# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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## Amnesty International reports & statements:

**16 December: USA:** The authorization of "aggressive" interrogation techniques by senior US government officials has been a "direct cause of detainee abuse" in the "war on terror", according to a US Senate inquiry

 $\frac{http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/us-senate-committee-senior-officials-responsible-detainee-abuse-20081216$ 

**16 December: USA:** Industry claims that taser stun guns are safe and non-lethal do not stand up to scrutiny, said Amnesty International as it called on governments to limit their deployment to life-threatening situations or to suspend their use

http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/usa-safety-tasers-questioned-death-toll-hits-334-mark-20081216

**12 December: Spain:** As the Spanish authorities prepare to extradite Murad Gasayev to the Russian Federation Amnesty International called for these proceedings to be halted immediately as he would be at great risk of torture if returned

http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/spain-halt-extradition-russia-20081212

11 December: Europe: The EU and European states should show leadership and heed Portugal's call to put the need to protect Guantánamo detainees who cannot return to their home countries high on the agenda," said Amnesty International <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/guant-namo-european-states-must-follow-portugal-and-host-former-detainee">http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/guant-namo-european-states-must-follow-portugal-and-host-former-detainee</a>

**9 December: Greece:** As anti-government demonstrations continue in Greece for the fourth day running, Amnesty International calls for a clear commitment by the authorities to end the unlawful and disproportionate use of force by police <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/greece-failing-system-police-accountability-20081209">http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/greece-failing-system-police-accountability-20081209</a>

**5 December: Guatemala:** Twenty six years later, those who executed and planned the massacre have never been convicted. The case has been paralysed in the domestic courts by constant appeals, and shows no signs of progress <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-victims-after-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-massacre-paralyses/still-justice-guatemala-guatema

# Bioethics:

26-years-20081205

**The Holy See:** The Vatican issued its most authoritative and sweeping document on bioethical issues in more than 20 years on Friday, taking into account recent developments in biomedical technology and reinforcing the church's opposition to in vitro fertilization, human cloning, genetic testing on embryos before implantation and embryonic stem cell research. *The New York Times* (12 December) http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/13/world/europe/13vatican.html

#### Children:

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** A sharp increase in the sexual abuse of children – some as young as four months old - has been recorded this year in Kananga, the main town in Kasai Occidental, according to child rights activists, who attribute the increase to local superstitions. *IRIN* (5 December): <a href="https://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81836">https://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81836</a>

**International:** Last week, organizations and groups of young people from around the world gathered in Brazil to bring attention to the problem of child trafficking and sexual exploitation at the World Congress Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. *UNICEF* (10 December): http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nepal 46801.html

**International:** Every day, 2,000 children across the globe die in accidents that could have been largely prevented, according to a report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). *IRIN* (11 December): <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81920">http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81920</a>

**Kenya:** About 40,000 children in Kenya are likely to die in the next 24 months if they do not receive antiretroviral treatment (ART). *Human Rights Watch* (16 December): <a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/15/kenya-make-hiv-treatment-children-priority">http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/15/kenya-make-hiv-treatment-children-priority</a>

**Mauritania:** Marrying off Mauritanian girls as young as six years old to men in Gulf states is turning into a profitable trafficking enterprise as a typically rural marriage practice migrates to the city, according to urban families. *IRIN* (9 December): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81891

**Myanmar:** When Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar in May, leaving close to 140,000 people dead or missing, aid workers feared an increase in child trafficking from the region. *IRIN* (11 December): <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81919">http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81919</a>

**UK:** The UK government has complained about the UNICEF's child study report s saying early years childcare and education in England is falling behind that of other developed nations. *BBC* (11 December): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7775837.stm

**USA:** Under legislation adopted by the US Congress on December 10, 2008, governments involved in the use of children as soldiers may no longer be eligible for US military assistance. *Human Rights Watch* (11 December): <a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/11/us-limits-military-aid-nations-using-child-soldiers">http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/11/us-limits-military-aid-nations-using-child-soldiers</a>

# **Death Penalty:**

**Sierra Leone:** A court in Sierra Leone has overturned treason convictions for 11 men. It is the first successful appeal against a death penalty in that country, opening the possibility of an eventual end to capital punishment there. *All Africa* (12 December): http://allafrica.com/stories/200812120561.html

**Togo:** The U.N.'s top human rights official has welcomed a decision by Togo to remove the death penalty from its penal code. *International Herald Tribune* (12 December): http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/12/12/news/UN-UN-Togo-Death-Penalty.php

**USA:** The use of capital punishment in the United States waned this year, as state and federal courts executed 37 inmates, a 14-year low, according to a new report. And courts sentenced 111 people to death in 2008, the lowest number of new condemnations in three decades. *New York Times* (10 December): http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/11/us/11death.html?ref=us

#### **Health Services:**

**Australia:** A new article published in the Medical Journal of Australia says Australia could do a lot more to help improve appalling health standards in Indonesia's Papua region. *Radio New Zealand* (18 December): http://www.rnzi.com/pages/news.php?op=read&id=43765

**Myanmar:** The United Nations has called for funding to help meet health needs in areas of Myanmar that are rebuilding after this May's devastating Cyclone Nargis which claimed some 140,000 lives and left 800,000 others homeless. UN News Centre (10 December): <a href="http://www.un.org/apps/news/subject.asp?SubjectID=3">http://www.un.org/apps/news/subject.asp?SubjectID=3</a>

**UK:** The NHS is facing its biggest financial challenge for more than a decade, warn senior health service figures. *BBC News* (16 December): <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7785716.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7785716.stm</a>

#### **Health Workers:**

smoking/2008/12/10/1228584929897.html

**Australia:** Health workers contribute to the high rates of smoking among people with mental illness by using it as a behavioral tool and justifying the habit as their "only comfort," a damning new report has found. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (11 December): <a href="http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/health-workers-push-">http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/health-workers-push-</a>

**Burundi:** Burundian health workers who have been on strike since 24 November have resumed work after an agreement between their trade unions and the government. *IRIN* (17 December): <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81995">http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81995</a>

**Zimbabwe:** Health workers in Zimbabwe are warning that international alarm over the spreading cholera emergency, which has claimed nearly a thousand lives, is overshadowing the AIDS crisis, which is killing as many people every three days. *The Guardian* (18 December): <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/dec/18/zimbabwe-cholera-aids-death-rates">http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/dec/18/zimbabwe-cholera-aids-death-rates</a>

#### HIV/AIDS:

**Eastern Europe:** Discrimination and the social exclusion of people living with HIV are undermining efforts to respond to AIDS in Eastern Europe. *UN News Centre* (10 December): http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29258&Cr=HIV&Cr1=

International: Women and girls, who constitute half of all people living with HIV, are often underrepresented in biomedical HIV trials. *UNAIDS* (11 December): <a href="http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20081211">http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20081211</a> Women HIV Trials.asp

**International:** New research is helping to unravel the mystery of how a small number of HIV-infected people manage to keep the AIDS-causing virus at bay without needing to take medicine. *Health 24* (08 December): http://www.health24.com/news/HIV\_AIDS/1-920,48973.asp

**International**: Scientists believe successful tests in monkeys could prove a step towards a new type of drug to combat HIV. *BBC News* (10 December): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7775342.stm

International: The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) renewed their collaboration agreement to work together to scale up efforts for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services worldwide. *UNAIDS* (11 December): http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20081211 LIN

http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20081211 UN AIDS IFRC.asp

**South Africa:** A microbicidal vaginal gel called Carraguard doesn't protect women from HIV infection. That's the conclusion of a study that included more than 6 200 sexually-active, HIV-negative women at three sites in South Africa. *Health 24* (05 December): <a href="http://www.health24.com/news/HIV\_AIDS/1-920,48957.asp">http://www.health24.com/news/HIV\_AIDS/1-920,48957.asp</a>

**Uganda:** Nearly two decades after Uganda managed, with meagre resources, to drastically reduce its HIV prevalence, the rate of new infections is rising again, despite significant amounts being spent on prevention. *IRIN* (15 December): <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81965">http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81965</a>

**UK:** The British government should review its policy of deporting people diagnosed with HIV in the UK to countries where treatment is not readily available or affordable. *Pink News* (10 December): <a href="http://www.pinknews.co.uk/news/articles/2005-9807.html">http://www.pinknews.co.uk/news/articles/2005-9807.html</a>

## Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

**Afghanistan:** Over 270 people have been diagnosed with a hepatic veno-occlusive disease (VOD), locally known as "camel belly" or 'charmak' disease, in the western province of Herat - and at least 44 deaths have been confirmed. *IRIN* (16 December): http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81971

**International:** People with a constellation of diabetes and heart disease risk factors known as the metabolic syndrome are more likely to be depressed than people who are free from these risk factors, Australian researchers report. *Health 24* (12 December): http://www.health24.com/news/Weight\_management\_Obesity/1-955,49035.asp

**International:** Two new studies suggest that male circumcision may assist in the prevention of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, particularly infection with the high-risk subtypes associated with cervical, penile, and other cancers. *Health 24* (18 December): http://www.health24.com/news/Cervical\_cancer/1-4108,49086.asp

**South Africa:** Tuberculosis is a world public health crisis and in South Africa it has been declared a national emergency. *BBC* (14 December): <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7729184.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7729184.stm</a>

**Zimbabwe:** The British Red Cross has launched an appeal to help thousands of people in Zimbabwe and across Southern Africa affected by cholera and chronic food shortages. *Relief Web* (11 December): <a href="http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBU0-7M9EUR?OpenDocument">http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBU0-7M9EUR?OpenDocument</a>

**Zimbabwe:** Up to 60,000 people in Zimbabwe could become infected with cholera in a worst-case scenario if the epidemic gets out of control, according to the World Health Organisation. *Reuters* (9 December): http://uk.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUKL9574730

#### Mental Health:

**Thailand:** The Public Health Ministry will study the impact of the recent political demonstrations on the mental health of the participants - both the anti-government People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protesters and pro-government supporters. *Asia One News* (11 December): http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story/20081211-106995.html

**UK:** NHS bodies face tougher requirements on preventing patients detained under the Mental Health Act from killing themselves, after a ruling in the House of Lords last week. *Community Care UK* (15 December): <a href="http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/12/15/110254/nhs-trusts-must-do-more-to-protect-detained-patients-from-suicide.html">http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/12/15/110254/nhs-trusts-must-do-more-to-protect-detained-patients-from-suicide.html</a>

**USA:** Mental Health America, today announced the launch of its Centennial Year "Celebrating the Legacy, Forging the Future." The 100-year history of Mental Health America is the remarkable story of one person who turned a personal struggle with mental illness into a national movement and of the millions of others who came together to fulfill his vision. *The Medical News Today* (17 December): <a href="http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/133225.php">http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/133225.php</a>

#### Poverty:

**International:** More than 20 million people in the Horn of Africa are at risk of famine due to drought and high food and fuel prices, the world's largest disaster relief network said. *Health 24* (12 December): <a href="http://www.health24.com/news/Enviro Health/1-1308,49039.asp">http://www.health24.com/news/Enviro Health/1-1308,49039.asp</a>

International: The food price crisis of 2008 will continue into 2009 and might get worse, says the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation\_(FAO). The 2008 food crisis has already pushed 40 million people into hunger, bringing the number of undernourished in the world closer to a billion. *IRIN* (9 December): <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81892">http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81892</a>

#### **Prisons:**

**Cuba:** The Cuban government should immediately and unconditionally free the dissidents who have been arbitrarily detained in recent days, Human Rights Watch said. *Human Rights Watch* (11 December): http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/11/cuba-free-dissidents-now

**Iraq:** Human rights abuses and violations are a commonplace in Iraqi prisons, says Women Affairs Minister Nawal al-Samarrai. The minister accused prison authorities of most of these violations. *The Azzaman (Iraq)* (17 December):

http://www.azzaman.com/english/index.asp?fname=news%5C2008-12-17%5Ckurd.htm

**UK:** Police are to trawl the country taking the DNA of convicted serious offenders who are not on the national database. *The Telegraph* (16 December):

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/3795587/Police-to-trawl-for-DNA-of-serious-offenders.html

**USA:** New figures showing that the incarcerated population in the United States remains the largest in the world highlight the need to adopt alternative criminal justice policies, Human Rights Watch said. *Human Rights Watch* (11 December): <a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/10/us-world-s-leading-jailer-new-numbers-show">http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/10/us-world-s-leading-jailer-new-numbers-show</a>

# Refugees and Migrants:

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** Actor-director Ben Affleck and Rolling Stone singer Mick Jagger today released a short film to help raise \$23 million for United Nations efforts to pay for clean water and emergency aid kits for 250,000 people driven from their homes by renewed fighting in eastern Congo. *UN News Centre* (17 December):

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29335&Cr=DRC&Cr1=

**Iraq:** The UN refugee agency reached a milestone late last month when a former Baghdad resident became the 50,000th Iraqi refugee submitted for resettlement from host countries in the Middle East. *UNHCR* (12 December): <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/49426cfb4.html">http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/49426cfb4.html</a>

**Israel/OPT:** The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) was forced to suspend its emergency and regular food distribution services in the Gaza Strip without warning on 18 December, due to the continued closure of all commercial and passenger border crossings. *IRIN* (19 December): <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82022">http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82022</a>

**Sri Lanka:** The United Nations has shipped another convoy of emergency food supplies to the Vanni region of northern Sri Lanka, as part of its ongoing humanitarian aid effort assisting thousands of people forced from their homes by violent conflict. *UN News Centre* (10 December): <a href="http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29255&Cr=sri+lanka&Cr1=wfp">http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29255&Cr=sri+lanka&Cr1=wfp</a>

**Sudan:** "Genocide continues. Rapes in and around the camps continue. Humanitarian assistance is still hindered. More than 5,000 displaced persons die each month." How can this still be? The

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/11/opinion/11thu1.html? r=1&scp=2&sq=Rape&st=cse

# **Sexual and Reproductive Rights:**

**Austria:** The Austrian Constitutional Court recently decided not to deal with complaints against mandatory sex change surgery for transsexuals. Rechtskomitee LAMBDA (RKL), Austria's civil rights organisation for homo- and bisexual as well as transgender women and men, deplores these decisions and is now hoping for the Administrative High Court. *Rechtskomitee LAMBDA* (10 December): <a href="http://www.rklambda.at/e/index.htm">http://www.rklambda.at/e/index.htm</a>

**Australia:** The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is considering lifting a 12-year-old ban on foreign aid funding for abortion services, a proposal which has sparked significant divisive debate across the entire Australian political spectrum. *IPPF* (10 December): <a href="http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Australia+Lifting+Gag+Rule+on+Foreign+Aid+for+Abortion.">http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Australia+Lifting+Gag+Rule+on+Foreign+Aid+for+Abortion.</a>

**Uganda:** Childbirth in Katine, a rural sub-county of Uganda, is fraught with danger. One in 10 babies die and one in 200 births results in the death of the mother. Follow Alice Amucu and Mary Amulo, both heavily pregnant, as they prepare for the birth of their babies. *The Guardian* (11 December): <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/video/2008/dec/11/women-and-childbirth">http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/video/2008/dec/11/women-and-childbirth</a>

**Uganda:** Deputy Speaker of Ugandan Parliament Rebecca Kadaga has urged legislators to support the legalization of abortion for rape victims. *Xinhua News* (9 December): http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-12/09/content 10479446.htm

**USA:** A cheaper female condom, which is also less noisy during sexual intercourse, will soon be launched in the US. *Health 24* (15 December): <a href="http://www.health24.com/news/Sexuality/1-944,49050.asp">http://www.health24.com/news/Sexuality/1-944,49050.asp</a>

#### **Torture:**

**Afghanistan/Canada:** An agreement between Canada and the Afghanistan government has not stopped the torture of Afghan detainees after Canadian troops hand them over to Afghan security forces. *The Canadian Press* (10 December):

http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hTALuS7-SSALA-EsmOqXVW-ijD w

**UK:** The way the UK treats victims of torture may breach international law, says a British charity the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. *BBC News* (10 December): <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7774973.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7774973.stm</a>

**USA:** Four former British inmates held in Guantánamo Bay detention camp were given a second chance to hold the Pentagon accountable for their treatment yesterday when the US supreme court reinstated their lawsuit. *The Guardian* (15 December): http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/dec/16/guantanamo-supremecourt

**USA:** Barack Obama has said he aims to close the Guantanamo Bay detention centre and put a clear end to torture in the US within two years of becoming president. *BBC News* (18 December) http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7789005.stm

#### **Violence against Women:**

**Kenya:** At least 300 girls in south-western Kenya have fled from home and sought refuge in churches in a bid to escape forced female genital mutilation (FGM). *BBC* (5 December): <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7766806.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7766806.stm</a>

**Israel/OPT:** Eight United Nations agencies have co-sponsored the first Palestinian 'festival' to combat violence against women, driving home the message that so-called "honour killings" have nothing to do with honour and seeking to break the conspiracy of silence surrounding domestic abuse. *UN News Centre* (5 December):

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29204&Cr=Palestin&Cr1=Gender

**Italy:** Vincenzo Scotti, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, signed on to UNIFEM's no to violence against women campaign at a ceremony at UNIFEM headquarters in New York. *UNIFEM* (10 December): http://www.unifem.org/news\_events/story\_detail.php?StoryID=777

**Nigeria:** UNIFEM organized a training workshop for one hundred police officers on police response to violence against women and human trafficking, at the UN House in Abuja on 11-12 December. *UNIFEM* (12 December): <a href="http://unifem.org/news\_events/story\_detail.php?StoryID=783">http://unifem.org/news\_events/story\_detail.php?StoryID=783</a>

**Swaziland:** When a Swazi women's rights organisation noticed that many women continue to stay in violent relationships because they are financially dependent on their abusive partners, they knew something had to change. They started self-help groups that assist women in breaking away from gender-based violence (GBV) by gaining financial muscle. *IPS* (8 December): <a href="http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=45027">http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=45027</a>

#### Water and Sanitation:

**Chad:** Diarrhoea and other deadly waterborne illnesses threaten some 28,000 Chadians in an eastern town, after armed attacks – including the theft of a water pump – forced out the last aid workers running already scaled-down operations. *IRIN* (10 December): <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81914">http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81914</a>

**South Africa:** Sanitation is a key element of health, and hygiene a basic need for survival. Yet, millions of South Africans, especially those living in rural areas, do not have access to basic services, such as clean, running water and sanitary toilet systems. *IPS* (15 December): http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=45116

## Women's Rights:

**Afghanistan:** Afghanistan's Minister of Women's Affairs, Hasan Bano Ghazanfa, closed a recent speech to one of the country's largest-ever women's conferences with an unexpected warning: Afghan President Hamid Karzai should avoid rushing into "political deals" with those opposing women's rights and human rights. *The Christian Science Monitor* (18 December): http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/1218/p07s03-wogn.html

**Mexico:** A women's rights activist who first drew attention to the slayings of young women in the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez was named the winner of Mexico's National Human Rights Award. *Associated Press* (11 December):

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jOo6elkjvPrwqBRZIE-77nb1dNiwD950TEF80

**Spain:** The Government of Spain today committed 50 million Euro (about US\$67 million) to the new UNIFEM-administered Gender Equality Fund. *UNIFEM* (15 December): http://unifem.org/news\_events/story\_detail.php?StoryID=782

# Conferences/Seminars/Courses:

#### International Society for Equity in Health – 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference

The 5th International Conference of the International Society for Equity in Health will take place between 9-11 June 2009 in Crete, Greece. The conference will be hosted by the Greek School of Public Health in Crete. The theme of the conference is "Social and Societal Influences on Equity in Health". Deadline for early registration is 30 January 2009. For more information please email information@iseqh-conference2009.com

#### World conference on HIV/AIDS eradication

Royal Suite Hotel Hall, Birmingham, UK, 7- 10 January, 2009. The theme is "Stop Stigmatization on people with HIV/AIDS - A Global perspective". For further information please email: info@globalhealthmail.com

#### Position: Director - Information, Evidence and Research - WHO

The World Health Organization is seeking a Director to be based in Geneva. The deadline for applications is 4 January 2009. For more information please visit: https://erecruit.who.int/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?o c=1000&jobinfo uid c=20329&vacIng=en

#### Position: Deputy Director - Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is seeking a full-time Deputy Director based in Toronto. The deadline for applications is 9 January 2009. More information is available at <a href="https://www.aidslaw.ca/careers">www.aidslaw.ca/careers</a>

#### **Publications:**

Please note that subscriptions are required to access some of these publications.

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