

---

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AI Bulletin Vol. 8, No. 1, 14 January 2005  
AI Index: ACT 84/001/2005

---

Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

### Summary

AI reports & statements  
Children : DR Congo  
Death penalty : China / India/ Iran/ USA  
HIV/AIDS : Kenya / Senegal  
Human rights: Cyprus / Indonesia / Nepal / Pakistan  
Mental health: USA  
Prisoners: China / Tanzania / UK/Germany / USA/Iraq  
Torture: Germany / Iran / USA  
Publications

### Amnesty International reports & statements

14 January. Indian Ocean earthquake & tsunami: Human rights at risk in the aftermath.  
<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/tsunami2-eng>

13 January. Malta: Alleged ill-treatment of asylum-seekers must be investigated.  
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR330012005>

11 January. Human rights imperative for mental health reforms.  
<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGIOR400012005>

6 January. Guantanamo: an icon of lawlessness (1).  
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR510022005>

#### Violence against women

10 January. Algeria: Women left unprotected from violence and discrimination.  
<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGMDE280012005>

10 January. Bahrain: BCC government must wait no longer to tackle violence against women.  
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGMDE040022005>

29 December. Iran: Women are terrorized.  
<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGMDE130492004>

Stop Violence against Women Campaign:  
[http://news.amnesty.org/pages/svaw\\_militarisation](http://news.amnesty.org/pages/svaw_militarisation)

### Children

**DR Congo.** A United Nations inquiry has found that UN peacekeepers working in DR Congo sexually abused girls as young as 13. *BBC* (8 Jan)  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4156819.stm>

## Death penalty

**China.** Twelve people were executed in central China's Henan province after their death sentences were read out during a mass rally, state media reported. IOL (28 Dec)  
[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=3&art\\_id=qw1104218823408C522](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=3&art_id=qw1104218823408C522)

**India.** The Indian Medical Association opposed the Law Commission's proposal to introduce lethal injection, saying it was against the Hypocratic Oath for a doctor to take a life. *Navhind Times* (28 Dec)  
[http://www.navhindtimes.com/stories.php?part=news&Story\\_ID=122916](http://www.navhindtimes.com/stories.php?part=news&Story_ID=122916)

**Iran.** A teenager who is currently in one of Iran's Centers for Reform and Education (Juvenile Prison) is to be hanged to death within three weeks for a crime allegedly committed when he was fourteen. *Axis of logic* (28 Dec)  
[http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/article\\_14703.shtml](http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/article_14703.shtml)

**USA.** In her new book, *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, Sister Helen Prejean uses her personal experiences as a counselor to those on death row to explore the issue of innocence and the likelihood of executing a wrongly convicted person. *Death Penalty Information Center* (5 Jan)  
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1263&scid=64>

**USA.** A new report by the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project discusses the United States' position on the death penalty in the face of international concerns regarding this practice. *Death Penalty Information Center* (3 Jan)  
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1261&scid=64>

## HIV/AIDS

**Kenya.** The cost of antiretroviral drugs could start going up as India - the largest producer of cheap generics - conform to World Trade Organisation regulations on foreign patents. See *The Nation* (Kenya) (6 Jan)  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200501050761.html>

**Senegal.** Senegal has one of Africa's lowest HIV prevalence rates, but could see a rise in infection figures if existing international resources are not used more efficiently, a group of NGOs has found. *allAfrica com* (10 Jan)  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200501100940.html>

## Human rights

**Cyprus.** Foreign experts have begun a search in the north of the divided island for possible mass graves of Greek Cypriots missing since the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Experts with the Britain-based International Forensic Centre of Excellence for the Investigation of Genocide (INFORCE) began digging in the north Nicosia suburb of Trachonas. *Turkish Press com* (7 Jan)  
<http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?ID=35743>

**Indonesia.** Military control is hampering post-tsunami relief work in Aceh, states *Asia Forum* (5 Jan)  
<http://www.forumasia.org/Tsunami/5January05HRandHSinAceh.html>

**Nepal.** Moti Adhikari, a health worker serving at a health post in the western district of Arghakhanchi, has been found dead nearly four months after Maoist rebels had abducted him, reports *Nepalnews com* (8 Jan)

<http://www.nepalnews.com.np/archive/2005/jan/jan08/news03.php>

**Pakistan.** President General Pervez Musharraf has given his assent to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2004. The Bill provides for the enhancement of punishment of honour-related crimes and will also help stop misuse of the blasphemy law. *Pakistan Observer* (5 Jan)

<http://pakobserver.net/200501/05/news/topstories04.asp>

## Mental health

**USA.** Tens of thousands of soldiers may be returning from Iraq with serious mental health problems brought on by the stress of war, says the *New York Times* (16 Dec)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/12/16/national/16stress.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1103794912-axlikTyfppBAOc7fgS61Nw>

## Prisoners

**China.** Human Rights in China (HRIC) has learned from sources in China that a long-term campaigner against China's coercive family planning policies, Mao Hengfeng, has had her custodial sentence at a Reeducation Through Labor (RTL) Camp in Shanghai increased by three months. *Human Rights in China* (4 Jan)

<http://www.hrichina.org/public/contents/press?revision%5fid=19619&item%5fid=19617>

**Tanzania.** Death row prisoners in Tanzania are on hunger-strike, reported the *BBC* on 7 January. More than 15 inmates at Ukonga maximum security prison in Dar es Salaam complain of a poor diet and severe beatings in overcrowded cells.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4155309.stm>

**UK/Germany.** Photographs of British troops allegedly torturing Iraqi prisoners and forcing them to perform sexual acts will serve as key evidence in the courts martial of four soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers which open in Germany, according to the *Independent* (10 Jan)

[http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle\\_east/story.jsp?story=599283](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/story.jsp?story=599283)

**USA.** The American Public Health Association (APHA) has expressed outrage about reports of health practitioner participation in the abuse of military detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay. Cuba. *APHA News Room* (6 Jan)

[http://www.apha.org/news/press/2005/abuse\\_prisoners.html](http://www.apha.org/news/press/2005/abuse_prisoners.html)

**USA/Iraq.** A soldier who served with the 320th Military Police Company at Abu Ghraib talks about the atrocities he witnessed. See *AlterNet* (10 Jan)

<http://www.alternet.org/waroniraq/20935/>

## Right to health

**USA. Advice for women following rape.** More than 200 US medical organisations, religious leaders, women's health advocates, and groups providing advice for people who have been sexually assaulted have asked the US Department of Justice to correct its guidelines for treating people who have been raped because they fail to mention emergency contraception, reports the *British Medical Journal* (15 January)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/extract/330/7483/112> [Note that access to the BMJ is now restricted; some form of registration is required to access articles]

## Torture

**Germany.** *Der Spiegel* revealed that German army recruits in a barracks in Coesfeld, Westphalia, were repeatedly tortured during their basic training between June and September 2004. See: *World Socialist Web Site* (3 Jan)  
<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2005/jan2005/germ-i03.shtml>

**Iran.** After testifying to a presidential commission about their torture during detention, a group of Iranian journalists have received death threats from judicial officials under Tehran chief prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi, Human Rights Watch said. *HRW* (6 Jan)

**USA.** Atrocities in Plain Sight. Book Review by Andrew Sullivan. *NY Times* (13 Jan)  
"The Abu Ghraib Investigations," by former Newsweek editor Steven Strasser, and "Torture and Terror," by New York Review of Books contributor Mark Danner, list specific mistakes, incidents and responsibilities for ill-treatment at Abu Graib.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/13/books/review/books-sullivan.html>

In late 2002 an F.B.I. agent at the American detention center in Guantánamo Bay sent a colleague an e-mail message complaining about the military's "coercive tactics" with detainees, reported the *NY Times* (6 Jan)  
<http://nytimes.com/2005/01/06/politics/06abuse.html>

President George W. Bush should fully explain why an FBI document suggests he authorized unlawful interrogation methods, *Human Rights Watch* said.  
(21 Dec 2004) <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/12/21/usint9925.htm>

## Conferences

The Maastricht Centre for Human Rights is organising a conference on *Privatization and Human Rights* on Friday 25 February. For information contact the secretariat at:  
[c.kuypers@ir.unimaas.nl](mailto:c.kuypers@ir.unimaas.nl)

## Publications

Oleg O Bilukha, Muireann Brennan. Injuries and deaths caused by unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan: review of surveillance data, 1997-2002 *BMJ* 2005;330:127-128 (15 January)  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7483/127>

M. Gregg Bloche, Jonathan H. Marks, When Doctors Go to War. *NEJM*2005; 352:3-6, Jan 6  
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/extract/352/1/3>

Dan Bortolotti. Hope in Hell: Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders. Buffalo, N.Y., Firefly Books, 2004  
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/extract/351/27/2887>

Evans lii FB. Trauma, torture, and transformation in the forensic assessor. *J Pers Assess.* 2005 Feb;84(1):25-8.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15639763](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15639763)

M L Gross .Treating competent patients by force: the limits and lessons of Israel's Patient's Rights Act. *J Med Ethics* 2005;31:29-34  
<http://jme.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/abstract/31/1/29>

Haney, Craig; Wiener, Richard L. Death is Different: An Editorial Introduction to the Theme Issue. All of the articles in this theme issue share the implicit assumption that numerous aspects of the system of death sentencing in the Unites States must continue to be subjected to careful and critical empirical scrutiny. *Psychology, Public Policy, & Law.* 2004 Dec Vol 10(4) 373-378

<http://www.psycinfo.com/psycarticles/index.cfm?fuseaction=toc&jrn=law&vol=10&iss=4>

Christine Lehmann. Brain studies could affect death penalty case outcome . *Psychiatric News* December 17, 2004 Volume 39 Number 24  
<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/39/24/10>

London School of Economics Centre for the Study of Human Rights: Documents online:  
[http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/human-rights/index\\_documents.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/human-rights/index_documents.htm)

*Double standards in medical research in developing countries*. Book review by Ruth Macklin , Cambridge University Press, reviewed by Turner K, Gilman JH, Canadian Medical Association Journal (4 January) <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/172/1/76>

Fred Mbugua. Murder charge for abortion doctor divides medical profession in Kenya. *BMJ* 2005;330:10 (1 January)  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7481/10-e>

Peter Moszynski. Peace deal in southern Sudan brings little respite for Darfur. *BMJ* 2005;330:110 (15 January) <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7483/110-a>

Peter Moszynski. WHO launches health recovery strategy for the Indian Ocean. *BMJ* 2005;330:110 (15 January) <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7483/110-b>

Stefan Priebe et al. Reinstitutionalisation in mental health care: comparison of data on service provision from six European countries. *BMJ* 2005;330:123-126 (15 January)  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7483/123>

McTighe L. Prison health care: activist campaign targets hepatitis, HIV care for prisoners, and continuity of care after release. *AIDS Treat News*. 2004 Oct 29;(406):7  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15614965](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15614965)

Françoise Nduwimana. The right to survive: sexual violence, women and HIV/AIDS, Montreal: Rights and Democracy, December 2004.  
<http://www.dd-rd.ca/english/commdoc/publications/women/hivAIDS.pdf>

Prejean H. Death in Texas. *New York Review of Books*. 13 January 2005.  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/17670>

Sydney Rosen et al. Hard choices: rationing antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. Published online (December 31, 2004)  
<http://image.thelancet.com/extras/04art3077web.pdf>

Joan Shaver. Reflecting on disparities, abuse of power and failure of leadership. *Nursing Leadership*. August 2004 Vol 52 No 4  
<http://www2.us.elsevierhealth.com/scripts/om.dll/serve?action=searchDB&searchDBfor=art&artType=fullfree&id=as0029655404000570>

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich. Health journal is launched jointly by Israelis and Palestinians. *BMJ* 2005;330:10 (1 January)  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7481/10-d>

=====

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to [medical@amnesty.org](mailto:medical@amnesty.org)

-----

Health and Human Rights Team

Amnesty International - International Secretariat

Tel: +44 20 7413 5522

Fax: +44 20 7956 1157

AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/>

AI Health Professional web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/health>