
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

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Amnesty International reports & statements

See the following recent AI news releases [dates given in day/month/year format].
These and other links can be found at: <http://web.amnesty.org/news/engindex>

27/02/2004 [Slovenia: More needs to be done to ensure police accountability](#) EUR
68/001/2004

26/02/2004 [Haiti: Human rights caught between groups on collision course](#) AMR 36/010/2004

26/02/2004 [India: Gujarat -- Denial of Justice for Victims](#) ASA 20/003/2004

24/02/2004 [Burundi: Urgent need to protect women and girls from rape](#) AFR 16/008/2004

24/02/2004 [Greece: Military court rules that a conscientious objector should be tried by civilian court](#) EUR 25/001/2004

24/02/2004 [Uganda: Government should address attacks on civilians urgently](#) AFR
59/003/2004

23/02/2004 [Haiti: Rebels, like government forces, must respect human rights](#) AMR
36/008/2004

23/02/2004 [Preventing police from misusing their guns](#) POL 30/011/2004

23/02/2004 [United Kingdom: Scrap internment](#) EUR 45/008/2004

20/02/2004 [China: Independent inquiry must be launched into death in custody of former Vice-Mayor of Harbin, Zhu Shengwen](#) ASA 17/008/2004

20/02/2004 [Syria: Release three prisoners of conscience](#) MDE 24/014/2004

20/02/2004 [UN appoints new High Commissioner for Human Rights - Time for an ambitious human rights agenda](#) ORG 10/002/2004

19/02/2004 [Albania: Inhuman and degrading conditions in police stations](#) EUR 11/002/2004

19/02/2004 [Israel/Occupied Territories: The fence/wall violates international law](#) MDE
15/018/2004

Death penalty

Mexico. (*Reuters*) Mexican President Vicente Fox, a firm opponent of capital punishment, said on Tuesday he will ask congress to strip from the constitution a provision allowing military courts to impose the death penalty. (18 February)
See: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N17352968.htm>

USA. Death penalty gets a dose of sensibility from Supreme Court. See:
<http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/mascitti/02172004.html>

HIV/AIDS

Central Asia: HIV in prisons poses threat to public health. In Central Asia, a primary hub of drug abuse and HIV infection is found behind prison walls. And every year, tens of thousands of prisoners are released from overcrowded and poorly funded jails, spreading the virus to the general populace. (23 February)
See: <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2004/2/D32A326F-5EB8-4CED-9264-D9EDEA9769E1.html>

Libya. Aids trial tests Libya's commitment to reform The trial in Libya of seven foreign medical workers accused of deliberately infecting hundreds of children with HIV entered its final stage today, as the prosecution and defence presented their final submissions. Six Bulgarians and one Palestinian are charged with knowingly spreading HIV at a children's hospital in the port city of Benghazi. Prosecution lawyers have asked for the death penalty, but all seven deny the charges. Under Libyan law, a verdict must be reached within 30 days of the end of the trial. *Guardian* (16 February)
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/libya/story/0,14139,1149510,00.html>

Eastern Europe. UN text on AIDS in Eastern Europe. New report warns East European and CIS policy makers about the risks of a generalized HIV/AIDS epidemic. Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States have some of the fastest growing rates of HIV/AIDS infection in the world. The impact is compounded by still insufficient public awareness, frequent stigmatization and lack of adequate policy instruments to cope with the disease. *Medical News Today* (18 February) See:
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/index.php?newsid=5999>

Swaziland. A national disaster has been declared in Swaziland as a result of ravaging drought and the spread of HIV/Aids, reported *The BBC*. (19 February) See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3503097.stm>

Mass killings

Uganda. Shortcomings in Uganda's army were to blame for the high number of deaths in the weekend massacre, the BBC reported President Yoweri Museveni as saying. (24 February)
See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3515735.stm>
See also: The International Criminal Court will investigate the weekend massacre of more than 200 people in northern Uganda, according to a Court spokesperson. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3512563.stm>

Organ trade

India. A 19 year old orphan donated his kidney to a 40 year old man -- the young man was not able to pay a debt to his previous employer and decided to give his kidney away reports the *Times of India* (18 February). The financial aspect of the donation is in dispute. See: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/504707.cms>

Prisoners

Cuba. The Cuban government's imprisonment of 75 dissidents is an "unprecedented wave of repression" in the country, a United Nations official said. In a report produced for next month's annual session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Christine Chanet noted that the dissidents were tried and criticized their convictions within weeks or days of their arrests last year and the fact that the trials were closed to the public, reported *SFGate* (17 February)

See: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/02/17/international0619EST0474.DTL)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/02/17/international0619EST0474.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/02/17/international0619EST0474.DTL)

Israel/Occupied Territories - checkpoints and health care. Three members of the Israeli Knesset went to see the roadblocks deep inside the West Bank. They saw the blue hands of those forced to wait in the cold, the man with the kidney ailment sitting on the ground..., See: *Haaretz* (27 February) <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/398777.html>

UK. The number of people held in prison in England and Wales has reached a new high, the Prison Service has said.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3496505.stm>

USA. Prisons No Place For the Mentally Ill. Across the criminal justice spectrum there is a striking consensus that something has gone painfully awry: the nation's jails and prisons have become mental health facilities a role for which they are singularly ill-equipped. At least one in six prisoners in the United States is mentally ill well over 300,000 men and women. There are three times as many mentally ill in U.S. prisons as in the country's mental health hospitals, suffering from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression, among other illnesses.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (13 February) See:

http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/02/13/usdom7467_txt.htm

USA. Man serving life sentence for theft of TV seeks freedom. Debate over sentence in its 33rd year (North Carolina)

See: <http://www.wral.com/news/2669296/detail.html>

Refugees

Netherlands. The Dutch parliament is set to vote on a plan that could lead to the expulsion of thousands of failed asylum seekers, reported *The BBC*. (17 February); See:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3494627.stm>

Right to health

Democratic Republic of Congo. A human rights NGO in the Republic of Congo has denounced what it says is the widespread violation of the rights of indigenous populations, commonly referred to as "pygmies". In a new report, the Observatoire congolais des droits de l'homme (OCDH) said that aside from factors related to the general weaknesses in the government apparatus, the failure to issue identity cards to, and register the births of, indigenous populations demonstrated both "negligence and a manifest lack of consideration" on the part of Congolese authorities. *IrinNews.com* (16 February) See:

http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=39502&SelectRegion=Great_Lakes&SelectCountry=CONGO

Israel/Occupied Territories -- Wall. The International Committee of the Red Cross has condemned Israel's building of a barrier in the West Bank as "contrary" to international law, reported *The BBC* (18 February) See:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3498795.stm

Nepal facing Challenges of Human Rights Implementation. Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa has said the government is facing serious challenges in implementing policy measures to safeguard human rights in the face of the continued violence by the Maoists who have

defied even the basic human rights by means of intimidation, torture, kidnapping, extortion and brutal killings of innocent people. *The Hindu* (17 February)
See:<http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/holnus/00117103076.htm>

Torture

Iraq/USA -- torture clinic. Iraq's torture victims begin the healing. With \$100,000 from the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority, a small group of psychiatrists created the tiny Baghdad clinic to tackle the psychological problems of Iraq's victims of torture, war and imprisonment. *AlertNet* (24 february) See:
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L23215502.htm>

Torture: a lesser of two evils? *Edmonton Journal* (22 February)
See:<http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/story.asp?id=E7D54F61-0092-408E-BE64-E2E88D89DDC2>

UK. The Home Office regularly downplays or ignores evidence that asylum seekers have been tortured, a charity claimed today. The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture accused officials of making "unsubstantiated, sometimes baseless assumptions" before dismissing refugees' claims. *Guardian* (20 February)
<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/homeaffairs/story/0,11026,1152580,00.html>

Violence against women

Democratic Republic of Congo. Jan Godwin, writes in the *Nation*, that "In the DRC, rape is used to terrorize, humiliate and punish the enemy. Frequently husbands, fathers and children are forced to watch and even participate. Women sexually assaulted by members of one rebel organization are accused of being the wives of that group and raped again as punishment when a new militia takes over the area." (23 February) See "Silence=rape":
<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20040308&s=goodwin>

India. Deeply concerned over the widely prevalent menace of female foeticide in the state, the Punjab State Human Rights Commission has directed the health secretary to continue checking the practice and make efforts to take action against the guilty reports the *Times of India* (19 February) See:
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/505106.cms>

Conferences

Access to health in the Occupied Territories

Tzavta, Tel Aviv, 4 March 04

For further information contact Physicians for Human Rights, telephone +03 6873718 or email: Shabtai@phr.org.il

Congress of Aspects of Rape

Brussel -Belgium 1-2 April 2004.

For details visit: <http://www.rapecongress2004.be/index2.html>

Human Rights at a Time of Conflict

London Birkbeck College Human Rights Study Day

Saturday 6 March 2004

For further information and booking see: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/news/human.html> or contact: Joanna King, telephone +44 20 7631 6626, email: j.king@fce.bbk.ac.uk or Linda McInerney, telephone +44 20 7631 6618, email l.mcinerney@bbk.ac.uk

Human rights at the margin: HIV/AIDS, Prisoners, Drugs Users and the Law.
A Satellite Conference at AIDS 2004, 9 July 2004.
See: <http://www.aidslaw.ca/bangkok2004/e-bangkok2004.htm>

AIDS Conference, Bangkok

11-16 July 2004
AIDS 2004 Conference Program Secretariat
Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 21
1012 RC Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 20 521 0036 Fax: +31 20 521 0039
E-mail: program@aids2004.org <http://www.ias.se/bangkok/start.aspx>

Vacancies

Humanitarian Program Manager Position at Harvard School of Public Health

The Program on Humanitarian Crises and Human Rights at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at HSPH is seeking a full-time program manager. Responsibilities include management of multiple research and educational activities of program; content focus on medical and public health response to humanitarian crises. Please see www.jobs.harvard.edu (requisition #19165) for full description and required qualifications. Interested candidates should email a cover letter and CV to: jlemieux@hsph.harvard.edu.

Publications

Crews FC. The trauma trap. *New York Review of Books* (11 March) reviewing *Remembering Trauma* by Richard J. McNally (Belknap/Harvard University Press, 420 pp.) and *Memory, Trauma Treatment, and the Law* by Daniel Brown, Alan W. Schefflin, and D. Corydon Hammond (W. W. Norton, 768 pp.). See: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/16951>

Mann FA. A Radiologic Atlas of Abuse, Torture, Terrorism, and Inflicted Trauma. *Am. J. Roentgenol.* 2004; 182: 650 (book review).

Scott CL, Holmberg T. Castration of sex offenders: prisoners' rights versus public safety. *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law.* 2003;31(4):502-9.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=14974806&dopt=Abstract

Hodgkinson P, Schabas WA (eds). *Capital punishment: Strategies for Abolition.* Cambridge University Press 2004: <http://titles.cambridge.org/catalogue.asp?isbn=0521815908>

Integrating HIV/AIDS and TB Efforts: The Challenge for the [US] President's AIDS Initiatives. (February)
http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/articles_publications/publications/integrating_tb_20040218/integrating_tb_hiv.pdf

Labonte R, Nailing health planks into the foreign policy platform: the Canadian experience, *Med J Aust.* 2004 Feb 16;180(4):159-62.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=14960133&dopt=Abstract

McNeill PM, Public health ethics: asylum seekers and the case for political action, *Bioethics.* 2003 Oct;17(5-6):487-502.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=14959717&dopt=Abstract&itool=iconabstr

Opportunities, Methodologies and Training Courses For Disability Rights Monitoring, Disabilities Rights Promotion International (DRPI).
http://www.yorku.ca/drpi/files/DRPI_Phase_I_Report.pdf

Reid EA. Health, human rights and Australia's foreign policies. *Medical Journal of Australia* 2004; 180 (4): 163-165.
http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/180_04_160204/rei10895_fm.html

Ellen C Perrin. *Sexual Orientation in Child and Adolescent Health Care*. Kluwer Academic/Plenum, pp 198. ISBN 0 306 46761 5

Sidley P. South African health service must strengthen infection control measures
BMJ 2004;328:366 (14 February),<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/328/7436/366-d>

Smith G, Bartlett A, King M. Treatments of homosexuality in Britain since the 1950s -- an oral history: the experience of patients. *BMJ* 2004;328:427 (21 February)
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/328/7437/427>

Transplanting Human Tissue: Ethics, Policy, and Practice
Eds Stuart J Youngner, Martha W Anderson, Renie Schapiro Oxford University Press, pp 216
ISBN 0 19 516284 6

Hernandez P. Trauma in war and political persecution: expanding the concept. *Am J Orthopsychiatry*. 2002 Jan;72(1):16-25.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=14964591&dopt=Abstract

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