
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol. 13 No. 22, 12 November, 2010
AI Index: ACT 84/022/2010

Contents:

Amnesty International reports & statements

Amnesty International Web Actions

News articles

- Children
- Death Penalty
- Environmental Health
- Gender Based Violence
- Mental Health
- Prisons and Detention Centres
- Refugees and Migrants
- Torture and Ill-treatment
- Transmissible Diseases

Special Section: Detainees in Iraq

Courses & Conferences

Fellowships

Publications

Amnesty International Reports & Statements:

11 November: Global: The UN General Assembly's human rights committee adopted a resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, the third since 2007.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/un-votes-once-again-end-executions-2010-11-12>

11 November: Indonesia: AI called on the Indonesian government to block discriminatory efforts to institute pregnancy and virginity tests for high school girls. <http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/indonesia-urged-block-discriminatory-pregnancy-tests-schoolgirls-2010-11-11>

10 November: USA: AI urged a criminal investigation into the role of former US President George W Bush and other officials in the use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" against detainees held in secret US custody after the former president admitted authorizing their use.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/us-must-begin-criminal-investigation-torture-following-bush-admission-2010-11-10>

4 November: Indonesia: The AI report *Left Without a Choice* describes how government restrictions and discriminatory traditions threaten the lives of many Indonesian woman and girls by putting reproductive health services beyond their reach. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/indonesia-left-without-choice-barriers-reproductive-health-indonesia-2010-11>

Amnesty International Web Actions

China: Mao Hengfeng has been repeatedly detained for her work defending women's reproductive rights and victims of forced evictions in China. She is currently serving 18 months in a "Re-

education Through Labour” camp in Anhui province. She has been tortured many times. Take Action: <http://amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/act-now-mao-hengfeng-china>

Myanmar: Su Su Nway, a 38-year-old labour activist, is serving a sentence of eight and a half years in a remote prison far from her family. According to a recent report in the Burmese exile media, Su Su Nway suffered from malaria and gout during 2010. She also has a congenital heart condition and high blood pressure which are made worse by conditions in the prison, where she cannot get proper medical care. Take Action: <http://amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/act-now-su-su-nway-myanmar>

Morocco: Kaddour Terhzaz, a 73 year old retired high-ranking military officer, has spent two years behind bars in Salé prison for “divulging military secrets”. He suffers from high blood pressure and high cholesterol, and requires medication and regular health-checks. With the winter approaching, his family are very concerned about his health. Take Action: <http://amnesty.org/en/node/19394>

Children

Africa: Two African women members of parliament are calling for an end to female genital mutilation in Africa. See *The Guardian* (5 November) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/nov/05/eradicate-female-genital-mutilation>

Death Penalty

China: A bus driver who had been sentenced to hang for killing his step-daughter was spared the death penalty on account of his mental health. *Channel News Asia* (8 November) <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/1092017/1/.html>

USA: After 18 years on death row for the murder of a family, Anthony Graves has been exonerated. He tells his story in this month’s issue of *Texas Monthly*. *Texas Monthly* (November) <http://www.texasmonthly.com/2010-11-01/webextra6.php>

USA: A national shortage of the sodium thiopental, the drug used in lethal-injections, has prison officials in Ohio and three dozen other states trying to work out how to carry out legally imposed lethal-injection executions. *The Columbus Dispatch* (4 November) http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/11/04/ohio-running-out-of-execution-drug.html?sid=101

UK: Campaigners against the death penalty have initiated legal action to prevent a UK-manufactured anaesthetic being exported for the execution of a US prisoner. *The Guardian* (2 November) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/02/death-penalty-campaigners-execution-drug>

Environmental Health

USA: U.S. inmates and prison staff who handled electronic waste in recycling programmes face serious health risks after officials wilfully violated health, safety and environmental laws, a new report has found. *IPS* (28 October) <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53321>

Gender Based Violence

Iran: Echoing earlier reports by human rights groups, the British media has recently highlighted the case of a young woman from Iran, "Leyla", who was allegedly abducted, detained and raped by that country's security forces because her fiancée was involved in the demonstrations that followed Iran's disputed presidential election last year. *The Telegraph* (1 November)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/8102358/Rape-in-Irans-prisons-the-cruellest-torture.html>

Rwanda: The Rwandan authorities are trying to tackle gender-based violence by addressing the role of security personnel in ending the abuse. *IRIN* (9 November)
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=91028>

Mental Health

Australia: The Australian Medical Association is demanding an increase of funds into prison mental health services. It is claiming thousands of prisoners are "time-bombs waiting to go off" as they claim governments ignore the crisis. *The Australian* (8 November)
<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/jails-a-mental-health-time-bomb/story-fn59niix-1225949108482>

Canada: The death in custody of a young woman with mental health problems is the subject of this opinion piece. *The Globe and Mail* (3 November)
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/the-death-of-ashley-smith-prisons-cant-handle-the-mentally-ill/article1783208/>

China: Mental health services in China remain desperately short of financing, practitioners and esteem reports the *New York Times* (10 November)
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/11/world/asia/11psych.html?_r=1&hp

Prisons and Detention Centres

Cambodia: UN funding is being used to run an internment camp for the destitute in Cambodia where detainees are held for months without trial, raped and beaten, sometimes to death, former inmates have told *The Guardian* (28 October) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/28/raped-beaten-killed-cambodia-detention-camp>

El Salvador: A fire recently tore through a detention centre housing young gang members in El Salvador, killing at least 16 people and fuelling complaints of deplorable conditions in the nation's prisons. *AFP* (10 November) <http://tinyurl.com/2bf8quh>

Israel: Israeli rights groups say Palestinians detained for questioning by Tel Aviv's intelligence services are held in cruel conditions and frequently suffer abuse. *Press TV* (2 November)
<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/149289.html>

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia's prisons are overcrowded with inmates while they are not up to the standard in health services, according to a local human rights group. *Emirates 24/7* (30 October)
<http://www.emirates247.com/news/region/saudi-prisons-are-overcrowded-report-2010-10-30-1.310834>

Sri Lanka: Overcrowding is not the only problem in Sri Lankan prisons. There are a considerable number of sick pre-trial detainees that go for weeks without medical attention. *Sri Lankan Guardian* <http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2010/10/prison-other-hell-true-prisons-part-4.html>

Refugees and Migrants

Australia: The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) remains concerned about the inappropriateness of holding asylum seekers in immigration detention on Christmas Island, northwest of Australia, and makes 26 recommendations to the Australian government. See AHRC report: http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/immigration/idc2010_christmas_island.html

Torture and Ill-treatment

Cambodia: Torture remains "widespread" in Cambodian police stations and prisons, local rights groups said ahead of a major United Nations review of the country's progress on the issue. *Sydney*

Morning Herald (8 November) <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/torture-widespread-in-cambodian-custody-20101108-17kir.html>

Indonesia: Prosecutors at a military tribunal in Jayapura, Papua, sought a maximum of three- to four-month prison terms for soldiers on trial for alleged abuses against 30 civilians in March 2010. *The Jakarta Globe* (9 November) <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/short-sentences-sought-for-4-soldiers-in-papua-torture-court-martial/405786>

Pakistan: During the last three years the number of cases of torture and rape by police officials has increased by 60 per cent, states a new Interior Ministry report. *The Express Tribune* (9 November) <http://tribune.com.pk/story/74582/marked-rise-in-police-torture-rape-cases-report/>

South Africa: South Africa is one of 82 countries failing to act against and eradicate torture and other forms of punishment occurring in police cells and prisons, the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape says. *Business Day* (2 November) <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=125516>

Transmissible Diseases

Africa: Overcrowded prisons in Sub-Saharan Africa are proving to be dangerous incubators for tuberculosis say researchers at a recent conference in Cameroon. *VOA News* (2 November) <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/health/Overcrowded-Prisons-Serve-as-Incubators-for-Tuberculosis-106515138.html>

Global: The excessive use of pretrial detention leads to overcrowded environments where unconvicted detainees are at risk of contracting disease. As disease outbreaks quickly spread to the general public, pretrial detention is not just a human rights problem but also a looming public health crisis. *Pambazuka News* (4 November) <http://allafrica.com/stories/201011090170.html>

Zimbabwe: Prisoners living with HIV are not offered the necessary nutritious diets, regular treatment, counselling and proper health care services. *The Zimbabwean* (29 October) http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35203:prisons-ticking-time-bomb-for-hiv-positive-inmates&catid=70:sunday-issue

Courses & Conferences

7th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry, 19 – 22 October 2011, Prague, Czech Republic. This event will focus strongly on clinically relevant and practically useful interventions aiming at treating and reducing violent behaviour of psychiatric and forensic patients. More information at: http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/prague_cfa/index.html

Vacancies

The O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law is seeking exceptionally qualified candidates to serve as O'Neill Institute Law Fellows. Candidates should have a J.D. degree (or the equivalent), exceptional academic credentials, including publications, and research interests in health law related areas such as public health law, global health law, domestic health care law, empirical studies, regulatory impacts of health law, and/or health and human rights. Successful candidates will have knowledge and/or experience in aspects of national or global health law and ethics. Details about the ongoing work of O'Neill can be found at www.law.georgetown.edu/oneillinstitute/.

Amnesty International-International Secretariat

We are currently recruiting for a volunteer who will be able to assist the Health and Detention Team ideally for 2 days a week for a minimum of 3 months. Experience in mental health preferred.

Deadline 19 November. More information:

https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim_jobdetail.asp?partnerid=25219&siteid=5255&jobid=757192

Publications

Adhikari R & Tamang J (2010), 'Sexual coercion of married women in Nepal', *BMC Women's Health*, 10:31 <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6874/10/31/abstract>

Ansello E.F, O'Neill P. J (2010), 'Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation: Considerations in Aging with Lifelong Disabilities', *Elder Abuse Negl*, 22(1-2): 105-30, [http://www.safetylit.org/citations/index.php?fuseaction=citations.viewdetails&citationIds\[\]=citjournalarticle_222476_26](http://www.safetylit.org/citations/index.php?fuseaction=citations.viewdetails&citationIds[]=citjournalarticle_222476_26)

Dubovsky S (2010), 'Does Bipolar Disorder Contribute to Violence? No, but substance abuse does', *Journal Watch Psychiatry* <http://psychiatry.jwatch.org/cgi/content/citation/2010/1101/5>

Humphreys, M. (2010), 'Psychiatry in Prisons: A Comprehensive Handbook', *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 197: 418 (review) <http://bjp.rcpsych.org/cgi/content/full/197/5/418>

Itzin C, Taket A & Barter-Godfrey S.(2010), *Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Tackling the Health and Mental Health Effects* (Routledge) The book is available for purchase online. <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415555326/>

Kurth E et al (2010), 'Reproductive health care for asylum-seeking women - a challenge for health professionals', *BMC Public Health* 2010, 10:659doi:10.1186/1471-2458-10-659 <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/659/abstract>

Sharmila Devi (2010), 'Healing the scars of torture', *The Lancet*, Volume 376, Issue 9752, Pages 1527 - 1528, 6 November, <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2810%2962014-4/fulltext>

'The UK's continued shameful neglect of migrants' health', *The Lancet*, Volume 376, Issue 9751, Page 1438, 30 October 2010 <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2810%2961975-7/fulltext>

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to: Health@amnesty.org marking your email "newsletter"