html?_r=1&hp=&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnlnx=1185189306-8GCyuHBCoKqrGe53FbDi5Q)

**Malawi:** A government campaign to encourage Malawians to get tested for HIV has been launched by the Minister for Health Marjorie Ngaunje, who was tested herself for the virus. *Independent Online* (16 July):

[http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=84&art\\_id=nw20070716194118766C318687](http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=84&art_id=nw20070716194118766C318687)

## Organ transplants:

**Japan:** A Japanese man paid 10 million yen (around US\$82,000) for a donated kidney in the Philippines, according to *Japan Times* (14 July):

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/mail/nn20070714b1.html>

**China:** A Chinese man has been sentenced to death after being found guilty of killing a beggar allegedly in order to sell his organs. *Reuters* (24 July):

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSPEK24462920070724>

**UK:** Opinion piece on the debate about organ transplant in the UK, where an 'opt out' system has been proposed which assumes a patient's consent to donate their organs after death unless they have specifically chosen not to do so. *Guardian* (18 July):

[http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/geoffrey\\_alderman/2007/07/body\\_politic.html](http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/geoffrey_alderman/2007/07/body_politic.html)

See <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/77192.php> for the view of the British Medical Association.

## Prisoners:

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Following a visit to the region, the Council of Europe Anti Torture Committee reports dire conditions and widespread allegations of abuse in Bosnia and Herzegovina's police stations, prisons and psychiatric units. *Kathimerini* (17 July):

[http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/news/world\\_&xml&aspKath/world.asp?fdate=17/07/2007](http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/news/world_&xml&aspKath/world.asp?fdate=17/07/2007)

*Preliminary observations by Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee* (16 July):

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/bih/2007-07-16-eng.htm>

## Research:

**Europe:** The European Parliament has delayed endorsing the 'TRIPS' agreement on intellectual property rights opining that by itself the agreement will not do enough to help least developed countries access cheaper medicines, according to *Reuters* (17 July):

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnBAN751121.html>

## Sexual and Reproductive Health:

**India:** An Indian minister has proposed that all pregnant women register with the government and seek its permission if they wish to undergo an abortion. The move was described as an attempt to stop sex-selective abortions. *BBC News* (13 July):

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/6897564.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6897564.stm)

**Ireland:** A Dutch MEP has written to the European Commission asking for an inquiry into the Irish Health Service Executive's attempt to prevent a 17 year old girl from travelling abroad to seek an abortion. *The Sunday Business Post* (15 July):

<http://www.sbpost.ie/post/pages/p/story.aspx-qqqt=IRELAND-qqqm=news-qqqid=25151-qqqx=1.asp>

**Portugal:** Although abortion was legalized in Portugal on 15 July, its application is patchy, with many health professionals refusing to recognise the change in law on moral grounds, according to *Euronews* (16 July):

<http://euronews.net/index.php?page=info&article=433187&lng=1>

**USA:** A new measure which comes into force in Missouri next month may restrict access to abortion services, critics have warned, according to *The Missourian* (23 July):  
<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2007/07/23/missouri-law-may-restrict-abortions/>

## **Torture:**

**USA:** Article on the participation of psychologists in military interrogations in Guantánamo Bay and elsewhere. *Vanity Fair* (17 July):  
<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2007/07/torture200707>

**China:** A Chinese activist who fought forced evictions and was jailed for two years for disturbing court order, has died hours after he was released on medical parole. *Reuters* (July 13):  
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKPEK48120070713>

**Iraq:** Doctors who examined Baha Mousa, a Basra hotel worker who was beaten to death in British custody in 2003, have been reported to the General Medical Council following allegations that they colluded in a cover-up by misdiagnosing and failing to properly document the extent of prisoners' injuries. *The Independent* (22 July):  
[http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle\\_east/article2790961.ece](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article2790961.ece)

## **Events:**

August 19 - 23, 2007

### **2007 World Mental Health Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health**

<http://www.wmhc2007.com>

Hong Kong, SAR, CHINA

October 18-20, 2007

### **Women Deliver**

Women Deliver is a landmark global conference that will focus on creating political will to save the lives and improve the health of women, mothers and newborn babies around the world. It will be held October 18-20, 2007, at the ExCel Centre in London.

<http://www.womendeliver.org/>

August/September funding deadline

### **UN Trust Fund for Violence Against Women**

The UN Trust Fund will next week launch its call for proposals for the 2007 grant cycle related to one of the following areas:

1. Implementation of existing laws, policies and plans of action to address violence against women; or
2. Reducing the twin pandemics of HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

Please note that some of the dates given on the website reflect last year's deadlines. These errors will be corrected soon.

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/trust\\_fund\\_guidelines.php](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/trust_fund_guidelines.php)

## **Publications:**

Easterly, W. 'How, and How Not, to stop AIDS in Africa' *New York Review of Books* Vol 54, No 13, 16 August 2007  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/20492>

Hunt, P. 'Neglected Diseases: A human rights analysis' *WHO*, 2007  
[http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/publications/pdf/seb\\_topic6.pdf](http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/publications/pdf/seb_topic6.pdf)

McKee, M. 'A UK global health strategy: the next steps' *BMJ*, Vol 335, No 7611 21 July 2007  
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/335/7611/110>

Mowbray, M. 'Social determinants and Indigenous health: The International experience and its policy implications' *WHO*, 2007  
[http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/resources/indigenous\\_health\\_adelaide\\_report\\_07.pdf](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/resources/indigenous_health_adelaide_report_07.pdf)

'Crisis in the Cells: Prison healthcare continues to fail the public and prisoners despite emergency measures' *British Medical Association*, Press release, 19 July 2007:  
<http://www.bma.org.uk/pressrel.nsf/wlu/SGOY-758E8F?OpenDocument&vw=wfmmms>

'Playing Politics with Public Health' Editorial *The Lancet*, Vol 370, No. 9583, 21 July 2007  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607610964/fulltext> (registration required)

'Third Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Report 2007 - Scaling up' *WHO*, 2007  
[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595476\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595476_eng.pdf)

'Towards health security; a discussion paper on recent crises in the WHO European Region' *WHO Europe*, 2007  
<http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E90175.pdf>