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Summary

AI reports & statements
Death penalty
HIV/AIDS
Human rights
Right to health
Torture
Violence against women
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

See the following recent AI documents [dates given in day/month/year format].

10/03/2005 [Syria: End human rights violations against the Syrian Kurds](#) MDE 24/009/2005
10/03/2005 [Spain: Amnesty International expresses solidarity with victims of attacks by armed groups Unequivocally condemns abuses by armed groups and calls for action by governments to respect human rights](#) EUR 41/004/2005
10/03/2005 [2005 UN Commission on Human Rights: An important opportunity to address human rights violations whenever and wherever they occur](#) IOR 41/012/2005
10/03/2005 [Syria: Kurds in the Syrian Arab Republic one year after the March 2004 events](#) MDE 24/002/2005
10/03/2005 [USA: another "double standard" on consular rights?](#) AMR 51/050/2005
08/03/2005 [Amnesty International welcomes the European Union's Parliament resolution on Charles Taylor; calls for its full implementation](#) AFR 44/005/2005
08/03/2005 [Yemen: Amnesty International calls for investigation of beatings of defence lawyers of Abdul Karim al-Khaiwani](#) MDE 31/001/2005
08/03/2005 [Nigeria: Fears of human rights violations after troops deployed in Bayelsa State, Niger Delta](#) AFR 44/006/2005
08/03/2005 [Tunisia: Preparing for the World Summit on Information Society starts with violence and arrests of human rights defenders and peaceful demonstrators](#) MDE 30/002/2005
07/03/2005 [The multi-billion dollar trade that puts women in the firing line](#) POL 30/010/2005
07/03/2005 [Angola: The establishment of the Justice Ombudsman should comply with international standards](#) AFR 12/002/2005
07/03/2005 [Turkey: Police brutality against peaceful demonstrators](#) EUR 44/008/2005
07/03/2005 [Beijing+10: Wasted opportunity to progress women's human rights](#) ACT 77/014/2005
07/03/2005 [The impact of guns on women's lives.](#) ACT 30/001/2005
04/03/2005 [Slovenia: Restore the rights of the "erased"](#) EUR 68/001/2005
04/03/2005 [Beijing +10: US joins consensus on women's human rights](#) ACT 77/012/2005
03/03/2005 [Council of Europe: Don't Compromise on the rights of trafficked persons](#) IOR 30/004/2005
03/03/2005 [Iran: Threats against Kurdish human rights defenders must stop](#) MDE 13/010/2005

03/03/2005 [Beijing+10: Accelerate rather than impede women's human rights](#) ACT
77/013/2005
01/03/2005 [Burundi: Government should make human rights provisions in new Constitution a reality](#) AFR 16/003/2005
01/03/2005 [USA: Supreme Court outlaws execution of child offenders](#) AMR 51/047/2005
01/03/2005 [Beijing Plus 10: NGO statement on the US proposed amendment to the draft declaration of the 49th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) ACT
77/010/2005
28/02/2005 [The Prevention of Terrorism Bill: A grave threat to human rights and the rule of law in the UK](#) EUR 45/005/2005
28/02/2005 [Mexico: Justice fails in Ciudad Juarez and the city of Chihuahua](#) AMR
41/007/2005
26/02/2005 [Death of Amnesty International founder, Peter Benenson, 1921-2005](#) ORG
10/001/2005
25/02/2005 [India: Three years later still no justice for victims of violence in Gujarat](#) ASA
20/013/2005

Death penalty

Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority is poised to resume executions of death row prisoners, with 15 facing the firing squad later this month reports the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1320021.htm>

USA. On 1st March the US Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional to impose the death penalty on juvenile offenders. BBC, 1 March
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4308881.stm> See also Amnesty International press release:
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR510472005>

USA. CNN (11 March) citing the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, reports that the USA has withdrawn from a protocol that gives the International Court of Justice the right to adjudicate violations of the Vienna Convention regarding the incarceration of non-U.S. citizens. This follows an ICJ ruling that the cases of 51 Mexican nationals under sentence of death and who had been denied diplomatic contact with the Mexican authorities should have their cases reheard. See CNN:
<http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/03/11/vienna.convention/>
See also: *Washington Post* (10 March): <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21981-2005Mar9.html>

HIV/AIDS

Africa. Nearly 90 million Africans could be infected by HIV in the next 20 years if more is not done to combat the epidemic, the UN has warned, urging the international community to invest more money and effort to tackle the crisis. BBC 4 March
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4317019.stm>

USA. An open letter to delegates of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which will meet in Vienna next week, signed by AIDS organizations, human rights groups, researchers and policy analysts from 56 countries, has urged the UN to resist US efforts to force the United Nations to withdraw support for needle exchange programs. Human Right Watch, 3 March
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/02/global10250.htm> (news release)
Open Letter available here: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/02/global10244.htm>

Human rights

Nepal. The Royal Nepalese Army, which assisted King Gyanendra's seizure of power in February, is responsible for a widespread pattern of enforced disappearances, said Human Rights Watch in a new report, 1 March: <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/nepal0205/>

Sudan. The aid agency, Oxfam, says the world is still not doing enough to protect more than two million displaced people in the Darfur region of western Sudan, who continue to suffer atrocities on a "massive scale." BBC, 28 Feb
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4303129.stm>

Turkey. The European Union has expressed shock and concern at the "disproportionate force" used by Turkish police to break up a demonstration demanding equal rights for women. BBC, 7 March
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4325347.stm>

Humanitarian emergencies. Brutal conflicts in Congo, Uganda and Sudan are the world's three biggest "forgotten emergencies", each dwarfing the toll of the Asian tsunami but attracting scant media interest, reports Reuters Alertnet (10 March).
See:<http://alertnet.org/thefacts/reliefresources/11038817665.htm>

Right to health

China. The BBC reports (11 March) that growing numbers of workers in China are suffering ill health due to working conditions, See: 'China's poisoned workers fight back';
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4330333.stm>

Czech Republic. Roma women continue to claim that they were sterilised against their will, reports the *Lancet* (12 March):
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol365/iss9463/full/lan.365.9463.analysis_and_interpretation.32534.1

Germany. The German foundation, Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future, will distribute payments of approximately \$3,200 each to more than 7,000 victims of Nazi "medical" experimentation reports the website usinfo.state.gov 8 March
<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=March&x=20050308121539btruevecer2.308291e-02&t=dhr/hr-latest.html>

Paraguay. Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) have signed a settlement with the Paraguayan government to end the improper detention of hundreds of people in the country's state-run psychiatric hospitals, reports MDRI, 2 March
<http://www.mdri.org/>

Vietnam/USA. Judge Jack B. Weinstein of the United States District Court has rejected a suit by Vietnamese plaintiffs which asserted that American chemical companies committed war crimes by supplying the military with the defoliant Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. He sided with the chemical companies and the US Justice Department, which argued that supplying the defoliant did not amount to a war crime. See *New York Times* (10 March). Vietnamese have reacted with anger reports the BBC (11 March):
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4339419.stm>. The 233 page judgment is available here:
<http://www.nyed.uscourts.gov/pub/rulings/cv/2005/moj-04-cv-400-mdl381.pdf>.

Torture

European Commission. An evaluation of four torture treatment centres in Europe, commissioned by the European Commission, has now been published. It is available at:
<http://www.humanconsultancy.com/Torture%20Rehabilitation%20Europe.pdf>
See also the earlier review of torture treatment approaches in Nepal and Peru requested by the European Commission:

<http://www.humanconsultancy.com/Torture%20web.pdf> (2003)

Georgia. Torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials continues to exist, compounded by an apparent culture of impunity, the UN Commission on Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, Inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak, said. UN News Centre, 1 March
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=13490&Cr=Georgia&Cr1=>

Turkey. The European Union's enlargement commissioner, Olli Rehn, said the government must make sure its policy of zero-tolerance against torture is implemented and adhered to by security forces and warned against the negative impact of continued human rights violations on Turkey's bid to join the 25-nation bloc. *Turkish Daily News* 9 March
<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=7810>

USA. The American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights First, joined by former US military and government officials, have filed a lawsuit against US Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld on behalf of eight men who allege they were tortured and abused by U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.
<http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=17584&c=206>

USA. The Bush administration's practice of "rendering" detainees to countries cited in its own report on human rights practices with abysmal human rights practices runs the risk of turning the report into a guide to overseas torture subcontractors, according to Amnesty International USA. AIUSA, 28 February 2005.
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/document.do?id=569CFC5E8511F73585256FB60053F851>

USA. The executive summary of the report of Naval Inspector General, Vice Admiral Albert T. Church, III, into US Department of Defense (DoD) interrogation operations has been published on the DoD website on 10 March. It is available at:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2005/d20050310.exe.pdf>

Violence against women

Congo (Democratic Republic). In eastern Congo's conflict, government troops and rebel fighters have raped tens of thousands of women and girls, but fewer than a dozen perpetrators have been prosecuted, Human Rights Watch said in a report, 7 March
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/07/congo10258.htm> (press release)
report: <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/drc0305/>

Sudan. Women and girls are continuing to suffer a high incidence of rape and sexual violence in Darfur, according to a new report by Médecins Sans Frontières.
<http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=87E5F426-8A66-407E-B6E33C9E577F54CF>

Jordan. So-called "honour" killings - the murder of a woman who is accused of tainting family honour - account for one-third of all violent deaths in Jordan reports *Christian Science Monitor* (2 March)
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0302/p15s01-wome.html>

Pakistan. The Pakistan parliament rejected by a majority vote a bill which sought to strengthen the law against the practice of "honour killing" , declaring it to be un-Islamic, reports the BBC, 2 March: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4311055.stm

The World Organisation Against Torture (WOAT) has voiced its concern over the increasing violence against women worldwide. ABC newsonline 8 March
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200503/s1318619.htm>

Publications

R E Ashcroft. Standing up for the medical rights of asylum seekers. *J Med Ethics* 2005;31:125-126.

<http://jme.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/extract/31/3/125>

Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Matt Gordon. *The International Migration of Health Workers: A Human Rights Analysis*. London: Medact, February 2005; available at: <http://www.medact.org/content/Skills%20drain/Bueno%20de%20Mesquita%20and%20Gordon.pdf>

Richard Elliott et al. Reason and rights in global drug control policy. *CMAJ* March 1, 2005; 172 (5)

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/172/5/655>

Editorial. HIV, harm reduction and human rights. *CMAJ* March 1, 2005; 172 (5)

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/172/5/605>

Ö. Frans et al. Trauma exposure and post-traumatic stress disorder in the general population. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* 2005; 111 (4): 291 April 2005.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0447.2004.00463.x/abs/>

Freedman LP, Ronald J Waldman, Helen de Pinho, Meg E Wirth, A Mushtaque R Chowdhury, Allan Rosenfield . Millennium Project: Transforming health systems to improve the lives of women and children. *Lancet* 2005; 365: 997-1000: http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol365/iss946/full/lan.365.9463.review_and_opinion.32510.1

Labonte R, Ted Schrecker, Amit Sen Gupta. A global health equity agenda for the G8 summit *BMJ* 2005;330:533-536 (5 March)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/533>

Christine Lehmann. Tsunami Leaves Behind Mental Health Crisis. *Psychiatric News* March 4, 2005, Vol. 40, No 5 <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/40/5/25>

Magnus Linklater, What civilised society tolerates the terrible truth about torture? *Scotsman* 6 March

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion.cfm?id=246112005>

Kaveh Manavi, Philip D Welsby. HIV testing. *BMJ* 2005;330:492-493 (5 March)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/492>

Klim McPherson. Counting the dead in Iraq. Editorial. *BMJ* 2005;330:550-551 (12 March)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/bmj:330/7491/550>

US governments must monitor Iraq casualties. *BMJ* 2005;330:557

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<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7491/557>

N Y Oguz , S H Miles. The physician and prison hunger strikes: reflecting on the experience in Turkey. *J Med Ethics* 2005;31:169-172

<http://jme.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/abstract/31/3/169>

Bob Roehr. Abstinence programmes do not reduce HIV prevalence in Uganda. *BMJ* 2005;330:496 (5 March) <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/496-a>

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich. A fifth of elderly people in Israel are abused. *BMJ* 2005;330:498 (5 March) <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7490/498-c>

Z. Steel et al. Mental disorders, disability and health service use amongst Vietnamese refugees and the host Australian population. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* 111(4): 300, April 2005.
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0447.2004.00458.x/abs/>

John Tripp, Russell Viner. Sexual health, contraception, and teenage pregnancy. *BMJ* 2005;330:590-593 (12 March)
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7491/590>

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