
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Amnesty International reports & statements

29/07/2004 [Swaziland: Human rights at risk in a climate of political and legal uncertainty](#) AFR 55/004/2004

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16/07/2004 [Nepal: Open letter on "disappearances"](#) ASA 31/144/2004

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13/07/2004 [Malaysia: Prime Minister Badawi's visit to the USA, France and the UK: Some concerns and recommendations](#) ASA 28/007/2004

12/07/2004 [Greece: Preparing for the Olympic games - evicting the Roma](#) EUR 25/004/2004

09/07/2004 [Nepal: Open letter on "disappearances"](#) ASA 31/142/2004

08/07/2004 [Serbia and Montenegro \(Kosovo/Kosova\): The March Violence: KFOR and UNMIK's failure to protect the rights of the minority communities](#) EUR 70/016/2004

07/07/2004 [Iran: Five years of injustice and ill treatment: Akbar Mohammadi - case sheet](#) MDE 13/027/2004

07/07/2004 [People's Republic of China: Uighurs fleeing persecution as China wages its "war on terror"](#) ASA 17/021/2004

These and other links to news and reports can be found at:

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

Death penalty

USA. The American Bar Association has submitted a brief to the US Supreme Court arguing that the death penalty is not a suitable punishment for juvenile offenders. Various organizations representing scientific, international, religious, child advocacy, legal, and other communities have filed amicus briefs in the case. American Bar Association, 19 July, <http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/simmons/simmonsamicus>

Related to this, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Society for Adolescent Medicine released a joint policy statement opposing the death penalty for juvenile offenders: PR newswire 19 July,

http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040719/dcm020_1.html. The text is available at <http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/juvsdp/SAM-AAPpositionstatement.pdf>

USA. The execution of a prisoner with "brittle" veins was delayed for 23 minutes because members of the execution team had difficulties finding a vein in which to insert the catheter. The Blade 21 July, <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20040721/NEWS02/407210352/-1/NEWS>

USA. A clemency letter-writing campaign organized by Alabama death row prisoners on behalf of James Barney Hubbard, an ailing 74-year-old man who is scheduled to be executed on August 5th, was stopped by Department of Correction authorities. Death Penalty Information Centre,

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1084&scid=64>

Female genital mutilation

Kenya. The wife of the Kenyan president, Lucy Kibaki, has promised to intervene and save Maasai girls from genital mutilation. *Sunday Standard*, 18 July, <http://www.eastandard.net/headlines/news18070410.htm>

Nigeria. Senator Daisy Danjuma, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Women has urged all Nigerians, and in particular the federal and state governments, to intensify efforts towards eliminating female circumcision and other practices considered harmful to the health and social well-being of women. allAfrica.com 19 July

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200407200571.html>

HIV/AIDS

Africa. The World Bank has released US\$1 billion in grants for AIDS prevention, care and mitigation efforts in sub-Saharan Africa through the Multi-Country AIDS Programme for Africa. PartnersGF eForum 17 July, <http://eforums.healthdev.org/read/messages?id=1879>

China. The first survey of the number of homosexual carriers of HIV is being undertaken, reports the BBC, 26 July, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3927487.stm>

India. The explosive AIDS epidemic in the country is being fuelled by widespread abuses against children who are affected by HIV/AIDS, Human Rights Watch said in a new report, 29 July, <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/29/india9156.htm>

Kenya. Health experts want anybody seeking treatment in a health centre or hospital to undergo an HIV test. The Nation (Nairobi) July 22, 2004
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200407220679.html>

Nigeria. A reprieve may be underway for the HIV/AIDS - carrying student of the Nigerian Institute of Journalism whose admission was withdrawn after disclosing his status to the institution's management. Vanguard (Lagos) 23 July,
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200407230682.html>

Nigeria. The first plant for the manufacture of anti-retroviral drugs will soon open reports the BBC 27 July, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3931655.stm>

Human Rights

Afghanistan. Aid agency, Médecins sans Frontières, is to pull out of Afghanistan because of the killing of five of its staff and the risk of further attacks, BBC, 28 July, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3931995.stm

Nepal. The Nepalese government should respond to a threatened judicial ban on an organization that defends lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's rights by affirming the freedoms of association and expression, Human Rights Watch said (23 July), <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/23/nepal9133.htm>

Uganda. The International Criminal Court has opened an investigation into allegations of human rights abuses in northern Uganda after the government made charges against a rebel group. Uganda accuses the rebel group of systematically mutilating young Ugandans, forcing boys to become child soldiers and abducting girls as sex slaves. Reuters, 29 July,
<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=5810678>

USA. More studies need to be done on the health risks associated with use of stun-guns, says the Christian Science Monitor (15 July). See:
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0715/p03s01-usgn.html>

USA. The US is developing a range of less-than-lethal weapons for military and civilian use. See the *New York Times Magazine* report, 25 July, (needs free registration) <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/25/magazine/25WEAPONS.html>

Prisoners

UK. Almost two people every week kill themselves in prison in England and Wales. Were it not for the alertness and prompt action of cellmates and prison staff, that figure would be higher, reports the BBC 28 July,
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/3932653.stm

Right to health

India. A petition filed in the Supreme Court by the NGO, the People's Livelihood Trust, submits that access to essential drugs must remain a right to all. *New Kerala* 26 July <http://news.newkerala.com/india-news/index.php?action=fullnews&id=4413>

Israel/OT. Some Israeli doctors are helping Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza get medical care. See 'Doctors' Healing Touch Reaches Across a Mideast Divide', *New York Times* (26 July).
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/26/international/middleeast/26doct.html?hps.com/2004/07/26/international/middleeast/26doct.html?hp>.

Nigeria. Civil society groups, including non-governmental organisations, professional associations, civil and public service, media and labour demand that the government place priority on health in its budgeting process and budget allocation. *Vanguard* (Lagos) July 26 <http://allafrica.com/stories/200407261121.html>

UK. The number of sexually transmitted infections in England, Wales and Northern Ireland rose by 4% last year, according to recent figures. BBC, 27 July, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3928539.stm>

USA. The US State Department has refused, for the third year running, to fund The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). *The Experiment* 17 July, www.theexperiment.org/articles.php?news_id=2059

Women's Health

Djibouti. The number of women who die in childbirth remains high despite significant progress made in reducing maternal mortality over the past 10 years, the Djiboutian national coordinator for reproductive health said. UN Integrated Regional Information Networks, 16 July, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200407160214.html>

Torture

Armenia - CPT report. The Committee for the Prevention of Torture has published its first report on Armenia (28 July). See the press release at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/arm/2004-07-28-eng.htm>; the report is available at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/arm/2004-25-inf-eng.htm> and the government responses at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/arm/2004-26-inf-eng.htm> and <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/arm/2004-27-inf-eng.htm>

Iraq. A hotel worker who says he witnessed British troops beating his friend to death in Iraq described being subjected to "torture competitions" at the hands of the British army. *The Scotsman*, 28 July, <http://news.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=862202004>

Pakistan. Paramilitary forces working with the army in the Punjab are killing and torturing farmers who refuse to sign contracts that would cede their land rights to the army, according to a report by Human Rights Watch, 21 July, <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/21/pakist9102.htm>

Sudan. Ten members of Sudan's pro-government militia have been sentenced to have a hand and a foot amputated for their role in attacks in Darfur reports the *BBC* 19 July, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3907547.stm>

Turkey. Fewer cases of torture and arbitrary arrest were reported in Turkey in the first six months of this year but reforms are being badly applied and combat deaths have increased, according to a report by the Turkish Human Rights Association. TurkishPress.com 17 July, <http://www.turkishpress.com/turkishpress/news.asp?ID=22425>

Uganda. Seven police officers have been charged with torture and causing the death of an inmate. *New Vision* (Kampala) 26 July. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200407261422.html>

USA. Medical complicity in torture. Robert Jay Lifton writes in the New England Journal of Medicine on medical complicity in torture. See Lifton RJ. Human rights - doctors and torture. *NEJM* 2004; 351:415-416 (29 July)
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/351/5/415>

Yemen. A Yemeni court has ordered a probe into claims by 14 terrorist suspects that they were tortured during their detention at an intelligence prison. Arab News. 18 July, <http://www.aljazeera.com/News%20archives/2004%20News%20archives/July/18n/Court%20Orders%20Probe%20Into%20Torture%20Claims%20at%20Yemen%20Trial.htm>

Conferences

International Conference on Health and Human Rights Emory University Conference Center

Atlanta, Georgia, April 14-16, 2005:

Organised by the Institute of Human Rights of Emory University, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, CARE USA, the Carter Center human rights office, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Doctors for Global Health). Contact: Dabney Evans, MPH, CHES 1525 Clifton Road, Office 108 Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, Georgia 30322. Phone: +1 404 727 3061 Fax: +1 404 727 8768, e-mail: Dabney.Evans@emory.edu

Call for applications or proposals

Applications for funding invited

Community REACH is inviting applications for funding from prospective local and community-based NGOs that address Positive Prevention, Care and Support for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs). Community REACH is a five-year, USAID-funded program designed to facilitate the efficient flow of grant funds to organizations involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including, regional and local NGOs, universities and faith-based organizations. Funded activities should be consistent with USAID's goal of "increased use of improved, effective and sustainable responses to reduce HIV transmission and to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic." To be eligible, applicants must meet the following requirements: 1) Proposed project(s) must be implemented in one or more of the following ten countries: Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia; 2) Primary applicants must be local, indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implementing local, national or regional HIV/AIDS activities. The date for submission of applications is August 12, 2004. Details: www.pactworld.org/reach

Call for proposals: population, reproductive and sexual health and rights

The Population Council, India, is calling for proposals for the Fellowship for Health and Population Innovation, 2005-2006 (Formerly the MacArthur Fund for Leadership Development).

The Population Council, India, provides fellowships to those individuals who wish to evolve innovative approaches including action and/or research initiatives in the areas of population, reproductive and sexual health and rights and generate sound evidence to inform programmes and policy as well as potential replicability and scaling up of these approaches Details:

<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/indiafellowships04.pdf>

Publications

Bachrach S. In the name of public health - Nazi racial hygiene *NEJM* 2004; 351:417-420 <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/351/5/417>

Davies R. Prison's second death row. *Lancet* Volume 364, Number 9431 24 July 2004
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9431/full/lancet.364.9431.analysis_and_interpretation.30337.1

Foss AM et al. Editorial. Condoms and prevention of HIV. *BMJ* 2004;329:185-186 (24 July)
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7459/185>

Gidron Y et al. Prevalence and moderators of terror-related post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in Israeli citizens. *Isr Med Assoc J.* 2004 Jul;6(7):387-91.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15274526

Koopowitz LF, Abhary S. Psychiatric aspects of detention: illustrative case studies. *Aust N Z J Psychiatry.* 2004 Jul;38(7):495-500.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15255821

Rijlaarsdam J. A reassessment of the right to health care. *Med Law.* 2004;23(2):219-24.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15270465

Seedat S et al. Ethics of research on survivors of trauma. *Curr Psychiatry Rep.* 2004 Aug;6(4):262-7
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15260941

Sidley P. South African doctors charged with involvement in organ trade. *BMJ* 2004;329:190 (24 July).
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7459/190-a>

Williams, Paul D. Why failed asylum seekers must not be denied access to the NHS. *BMJ* 2004;329:298 (31 July)
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7460/298>

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Health and human rights team
Amnesty International - International Secretariat
Tel: +44 20 7413 5522
Fax: +44 20 7956 1157
<http://www.amnesty.org/health>