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Summary

AI reports & statements
Children
Death penalty
Female genital mutilation
HIV/AIDS
Human rights
Military, security and police technologies
Prisoners
Right to health
Torture
Conferences
Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

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

18/11/2004 [Bulgaria: Give the children of Dzhurkovo a chance to realize their dreams](#)
EUR 15/003/2004
18/11/2004 [Bulgaria: Monologue of a Mother](#) EUR 15/005/2004
18/11/2004 [Ecuador: Broken promises - Impunity in the police court system continues](#)
AMR 28/018/2004
17/11/2004 [Saudi Arabia: Women's exclusion from elections undermines progress](#)
MDE 23/015/2004
16/11/2004 [Sudan: Arming the perpetrators of grave abuses in Darfur](#) AFR 54/139/2004
12/11/2004 [Amnesty International - Anti-Slavery. Council of Europe: Recommendationsto strengthen...](#) IOR 61/024/2004
11/11/2004 [Russian Federation: Ingushetia, Russian Federation: Doctors publicly branded as terrorists](#) EUR 46/058/200410/11/2004
10/11/2004 [Central African Republic: Five months of war against women](#) AFR 19/001/2004
09/11/2004 [Nigeria: Are human rights in the pipeline?](#) AFR 44/020/200409/11/2004
09/11/2004 [Russian Federation: The Risk of Speaking Out ...](#)EUR 46/059/2004
09/11/2004 [SHELL Petroleum Development Corporation \(SPDC\) and the community of Rukpokwu, Rivers State](#) AFR 44/032/2004 08/11/2004
08/11/2004 [Solomon Islands: Women confronting violence](#) ASA 43/001/2004
04/11/2004 [Iran : Emadeddin Baqi: human rights defender at risk](#) MDE 13/044/2004

Children

New Zealand. Children being held at a detention centre for asylum seekers for weeks, often without proper social services assessments, education provision or any physical activity are suffering distress and failing to thrive, according to a new report. New Zealand Herald, 9 Nov

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=3608452&thesection=news&thesubsection=world>

Death penalty

China. Justice Huang Songyou, Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court, has urged that the nation's death penalty system be changed to allow the Supreme Court to review all death sentences imposed. At present certain death sentences in some cases may be reviewed by higher courts in provinces, municipalities or autonomous regions. China View, 9 Nov, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-11/09/content_2193172.htm

Iran. A 16-year-old boy has been sentenced to death for murder, according to the daily newspaper, Shargh. Agence France Press, Nov 16 (no link).

Nigeria. A national study group on the death penalty, established in November 2003, has recommended a moratorium on the death penalty and commutation of all current death sentences. The study group expressed its concern at the "deplorable conditions" under which prisoners under sentence of death are held, noting that many of them had been diagnosed with "mental ailments". allAfrica.com 2 Nov
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200411050040.html>

Nigeria. An Islamic court in northern Nigeria has discharged and acquitted a woman who had been sentenced to death by stoning for adultery. BBC 10 Nov,
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3999307.stm>

USA. According to the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), studies and surveys have found that both minors and the mentally impaired are more likely to make false confessions, in part because they are more vulnerable to suggestion. DPIC, 16 Nov,
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1210&scid=64>

USA. The Supreme Court, which has been critical of prosecutors' handling of some capital cases in Texas, has overturned the death sentence of a Texas prisoner because jurors in his trial were not allowed to consider his learning disability and other evidence. CNN 16 Nov

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/LAW/11/16/scotus.death.ap/>

USA. The Justice Department has released a report revealing, among other things, that the nation's death row is continuing to decline and that the amount of time between death sentencing and execution has increased. Death Penalty Information Center, 15 Nov,
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1215&scid=64>

USA. A new resource, the Capital Punishment Research Initiative (CPRI), based at the New York State University, is dedicated to conducting and supporting empirical and historical studies of the death penalty. Death Penalty Information Center, 17 Nov
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1212&scid=64>

Female genital mutilation

Djibouti. In Djibouti female genital mutilation is illegal, but still continues. Reuters, 7 November,
<http://www.fgmnetwork.org/html/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=62>

HIV/AIDS

Africa. African leaders attending the first Africa board meeting of the UN's Global Fund, which fights Aids, tuberculosis and malaria, have called for more funding for the Fund. BBC 17 Nov, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4018629.stm>

Jamaica. Widespread violence and discrimination against gay men and people living with HIV/AIDS in Jamaica is undermining government measures to combat the country's fast-growing epidemic, Human Rights Watch said in a new report. HRW 16 Nov, News Release: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/11/16/jamaic9669.htm>

WHO. New online Toolkit for HIV/AIDS prevention and care in sex work settings. WHO, 11 Nov
<http://www.who.int/hiv/toolkit/sw>

Human rights

Iraq. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has voiced deep concern about the situation of civilians caught up in the ongoing fighting in Falluja, and called on all concerned to protect them. UN News Centre 16 Nov
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=12544&Cr=iraq&Cr1=>

Nigeria/UK. Nigeria and the UK have agreed to work together in an effort to prevent human trafficking. Every year thousands of women and children are smuggled from Nigeria into Europe where they are exploited for sex and cheap labour. BBC 17 Nov,
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4018253.stm>

UK. Buyers of British arms and Britain's close allies in the "war on terror" are named as being among the worst abusers of human rights in the government's annual human rights report. The report praises the role of Craig Murray, the suspended British ambassador to Tashkent, in speaking out about human rights abuses in Uzbekistan. Guardian 11 Nov,
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/humanrights/story/0,7369,1348210,00.html>

Military, Security and police technologies

USA. According to Wake County (North Carolina) school officials, just the threat of being stunned with a Taser gun has contributed to a huge decrease in the number of school fights. See: WRAL.com (18 November) <http://www.wral.com/news/3928658/detail.html>

USA. The US company Stinger has announced that it has a patent pending on a new four dart system incorporated in its pistol projectile stun gun. See the press release at: <http://www.stingersystems.com/press.htm> (17 November) and the weapon at: <http://www.stingersystems.com>

Prisoners

USA. Human rights groups and lawyers for Guantanamo detainees have welcomed a US federal judge's ruling which halted as unlawful the military tribunal trial of a Guantanamo prisoner accused of being Osama bin Laden's bodyguard and driver. ABC online 9Nov
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200411/s1237588.htm>

Right to health

Bhutan The government has imposed a ban on all tobacco products in an attempt to provide "no pollution and good health" to its citizens. BBC, 15 Nov, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4012639.stm

India. Around 20,000 doctors in the northern Indian state of Bihar have been on indefinite strike since 12 November after eminent surgeon, Nan Kishore Agarwal, and his assistant were gunned down in his clinic by unknown assailants after he refused an extortion demand. The doctors are demanding that the government stop a wave of extortion, kidnap and murder aimed at members of the medical profession. Thirty-five doctors have been kidnapped in Bihar in the past four years and five of them have been killed. BBC, 16 Nov, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4015151.stm

UK. The inquest into a young airman who died 51 years ago during secret nerve gas tests has ruled that he was unlawfully killed. BBC, 16 Nov <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/wiltshire/4013767.stm>

USA. United Health Foundation, the American Public Health Association (APHA) and Partnership for Prevention, released the 15th annual *America's Health: State Health Rankings* at the APHA's Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on 8 November. See the press release at: <http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/mediakit/shrmediakit/shr04pr.pdf> and the report at: www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/shr/State%20Health%202004.pdf. A comment in the *Lancet* (20 November) is available at: http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9448/full/lan.364.9448.analysis_and_interpretation.31304.1

Torture

Chile. The first ever major investigation into torture and detention practices during General Pinochet's regime has been presented to President Ricardo Lagos. BBC, 10 November, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4001295.stm>

India. The Supreme Court has decried the growing menace of custodial violence, torture and abuse of police power across the country while upholding the sentence of seven years rigorous imprisonment to a police officer on the same count. Sify News 16 Nov <http://sify.com/news/fullstory.php?id=13612272>

Nepal. The use of torture is rising exponentially after the beginning of the internal conflict in the country, according to Dr Bhogendra Sharma, President of the Center for Victims of Torture, Nepal. Nepal news com 5 Nov, <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishweekly/spotlight/2004/nov/nov05/national4.htm> A major group treating victims of torture in Nepal says it can barely cope with the number of people coming to it for help. BBC 10 Nov http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3998569.stm

Turkey. The country's highest appeals court has upheld a jail sentence of four years and two months for a policeman convicted of involvement in torturing a labor unionist to death. BBC, 10 Nov, <http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=33362>

USA. An executive jet is being used by the American intelligence agencies to fly terrorist suspects to countries that routinely use torture in their prisons, according to the Sunday Times. Sunday Times 14 Nov, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1357699,00.html>

USA. More than two dozen current and former police officials and homicide detectives have taken the 5th Amendment and refused to testify when questioned in a civil lawsuit alleging that Chicago police used torture when interrogating suspects. Seattle pi ,16 Nov

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/apus_story.asp?category=1110&slug=Death%20Penalty%20Lawsuit

Conferences

"African Women's Mental Health Matters", 14 December 2004, Methodist International Conference Centre, 81-103 Euston Street London NW1 2EZ. United Kingdom. This one day conference is organized by Akina Mama wa Afrika (An International non-governmental development organisation for African women). Booking form from Gloria Ogunbadejo, Mental Health Project Office, Akina Mama wa Afrika, 334-336 Goswell Rd. Islington. London. EC1V 7LQ or Fax to 020 7713 1959 or e-mail: gloria@akinamama.org

"Bringing torture home", Physicians for Human Rights-UK, 12th Annual Health and Human Rights Conference. Dec 4th 2004. For information see: <http://www.phruk.org/index.php?php=true&content=showitem&table=news&item=46&previouscontent=news&previousphp=true> or write to PHR-UK, Dr Helen Bygrave, Flat 7, Carlton Mansions, 73/75 Chichele Rd, London, NW2 3AP.

"Eyes on International Collaboration: Promoting Health From Campus to Lab to Field". Unite For Sight Second Annual International Health Conference, April 2 and 3, 2005, Harvard University Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Click here to Register: http://www.uniteforsight.org/2005_conference_registration.php

Publications

Bird S. Military and public-health sciences need to ally. *Lancet* 2004; 364 http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9448/full/llan.364.9448.analysis_and_interpretation.31310.1

Bushra Ibrahim Al-Rubeyi. Mortality before and after the invasion of Iraq in 2003. *Lancet* 2004; 364 www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9448/full/llan.364.9448.analysis_and_interpretation.31299.1

Fiona Fleck. WHO denies suppressing report on junk food . *BMJ* 2004;329:1121 (13 November) <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7475/1121-a>

Christine Lehmann. Iraq Desperate To Rebuild Shattered Health System. Americans Help Iraqis Build Community Mental Health System. Iraq's Psychiatric Hospitals Confront Many Obstacles. *Psychiatric News* November 5, 2004 Volume 39 Number 21 <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/39/21/1-a>

Comparative study of HIV/AIDS and human rights in Andean nations. *Can HIV AIDS Policy Law Rev.* 2004 Aug;9(2):32. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15540336

Health care in prisons 2004: criticisms of healthcare delivery, Physicians for Human Rights - UK. <http://www.phruk.org/index.php?php=true&content=showitem&table=reports&item=22&previouscontent=reports&previousphp=true>

Human Rights Quarterly. The November edition of Human Rights Quarterly contains a number of essays on economic, social and cultural rights. Abstracts are available at: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq26.4.html

Iraq. Mortality before and after the invasion of Iraq. cluster sample survey: *Lancet* 2004;364:1857-64
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9448/full/llan.364.9448.primary_research.31264.1

Lancet. Correspondence: Military, Medicine and human rights
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9448/full/llan.364.9448.analysis_and_interpretation.31249.1 (For original article by Steven Miles, see:

Miles SH. Abu Ghraib: its legacy for military medicine. *Lancet* Vol 364, No 9435 21 August 2004 at:
http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9435/full/llan.364.9435.review_and_opinion.30574.1):

Momartin S.et al. Complicated grief in Bosnian refugees: Associations with posttraumatic stress disorder and depression. *Compr Psychiatry*. 2004 Nov-Dec;45(6):475-82.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15526259

Momoh C. Female genital mutilation. *Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol*. 2004 Dec;16(6):477-480.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15534443

Onotai LO, Nwaorgu OG, Okoye BC. Ethical issues in HIV/AIDS infections. *Niger J Med*. 2004 Jul-Sep;13(3):282-5.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15532233

Raimer BG, Stobo JD. Health care delivery in the Texas prison system: the role of academic medicine. *JAMA*. 2004 Jul 28;292(4):485-9.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15280346

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