
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Amnesty International reports & statements:

12 September: Argentina: Argentina abolishes the death penalty http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/argentina-abolishes-the-death-penalty-20080912

10 September: Sri Lanka: Blocking aid workers in Sri Lanka endangers trapped civilians http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/blocking-aid-workers-in-sri-lanka-endangers-trapped-civilians-20080910

10 September: Pakistan: New Pakistani Government must improve human rights http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/new-pakistani-president-must-improve-human-rights-20080910

4 September: UN counter-terrorism review should make human rights a priority http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/un-counter-terrorism-review-should-make-human-rights-a-priority-20080904

2 September: Thailand: Thailand's state of emergency should not infringe on human rights

http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/thailand-state-emergency-should-not-infringe-human-rights-20080902

1 September: Iran: Progress towards women's rights in Iran http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/progress-towards-women-s-rights-iran-20080901

Children:

Ghana: Modern day slavery concentrates mostly on the younger generation, which is termed child slavery. So far the recognised types of child slavery include child abuse, child labour, child prostitution and child trafficking. *Ghanaian Chronicle* (3 September): http://www.ghanaian-chronicle.com/thestory.asp?id=8158&title=Slavery%20not%20yet%20a%20closed%20chapter

India: Human Rights Watch has called for the Indian security forces and Naxalite rebels to immediately end the use of children in the conflict in Chhattisgarh state in central India. *Human Rights Watch* (5 September): http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/09/05/india19753.htm

International: The number of girls in poor countries who marry before the age of 18 will double to 100 million in the next decade, putting many at risk from AIDS. *Reuters* (4 September): http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L4289355.htm

International: Around the world an estimated 3,500 girls under the age of 15 become child brides every day, while another 21,000 get married before reaching the age of 18. *IRIN Plus News* (08 September) http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80227

International: Could children who have experienced sexual or physical abuse have a higher chance of developing asthma than those children who do not go through this? *Health News* (3 September): http://www.healthnews.com/family-health/child-health/could-abuse-be-linked-childhood-asthma-1702.html

Iraq: Hundreds of children, some as young as nine, are being held in appalling conditions in Baghdad's prisons. *The Guardian* (8 September): http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/sep/08/iraq.humanrights

Kenya: Months after the Kenyan government began resettling hundreds of thousands of people displaced during clashes that followed the December elections, hundreds of children are living without their parents in harsh conditions in the Rift Valley province. *IRIN News* (10 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80267

North Korea: Thousands of North Korean children are forced into begging or prostitution in northeast China. *AFP* (3 September): http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gBoUsPFcdesvS5emBu1N2-DtQxkw

Rwanda: Thousands of vulnerable Rwandan children who lost their parents in the 1994 genocide or more recently to HIV/AIDS are now living on the margins. *IRIN* (3 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80147

Death Penalty:

International: Ending executions for crimes committed by children in just five countries would result in universal implementation of the prohibition on the juvenile death penalty. *Human Rights Watch* (10 September): http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/09/08/mena19777.htm

Iran: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has urged Iran not to impose the death penalty on juvenile offenders. *UN News Centre* (2 September): <a href="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27894&Cr=iran&Cr1="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp?News/story.asp

USA: A Jury selection is scheduled to begin for Clayton Jerrod Ellington in DeKalb County where no jury has returned a death sentence in almost 20 years. The county's last death sentence was issued in 1989 to Willie James Hall. *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* (8 September): http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/09/08/deathpenalty.html

USA: The killing of the mentally ill is not a solution to deter prospective offenders from committing future crimes. *The Florida Support* (10 September): http://lethal-injection-florida.blogspot.com/2008/09/florida-killing-mentally-ill-is-no.html

Health Services:

Tanzania: Private health institutions will continue to receive support from the government, which will also ensure a suitable working environment for improvement of the health services in the country. *The Daily News* (9 September): http://dailynews.habarileo.co.tz/analysis/index.php?id=7172

Health Workers:

Cameroon: Some 120 community relay workers in Kumba health district have been trained on the signs, symptoms and treatment of malaria. *The News-Medical* (7 September): http://www.news-medical.net/?id=41254

Guinea: Entering a second day of a near-total work stoppage in and around the capital Conakry, almost all the city's government health care workers continued to refuse to perform most medical services as they hold out for back pay, a salary increase and promotions. *IRIN* (9 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80254

USA: Medical practitioners' right to religious freedom does not override compliance with non-discrimination law, says US Court. *Equal Rights Trust* (3 September): http://www.equalrightstrust.org/Newssstory03September2008/index.htm

HIV/AIDS:

Africa: The United Nations University plans to hold a one-day HIV/AIDS seminar, aimed at helping international academic institutions conduct research that could lead to halting the epidemic's devastating trail across Africa. *UN News Centre* (8 September): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27974&Cr=HIV&Cr1=

Africa: The HIV prevention benefits of rolling out large-scale male circumcision programmes could be lost due to a lack of training and resources to carry out the procedure safely. *IRIN Plus News* (2 September): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80125

International: Vaginal rings, similar to those used for contraception and hormone replacement therapy, could protect women from sexually-transmitted HIV, according to research presented at the British Pharmaceutical Conference in Manchester. *The Medical News Today* (9 September): http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/120730.php

International: The Deputy-Secretary General says the HIV/AIDS pandemic is eroding Africa's development. *United Nations* (9 September):

http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2008/dsgsm412.doc.htm

Kenya: A study of Kenyan sex workers who appear to be immune to HIV could provide important clues to the development of an effective AIDS vaccine. *IRIN Plus News* (8 September): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80228

Nigeria: HIV-positive couples are being paired up for marriage by a northern Nigerian state in an attempt to reduce the spread of the disease. *BBC News* (4 September): http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7598308.stm

Uganda: Uganda's rising HIV prevalence is forcing policy makers to look for inventive ways of educating people about the virus. Their latest tool is mobile phone technology, whose rapid growth has provided an avenue that could potentially reach millions with messages. *IRIN Plus News* (4 September): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80176

United Kingdom: Africans comprise up to 70 percent of all new heterosexual HIV cases in the United Kingdom each year, but they struggle to access prevention information and services. *IRIN Plus News* (2 September): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80130

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights have launched an HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Charter that seeks to protect and promote the rights of people living with the virus. *The Zimbabwe Standard* (30 August): http://www.thezimbabwestandard.com/local/18831-zlhr-launches-hivaidsrights-charter.html

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

International: While HIV and tuberculosis are hitting the headlines daily, thousands of people are quietly dying of lifestyle diseases, many which can be prevented if diagnosed and treated early. *Health-E* (2 September): http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032082

International: Anti-malaria campaigners are confident that a deal can be reached with pharmaceuticals groups to cut the cost of new drugs needed to fight a disease estimated to kill more than 1 million people a year. *Reuters* (9 September): http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L9420228.htm

Iraq: At least five cholera cases have been confirmed in Baghdad and the southern province of Maysan, due to soaring temperatures and rundown water plants. *IRIN* (3 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80137

Uganda: The death toll from an outbreak of hepatitis E in northern Uganda has reached 123, following the deaths of nine more people over the past two weeks. *The Guardian* (8 September): http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/2008/sep/08/news.background

Zimbabwe: The Zimbabwean government has confirmed the deaths of four people from cholera, and is verifying the cause of death of eight others in the dormitory town of Chitungwiza, 25km southeast of the capital, Harare. *IRIN* (8 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80232

Mental Health:

International: Homosexual and bisexual men and women may face higher risks of depression, substance abuse and suicidal behaviour than heterosexuals do. *Health 24* (12 September): http://www.health24.com/news/Depression/1-903,47941.asp

International: The vast majority (85%) of deaths due to suicide occur in low and middle-income countries. While wealthy, industrialised countries provide sophisticated psychotherapeutic treatment, poorer countries have little or nothing to offer those who have survived suicide attempts. *Health 24* (10 September): http://www.health24.com/news/Mind Psychology/1-930,47911.asp

UK: A major study by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) on use of section 136 Mental Health Act has condemned the routine use of police cells as a place of safety. *Black Mental Health* (10 September):

http://blackmentalhealth.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=428&Itemid=117

Poverty:

International: The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, warns in a new report that the gains made in reducing extreme poverty are under threat from the rise in global food and fuel prices and global economic slowdown. *IRIN* (12 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80310

International: The global food crisis caused by soaring prices is jeopardizing the right to food, and any potential solution to the problem must be viewed through the lens of human rights. *UN News Centre* (10 September):

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28001&Cr=Food+Crisis&Cr1=

Prisons:

Belarus: The International Federation of Human Rights has called upon countries of the world to refrain from extradition of convicted to Belarus. Incarceration conditions in prisons and remand prisons in the country are inhuman. *APT (Belarus)* (4 September): http://www.charter97.org/en/news/2008/9/2/9730/

International: The strategy used in women's prisons now is one of humiliating rather than rehabilitating. *The Women's News Network* (9 September): http://womennewsnetwork.net/2008/09/09/prisoncrisiswomen8005/

UK: Plans for 'supermarket' jails and the introduction of new police powers to collect DNA and fingerprints have been condemned as criminal by human rights and race quality organisations. *Black Mental Health UK* (3 September):

http://blackmentalhealth.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=422&Itemid=117

Right to Water:

International: To meet growing food demand, in another 40 years the world would need enough water to fill at least three lakes the size of Victoria, Africa's largest body of water. *IRIN Plus News* (29 August): http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80078

International: There's more than enough fresh water in the world to sate our thirst. The problem is getting it to where it is desperately needed. *The Guardian* (09 September): http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/09/water.middleeast

Refugees and Migrants:

Europe: The chief United Nations advocate for refugees appealed to European Union member countries to build a coherent and effective unified asylum system that will promote the rights of the migrants who arrive in the 27-member bloc and seek protection. *UN News Centre* (8 September): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27971&Cr=asylum&Cr1=guterres

Georgia: Some 192,000 people were forced to flee their homes during the conflict that broke out last month in Georgia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said. *UN News Centre* (12 September): http://www.un.org/apps/news/subject.asp?SubjectID=3

Spain: African immigrants have rioted in Spain after a Senegalese man was stabbed to death in the street of a southern town. *BBC News* (7 September): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7603243.stm

UK: An eight-year-old Iranian boy locked up at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since July 15 has been released after solicitors began High Court proceedings against the Home Office, challenging the legality of his detention. *The Guardian* (6 September): http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/sep/06/immigration.humanrights

Yemen: Hundreds of families (totalling about 2,000 people) in the southern governorate of Abyan have begun to leave their homes due to severe drought in their mountain villages. *IRIN* (2 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80116

Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

Guinea-Bissau: The country's maternal mortality is among the highest in the world. *IRIN* (8 September): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80225

International: Sexual activity other than intercourse carries some risk of sexually transmitted disease, and doctors should make sure their patients understand that, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (ACOG). *Health 24* (3 September): http://www.health24.com/news/Sexuality/1-944,47827.asp

Mexico: With an 8 (for) to 3 (against) vote in Mexico's Supreme Court, the April 24 2007 law making abortion legal in Mexico under any circumstance during the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, is now deemed constitutional. *The RH Reality Check* (9 September): http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/blog/2008/09/08/mexican-supreme-court-upholds-abortion-law-citing-human-rights

Pakistan: The World Population Foundation (WPF), which aims to encourage sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout the world, has advocated for the use of female condoms in Pakistan. *The One India* (5 September): http://living.oneindia.in/insync/2008/female-condoms-pakistan-060908.html

Spain: Spain has taken a first step toward amending its restrictive law on abortion, a government minister said Thursday, moving to fill one of the last big gaps in a drive for sweeping social change in this traditionally Roman Catholic country. *The Associated Press* (4 September): http://ap.google.com/article/ALegM5h5xgvI7RuBGgABOebAHVqqozjEIwD9300NN02

Torture:

Kenya: Kenyan activists have dismissed as paltry, compensation they were awarded for being tortured by government agents under former President Daniel Arap Moi. *BBC News* (1 September): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7591594.stm

Libya: A Palestinian-born doctor imprisoned in Libya on charges of infecting children with AIDS has offered new and harrowing details of his incarceration and torture. *AFP* (29 August): http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gmEKuygGaOtH9AN3Zs7RLMui p1g

Poland: The Polish district attorney office is investigating the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) base in this country for allegedly being involved in torturing suspects of terrorism. *The Prenza Latina* (6 September): http://www.plenglish.com/Article.asp?ID=%7B23301AF0-E78B-4590-BB97-40F79F1E4A4C%7D&language=EN

Violence against Women:

Afghanistan: Across Afghanistan, women are setting fire to themselves to protest against forced marriages and maltreatment by husbands and fathers. *The Guardian* (9 September): http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/09/afghanistan.gender

Cambodia: In a move that could break the silence around sexual violence under the Khmer Rouge, a 68 year-old transgender woman has became the first person to submit a complaint about gender-related abuse to the international tribunal during the group's brief but bloody reign. *IPS* (8 September): http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43819

Canada: A delegation of seven members from the "We Can End All Violence against Women" Coalition is going to India for a two-week visit to learn more about the campaign from its South Asian counterparts. *The Link* (8 September):

 $\underline{\text{http://www.thelinkpaper.ca/index.php?subaction=showfull\&id=1220893194\&archive=\&start_from}\\ \underline{=\&ucat=3\&cat=3}$

Kenya: In Kenya brave women are seeking justice for post election violence. *Relief Web* (29 August): http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBU0-7HYGH9?0penDocument

Pakistan: The Pakistani government's inquiry into the deaths of five women buried alive in so-called honour killings in the south western Baluchistan Province is taking place against a backdrop of widespread protests and a dispute over a politician's defence of the practice. *New York Times* (2 September):

 $\frac{\text{http://www.nytimes.com/}2008/09/03/\text{world/asia/03pstan.html? }r=1\&\text{sq=The\%20Pakistani}}{\&20\text{government\%92s\%20inquiry\%20into\%20the\%20deaths\%20of\%20five\%20women\%20buried\%20alive\%20in%20so-}}$

<u>called%20honor%20killings%20in%20the%20southwestern%20Baluchistan%20Province%20&st=cse&oref=slogin</u>

South Africa: A first-ever, national study conducted in South Africa found that 27.5 percent of men who have ever been married or lived with a partner report perpetrating physical violence against their current or most recent female partner. *Medical News Today* (9 September): http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/120799.php

Women's Rights:

Cameroon: According to the WHO Regional Director for Africa, governments are challenged to improve the health of women in the African region. *African Press Organisation* (4 September):

http://appablog.wordpress.com/2008/09/04/cameroon-who-governments-challenged-to-improve-the-health-of-women-in-the-african-region/

Egypt: Women in Egypt have broken their silence on sexual harassment and are demanding the right to go out in public without being pestered. *The Guardian* (3 September): http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/03/egypt.gender

Iran: Iran has sentenced four women's rights activists to six months in jail, including one who was awarded a \$75,000 human rights prize in Sweden this year. *ABC News* (3 September): http://abcnews.go.com/International/Story?id=5715034&page=1

Iran: An Iranian parliamentary committee has thrown out a government proposal which women's rights activists feared would have encouraged polygamy in the Islamic Republic. *The Peninsula (Qatar)* (9 September):

http://www.thepeninsulagatar.com/Display_news.asp?section=World_News&subsection=Gulf%2C+Middle+East+%26+Africa&month=September2008&file=World_News2008091053530.xml

Saudi Arabia: The Human Rights Commission announced yesterday the opening of its women's branch to look into cases of human rights violations against women and children. *The Arab News* (3 September):

http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1§ion=0&article=113812&d=4&m=9&y=2008&pix=kingdom.jpg&category=Kingdom

Conferences/Seminars/Courses:

International Conference on Human Rights and Biomedicine

10-12 December 2008, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. During the conference eminent scholars from a variety of disciplines (medicine, law, ethics, philosophy) will discuss the meaning of the Convention's underlying principles and fundamental rights in health care, contemporary dilemmas in health care (policy) and the Convention's impact on national health legislation and daily practice. The conference provides an opportunity for discussion among scholars and practitioners in Europe on emerging issues in biomedicine and human rights. For more information please visit: www.biomedicineconvention.nl

Diploma in Mental Health in Political Violence and Catastrophes

Organized by the Community Action Group (CAG) and Complutense University of Madrid. For further information see:

http://www.psicosocial.net/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=103

Fifth Public Health Pre-Deployment Course

16-29 November 2008, Ottawa, Canada. Organized by the WHO Cluster for Health Action in Crises (HAC), WHO Regional Office for the Americas/Pan American Health Organisation (WHO/PAHO). For more information please see:

http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/training/predeployment/phpd5/en/index.html

Publications:

Association for the Prevention of Torture, "Torture in International Law: A guide to Jurisprudence", 2008. Available online at:

http://www.apt.ch/component/option.com_docman/task,cat_view/gid,127/Itemid,59/lang,en/

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http://www.cohred.org/main/publications/recordpapers/COHREDRP8 Best Practices in Health Research-Policy_Development.pdf

Chamberlain M, Le Touze D, Welsh J. "The right to health: Global challenges and opportunities for nurses". In Tschudin V, Davis AJ (eds.) *The Globalisation of Nursing.* Abingdon: Radcliffe, August 2008, pp.59-70.

Council on Health Research for Development, "Alignment and Harmonisation of Health Research", 2008. Available online at: http://www.cohred.org/AHA/files/resources/Synthesis_web.pdf

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House of Lords, "Diseases Know No Frontiers: How effective are Intergovernmental Organisations in controlling their spread?" Volume I: published 21 July 2008, published by the Authority of the House of Lords – UK London. Available online at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldselect/ldintergov/143/143.pdf

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United Nations, "Delivering on the Global Partnerships for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals", MDG Gap Task Force Report 2008, 4 September 2008. Available online at: http://www.who.int/medicines/mdg/MDG8EnglishWeb.pdf

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http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121373450/abstract

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