
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

AI Bulletin Vol 7, No. 10, 21 May 2004
AI Index: ACT 84/010/2004

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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 to news and reports can be found at:

<http://web.amnesty.org/news/engindex>

20/05/2004 [Cambodia: Refugee protection in crisis](#) ASA 23/003/2004
20/05/2004 [ICC: Security Council renewal of unlawful Resolution 1487 providing impunity for peace-keepers would be a further set-back for international justice](#) IOR 51/006/2004
20/05/2004 [Zimbabwe: Amnesty opposes extradition of alleged mercenaries to Equatorial Guinea](#) AFR 46/015/2004
19/05/2004 [Bolivia: The Chamber of Deputies must reject US impunity agreement](#) AMR 18/003/2004
19/05/2004 [Eritrea: Government resists scrutiny on human rights and calls to end torture and arbitrary detention](#) AFR 64/004/2004
19/05/2004 [Guyana: Commission of Inquiry into death squad](#) AMR 35/003/2004
19/05/2004 [USA: Amnesty International appalled at execution of mentally ill man](#) AMR 51/086/2004
19/05/2004 [USA: Amnesty International calls for a commission of inquiry into 'war on terror' detentions](#) AMR 51/087/2004
19/05/2004 [USA: Call for commission of inquiry into 'war on terror' detentions](#) AMR 51/088/2004
18/05/2004 [Israel and the Occupied Territories: Evictions and demolitions must stop](#) MDE 15/050/2004
17/05/2004 [Liberia: Fulfilling the promises of peace for 21,000 child soldiers](#) AFR 34/010/2004
17/05/2004 [Thailand: Threats against human rights defenders](#) ASA 39/007/2004
14/05/2004 [15th May: International CO Day - Greece misses another opportunity to celebrate](#) EUR 25/002/2004

14/05/2004 [DR Congo/Angola: Forced repatriation leaves thousands destitute and facing human rights abuses](#) AFR 62/012/2004
14/05/2004 [EU arms exports threatening global security](#) POL 30/024/2004
14/05/2004 [Nepal: Amnesty International calls for end to attacks on civilians](#) ASA 31/120/2004
14/05/2004 [Sudan: Commission of Inquiry must be effective, protect witnesses and report publicly](#) AFR 54/049/2004
14/05/2004 [Zimbabwe: Food must not be used as a political tool](#) AFR 46/014/2004
13/05/2004 [Afghanistan: Amnesty International condemns the disregard for human life](#) ASA 11/008/2004
13/05/2004 [USA: Interrogation techniques amount to torture](#) AMR 51/081/2004

Death penalty

USA (North Carolina). Two men who were exonerated from death row share their experience with the community and speak out for a moratorium. *News 14 Carolina*, (21 May).
<http://rdu.news14.com/content/headlines/?ArID=47265&SecID=2>

USA. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer states he believes the USA would be better off without capital punishment and that he believe the death penalty is unconstitutional, reports the *Death Penalty Information Center*
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=993&scid=64>

USA -- Mississippi. The Mississippi Supreme Court will allow four death row inmates to seek new trials on the issue of mental retardation including a man who has been on death row for 23 years. See Sun Herald.com (20 May) :
<http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/state/8715031.htm>

USA --Texas - execution of mentally ill man. Kelsey Patterson was executed as scheduled after the Governor of Texas refused a recommendation from the Board of Pardons and Paroles to commute the sentence. See:
<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/sns-ap-texas-execution,0,1853959.story>

HIV/AIDS

Africa. Empowering women is the way forward in saving Africa from Aids devastation.
Independent 17 May
<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/africa/story.jsp?story=522043>

China. China has announced a set of new nationwide measures to intensify the fight against HIV-AIDS, including judging the performance of local officials by how well they prevent the spread of the disease. *Taipei Times* (11 May)
<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/world/archives/2004/05/11/2003155005>

Malawi has announced that it will provide free anti-retroviral drugs to thousands of Aids sufferers. *BBC*,(11 May).
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3705143.stm>

UNFPA Guidelines. The UNFPA has published guidelines for HIV/AIDS Interventions in Emergency Settings. They are available at:
http://www.unfpa.org/publications/index.cfm?filterID_Key_Issue=4

Human Rights

China. The Supreme People's (SPP) announced that a sweeping investigation of human rights infringement crimes committed by officials in government departments will be made by

procuratorates at all levels from May to next June. The investigation will focus on five types of crimes, including dereliction of duty which causes great loss of people's lives and assets, illegal investigation and detention, evidence collection through violent means, inquisition by torture and abuse of prisoners. Xinhua News Agency 12 May
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-05/12/content_1465656.htm

USA -- promoting human rights. The US Department of State has published a report detailing US efforts to promote human rights and democracy in over 100 countries (17 May). The publication of the report was delayed in the wake of the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.
<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2004/May/17-697855.html>

USA. The US administration wants the United Nations Security Council to renew a resolution exempting American peacekeepers from prosecution by the new International Criminal Court reports the *Independent Online* (20 May)
http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?click_id=22&art_id=qw108503838113B252&set_id=1

Mental health

Germany. Berlin's Westend hospital has just opened a new ward where victims of torture come for therapy in helping them to shake off their traumatised past reports *Expatica*, (20 May). See:
http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=26&story_id=7649

Organ trade

Ukraine. No instances of selling Ukrainian children for donor purposes have been uncovered in Ukraine, Ukrainian Interior Minister Mykola Bilokon has said. He added that a careful investigation was held after a scandal in Lviv Region some time ago, when it had been alleged that doctors were selling children organs abroad. Report by Ukrainian news agency UNIAN (no link)

Prisoners

Afghanistan. The United States is to hold a "top-to-bottom" review of its detention centres in Afghanistan following allegations of prisoner abuse. *BBC* (19 May) See:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3727733.stm

China - 'spying' conviction. A Chinese court has sentenced US-based activist Yang Jianli to five years for illegally entering the country and spying, the official Xinhua news agency says. *BBC* (13 May) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3709733.stm>. Meanwhile, a Chinese journalist has been jailed for two years without trial, according to an American civil rights group. *BBC* (12 May)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3706727.stm>

USA - Guantanamo. The International Committee of the Red Cross has issued a new report criticising the detention of hundreds of suspects at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a Pentagon official has said. *Reuters* (13 May)
<http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=509934§ion=news>

Honduras. Survivors of a fire that killed 103 inmates in a Honduran prison say that many died because guards refused to open the cells in time. *BBC* (18 May)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/3724221.stm>

Iraq - health professionals. The U.S. Army's Taguba report shows that medics saw the degradation of prisoners at Abu Ghraib. It is widely reported that these same health professionals treated wounds and observed the bodies of those who died during interrogation. *Star Tribune* (18 May)
<http://www.startribune.com/stories/1519/4781288.html>

Iraq - health professionals. Danish army medics [nurses] in Iraq saw two prisoners at a British field hospital who had been beaten, one of them to death, the Danish Defence Ministry said on Friday. *New Zealand Herald* (15 May)
<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=3566592&thesection=news&thesubsection=world>

USA. Human Rights Watch calls for the U.S. government to reveal all places of detention where security or terrorist suspects are being held and for it to permit independent, impartial and public investigations of all facilities where the U.S. armed forces and the U.S. intelligence community are holding persons in detention. *Human Rights Watch* (6 May)
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/05/06/usint8548.htm>

USA - prisons as investment. This CNN financial report (30 April) suggests that investors can make money by investing in private prison corporations. See:
http://money.cnn.com/2004/04/30/news/midcaps/prison_companies/index.htm

Refugees

Australia. Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission publishes report of an inquiry into the detention of children in camps for asylum seekers (13 May)
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/children_detention_report/

Chad-Sudan. The UN and aid agencies have underestimated the numbers of refugees from Sudan's Darfur region who have crossed into Chad, and must urgently revise their appeals to donors for more funding, according to the advocacy group, Refugees International (RI), (21 May). <http://allafrica.com/stories/200405210018.html>

Right to health

Israel/Occupied Territories. The scale of the destruction in the town of Rafah in southern Gaza has come apparent after Israeli troops pulled out of two key areas. *BBC* (21 May).
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3734581.stm

Torture

Denmark. Copenhagen - Defence officials reacted harshly on Monday after the former chief of an elite army unit said the use of torture, while regrettable, was sometimes necessary. In a live television interview on Sunday night, Lieutenant Colonel Poul Dahl, who headed the elite Jaegerkorps unit in the late 1990s, said that "we regrettably use interrogation methods that we normally would call torture." *News24* (17 May)
http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,,2-10-1462_1528211,00.html

Malaysia. Malaysia's prime minister has denied allegations that detained Islamic militants have been subjected to abuses similar to those meted out to Iraqi prisoners by US troops. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was reacting to calls by human rights groups for an investigation into complaints by a group of 31 detainees of abuses such as being beaten, stripped naked and forced to masturbate in front of interrogators. *Borneo Bulletin*, (20 May)
<http://www.brunei-online.com/bb/thu/may20w1.htm>

USA. Ethicist , Arthur Caplan and philosopher and Jesuit priest, the Rev John. P. Langan say they believe torture can be used in some circumstances. *Washington Post* (11 May)
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A15861-2004May10_2.html

The war on terrorism has shifted public attitudes toward an acceptance of torture to extract information from prisoners, some analysts say. *Omaha World Herald* (11 May):
http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_np=0&u_pg=54&u_sid=1091983 [A longer version of this article can be purchased at the site of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*:
<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/>]

Is torture justified? (again). Arief Dorfman ponders the question in the *Guardian* (8 May):
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,1212228,00.html>

CIA interrogators used graduated levels of force, including a technique known as "water boarding," in which a prisoner is strapped down, forcibly pushed under water and made to believe he might drown. These techniques were authorized by a set of secret rules for the interrogation of high-level Qaeda prisoners that were endorsed by the Justice Department and the CIA. *New York Times* (13 May)
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/13/politics/13DETA.html?hp>

Guantanamo. The *Observer* reports (16 May) that video footage shows abuses at Guantanamo. See: <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,1217973,00.html>

Guantanamo. Ken Coates on torture at Guantanamo: *Guardian* (15 May):
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guantanamo/story/0,13743,1168592,00.html>

Lessons from Abu Ghraib, *Atlantic Monthly*
<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2004/07/bowden.htm>

Images of Iraq. *London Review of Books*
http://www.lrb.co.uk/v26/n10/simp01_.html

Seymour Hersh discusses the chain of command responsibility for US military behaviour in Iraq. See the *New Yorker* (17 May edition)
http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?040517fa_fact2 and again in *New Yorker* (24 May cover date): http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?040524fa_fact

Mark Danner reviews the Taguba Report and the ICRC report on Iraq. See: *New York Review of Books* (10 June cover date) : <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/17150>

The difference between torture and interrogation ... from a UK military perspective, *Independent* (12 May):
<http://argument.independent.co.uk/commentators/story.jsp?story=520315>

The difference between torture and interrogation ... from a military perspective. *Independent* (12 May):
<http://argument.independent.co.uk/commentators/story.jsp?story=520315>

The US NGO Human Rights First (formerly Lawyers Committee for Human Rights) has called on the Congress and President to enact a 10 point strategy to End Unjust Security Detention and Abuse
http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/us_law/detainees/end_abuse_plan.htm

Violence against women

Bangladesh. The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) yesterday celebrated its five years of providing support and service to 1,400 acid victims of the country since 1999. Munira said the percentage of acid violence from 1999 to 2002 increased by 15 percent, but it came down 16 percent from last year. *Daily Star* (13 May):
<http://www.thedailystar.net/2004/05/13/d40513011212.htm>

Chile. The Chilean government has published a guide to helping raped women, including providing for emergency contraception. See *Lancet* 2004 22 May:
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9422/full/llan.363.9422.news.29678.1>

Haiti. The *Miami Herald* reports on widespread rape of girls and women in Haiti (20 May):
<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/8712201.htm>

USA/Iraq - virginity tests. An entire subspecialty of forensic medicine in Iraq deals with virginity says a forensic pathologist quoted in the *New Yorker* in an article by George Packer (17 May) See: http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?040517fa_fact

Publications

Groce NE, Trasi R. Rape of individuals with disability: AIDS and the folk belief of virgin cleansing. *Lancet* 2004; 363:
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9422/full/llan.363.9422.editorial_and_review.29714.1

Kagee A. Present concerns of survivors of human rights violations in South Africa. *Social Science and Medicine* 2004 ;59(3):625-35.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15144770

Kate Mulligan. For PTSD Care, It's a Long Way From Vietnam to Iraq. *Psychiatric News* May 7, 2004
<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/39/9/1>

Roy Calne reviews *Transplanting Human Tissue: Ethics, Policy, and Practice* by Stuart J Youngner, Martha W Anderson, Renie Shapiro. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. Pp 230. *Lancet* 2004 (15 May);

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9421/full/llan.363.9421.dissecting_room.29574.1

Schnurr PP, Lunney CA, Sengupta A. Risk factors for the development versus maintenance of posttraumatic stress disorder. *J Trauma Stress*. 2004 Apr;17(2):85-95.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15141781

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