
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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AI Index: ACT 84/010/2005

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Amnesty International reports & statements

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

20/05/2005 [Kuwait: Amnesty International welcomes the extension of political rights to women](#) MDE 17/004/2005

19/05/2005 [India: Protestors who want clean drinking water face excessive and unnecessary police force](#) ASA 20/022/2005

19/05/2005 [Burundi: Rwandan asylum seekers should have access to fair and satisfactory refugee determination procedures](#) AFR 6/004/2005

18/05/2005 [Amnesty International urges a stronger human rights role for nurses and midwives](#) ACT 75/002/2005

18/05/2005 [Lebanon: A Human Rights Agenda for the Parliamentary Elections](#) MDE 18/005/2005

18/05/2005 [USA: An Extrajudicial Execution by the CIA?](#) AMR 51/079/2005

18/05/2005 [Uzbekistan: Fear for safety of detainees and refugees](#) EUR 62/010/2005

16/05/2005 [Pakistan: Peaceful rally of human rights defenders stopped by police, participants arrested](#) ASA 33/008/2005

16/05/2005 [Uzbekistan: Only an independent investigation will reveal the truth of recent violence](#) EUR 62/008/2005

13/05/2005 [USA: Guantánamo and beyond: The continuing pursuit of unchecked executive power](#) AMR 51/063/2005

13/05/2005 [USA: New Amnesty International report on USA's "war on terror" detentions](#) AMR 51/072/2005

13/05/2005 [Iraq: Iraqi Special Tribunal - fair trials not guaranteed](#) MDE 14/007/2005

13/05/2005 [AI and Anti-Slavery International call on European States to Ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking](#) IOR 30/012/2005

13/05/2005 [USA: Jeremy Hinzman – Conscientious objector seeking refuge in Canada](#) AMR 51/075/2005

13/05/2005 [USA: Abdullah Webster and Camilo Mejia's message after being released](#) AMR 51/076/2005
13/05/2005 [USA: International Conscientious Objector Day marked by sentencing Pablo Paredes to three months of hard labour](#) AMR 51/077/2005
13/05/2005 [Syria: Ongoing risks for Syrian returnees](#) MDE24/025/2005
12/05/2005 [Spain: Women facing violence at home, indifference from authorities](#) EUR 41/006/2005
12/05/2005 [Call for Action against the Use of Diplomatic Assurances in Transfers to Risk of Torture and Ill-Treatment](#)
ACT 40/002/2005
12/05/2005 [Afghanistan: Calling for fair and thorough investigations for crimes against women](#) ASA 11/006/2005
11/05/2005 [GCC Countries: Time to end discrimination against women](#) ACT 77/018/2005
11/05/2005 [Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\) countries: Women deserve dignity and respect](#) MDE 04/004/2005
11/05/2005 [Ukraine: Songs, "revolution" and human rights](#) EUR 50/003/2005
11/05/2005 [Greece: Punished for their beliefs: how conscientious objectors continue to be deprived of their rights](#) EUR 25/007/2005
10/05/2005 [Zimbabwe: Human rights defenders under siege](#) AFR 46/001/2005
09/05/2005 [India: Briefing on The Armed Forces \(Special Powers\) Act, 1958](#) ASA 20/019/2005
09/05/2005 [Sudan: Human rights defender arrested on eve of receiving international human rights award](#) AFR 54/046/2005

These and other press releases and reports are accessible at:
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/index>

Asylum seekers/refugees

Council of Europe. The CoE has adopted 20 guidelines on the forced return of people being deported from European states. See: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=856881>

Children

Kenya. A baby girl found abandoned in a forest by a dog has highlighted the problem of infant-dumping in the country and reignited the debate on whether or not to legalize abortion. BBC, 11 May
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4536503.stm>

UK. Hundreds of African boys have disappeared from London schools, prompting concern among leading child welfare experts that they are being trafficked for labour or benefit fraud. BBC, 13 May.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4541603.stm>

Death Penalty

USA. Public support for the death penalty has dropped sharply in Houston, Texas according to the 2005 Houston Area Survey conducted by Rice University. For many years Texas has led the country in executions. Death Penalty Information Center, 11 May
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1440&scid=64>

USA. More and more inmates are refusing to take up appeals and demanding that they are put to death. *Orlando Sentinel* (Florida), 9 May
<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/yahoo/orl-locsuicidal09050905may09,0,4803793.story?coll=orl-newsaol-headlines>

USA. New computer software developed by researchers at Loyola University, New Orleans, which uses information based on age, race and sex of death row prisoners has predicted with over 90% accuracy who would be sentenced to death. *Christian Science Monitor*, 27 April. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0427/p17s01-usju.html>

HIV/AIDS

Malawi: Health officials are deeply concerned at the reluctance of pregnant women to go for HIV tests, even though those who test positive are given anti-Aids drugs. BBC, 17 May <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4551767.stm>

South Africa. Health Minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, has reopened a debate about the efficiency of anti-retroviral drugs and defended the work of controversial vitamin therapist, Dr Matthias Rath, who has questioned the safety of anti-retrovirals and recommended the use of vitamins and micronutrients to treat HIV-positive people. allAfrica com 6 May, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200505060812.html>

USA - HIV funding policy criticised. The U.S. government is trying to withhold anti-HIV/AIDS funding unless both U.S.-based and foreign organizations adopt policies that explicitly oppose all forms of prostitution, more than 200 organizations and individuals have said in a letter to U.S. President George W. Bush. See the press release from the Center for Health and Gender Equity: <http://www.genderhealth.org/PressRelease.php> and the letter here: <http://www.genderhealth.org/pubs/20050518LTR.pdf>.

Human rights

Belgium. Two Rwandan brothers have appeared before a tribunal in Belgium accused of war crimes during the Rwandan genocide reports the International Herald Tribune, 10 May; <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/05/09/news/rwanda.php>

International. Some 12.3 million people are enslaved worldwide and 2.4 million of them are victims of trafficking, according to a major report by the International Labour Organization. See the ILO press release at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/pr/2005/22.htm> ; the report can be downloaded at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=5059 [NOTE: the file is 1.4Mb]

Malaysia. Some of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement of countries - a group of mainly poor nations which tried to stay neutral during the Cold War - have signed a new protocol to improve the lives of women following their first ever summit on women's rights in Kuala Lumpur. BBC 10 May <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4534795.stm>

Mental Health

Australia. A Senate inquiry into mental health in Australia has been told by the Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) that the mishandling of two mentally ill Australian citizens by the Immigration Department is a sign of the poor state of mental health services in Australia. (See ABC online <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200505/s1372362.htm>); The submission made by the MHCA is available at: <http://www.mhca.com.au/documents/MHCASub-SenateInquiryintoMentalHealth.pdf>. The Police Federation of Australia told the same inquiry that police were often left to deal with the victims of Australia's inadequate mental health services. See the Age, (20 May); <http://www.theage.com.au/news/National/Mental-health-system-a-burden-on-police/2005/05/20/1116533511863.html>

USA. The Pentagon is using virtual reality video games to help soldiers returning from Iraq overcome psychological problems. BBC, 19 May
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4474715.stm>

Prisoners

Japan. Japan enacted legislation yesterday replacing a nearly century-old prison law in an effort to improve inmate treatment, often criticised by human rights groups as brutal reports Reuters. See: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3284845a12,00.html>

Uganda. A census done in August 2003 showed that there were 17,523 inmates in Uganda, even though prisons should only have been accommodating 8,563. The number of inmates is expected to reach 20,000 by July this year, reports AllAfrica.com.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200505190001.html>

USA. Issuing an order as part of the regular monitoring process of a previous lawsuit concerning state prison conditions, a federal district court judge said that California's prison health care system is failing, allowing inmates to die through malfeasance and is in "such a blatant state of crisis" that he may soon appoint a receiver and hold corrections officials in contempt. San Francisco Chronicle, 11 May
<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/05/11/MNGDACNA031.DTL>

Right to health

Israel. A leading Israeli doctor and medical ethicist has called for the prosecution of doctors responsible for thousands of unauthorised and often illegal experiments on small children and geriatric and psychiatric patients in Israeli hospitals. International News Tracking Log, 11 May
<http://intl-news.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=2022>

Romania. Several hospitals have already started revising their working program and have announced they would accept only emergencies following a decision by medical suppliers to stop supplying drugs and medical supplies to hospitals because of unpaid bills. *Bucharest Daily News*, 17 May
http://www.daily-news.ro/article_detail.php?idarticle=10890

UK. A man who refused treatment for tuberculosis and went on to infect at least 12 others, has highlighted the fact that doctors cannot compel people with infectious diseases to take treatment. BBC, 9 May
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4528543.stm>

Torture

Australia. A Victorian academic who has been criticised for supporting legalised torture in emergency situations will not return to work with the Refugee Review Tribunal when he returns from leave later this year. *ABC Online*, 17 May
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200505/s1370649.htm>

China. Law enforcement agencies are to take a series of measures to crack down on the police practice of extracting confessions through torture, after a man who was forced to confess under duress during interrogation was found to have been wrongly imprisoned for 11 years. *China View*, 17 May
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-05/17/content_2966231.htm

Egypt. Scores of alleged Islamist militants have been sent back to Egypt from third countries, where they have then faced torture and serious mistreatment, Human Rights Watch said in a report. HRW, 11 May
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/05/11/egypt10603.htm>

report: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2005/egypt0505/>

USA. Despite reports of widespread abuse of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said much of the abuse falls short of the legal definition of torture. *Houston Chronicle*, 7 May
<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/3171519>

Meetings

"The Law Turned Upside Down in Turkey: Impunity for Torturers - Prosecution of Human Rights Defenders".

Panel discussion to mark 25 years of Amnesty International's Health Professional Network in Germany.

Date: 28 May 2005

Time: 14.30 - approx. 17.30

Place: Free University Berlin, "Silberlaube", Lecture Theatre 1B, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin.

Further information is available at: www.ai-Aktionsnetz-Heilberufe.de.

Publications

Annas G J. Unspeakably Cruel — Torture, Medical Ethics, and the Law. *NEJM*. 2005; 352:2127-2132, May 17
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/extract/352/20/2127>

Dyer O. WHO's attempts to eradicate polio are thwarted in Africa and Asia. *BMJ* 2005;330:1106 (14 May)
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7500/1106>

Eaton L. UK government is failing to meet health needs of detainees. *BMJ* 2005;330:1170 (21 May)
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7501/1170-b>

Edens JF et al. Predictions of future dangerousness in capital murder trials: is it time to "disinvent the wheel"? *Law Hum Behav*. 2005 Feb;29(1):55-86.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15865332

Editorial. Brazil leads from the front on AIDS. *The Lancet* 2005; 365:1664
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605665233/fulltext>

James JS. Prison health care: New York Times series brings attention. *AIDS Treat News*. 2005 Feb 25;(410):7-8
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15880854

Jones M. Can international law improve mental health? Some thoughts on the proposed convention on the rights of people with disabilities. *Int J Law Psychiatry*. 2005 Mar-Apr;28(2):183-205
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15862874

Kaplan O. Virtually Possible: Treating and Preventing Psychiatric Wounds of War. *Psychiatric Times* April 2005 Vol. XXII Issue 4.
<http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=162100145>

Leth, PM, Banner J. Forensic Medical Examination of Refugees Who Claim to Have Been Tortured. *Am J Forensic Med Pathol*. 2005 Jun;26(2):125-130.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15894844&query_hl=8

Polusny Melissa A, Maureen Murdoch. Sexual Assault Among Male Veterans. *Psychiatric Times* April 2005 Vol. XXII
Issue 4.
<http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=162100179>

Routh HB et al. Skin torture. *Clin Dermatol*. 2005 May-Jun;23(3):307-9
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15896546&query_hl=2

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