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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Amnesty International reports & statements

On World AIDS Day, AI has called on governments to keep the promise to address HIV/AIDS effectively. See: <http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGA750032005>. Other press releases and reports are accessible at: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/index>

### Asylum seekers/refugees

**DRC.** What happens to asylum seekers who are sent home? Jenny Cuffe has followed the footsteps of failed asylum seekers sent back from Europe to the Democratic Republic of Congo. BBC 1 Dec  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4483364.stm>

**South Africa.** Asylum seekers and refugees in Johannesburg often face harassment, mistreatment and extortion by the police, Human Rights Watch said in a report. HRW 17 Nov  
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/11/17/safric12039.htm> report:  
<http://hrw.org/reports/2005/southafrica1105/>

### Children

**Bolivia.** Prisons in Bolivia are overcrowded, but not only with adults. More than 1,200 children live there while their parents serve their sentences. BBC 21 Nov  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4415294.stm>

**India.** Aid workers say some children rescued from working illegally in the Indian capital, Delhi, are refusing to leave their jobs to go back home. BBC 22 Nov  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/4461206.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4461206.stm)

### Death Penalty

**Iran.** The execution of two men for homosexual conduct highlights a pattern of persecution of gay men that stands in stark violation of the rights to life and privacy said Human Rights Watch. HRW 22 Nov

<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/11/21/iran12072.htm>

**USA.** Texas' method of executing capital murderers could come under scrutiny in a courtroom as the result of what some legal observers call a precedent-setting ruling by a federal judge in Houston. Houston Chronicle online, 29 November.

<http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/3489676.html>

## **Female genital mutilation**

**Morocco.** Ministers, politicians and religious leaders from almost 50 Muslim states gathered for two days in the Moroccan capital at the first Islamic childhood conference. The resulting "Rabat Declaration" puts special emphasis on female genital mutilation and other harmful practices discriminating girls, underlining it is against Islam reports the Banjul Independent (21 November). See [allafrica.com](http://allafrica.com/stories/200511220644.html) 21 November,

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200511220644.html>

**UNICEF** Female genital mutilation and cutting affects a previously unsuspected number of girls and women and is an increasingly globalised problem, UNICEF has warned in new a report. Yahoo news 24 Nov

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051124/hl\\_afp/unhealthwomen;\\_ylt=A9FJqZf0.YpDUh0BOQ\\_VJRIF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051124/hl_afp/unhealthwomen;_ylt=A9FJqZf0.YpDUh0BOQ_VJRIF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

## **HIV/AIDS**

**World AIDS Day. 1 December is World AIDS Day.** Many organizations and office-holders publish statements and reports to coincide with this day. See for example: UNAIDS: [http://www.unaids.org/html/pub/media/speeches02/sp\\_piot\\_wad2005\\_1dec2005\\_en\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/html/pub/media/speeches02/sp_piot_wad2005_1dec2005_en_pdf.pdf); Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/wad/index.htm>; UN Special Rapporteurs on Housing and Health:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/74F1E47D756C89E5C12570CA003357F7>; Director General of WHO:

<http://www.who.int/dg/lee/speeches/2005/worldaidsday2005b/en/index.html>; the EU:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/eupresidency2005/EU-statement-dec2005.pdf>; MSF:

[http://www.msf.org/msfinternational/invoke.cfm?objectid=DC075067-E018-0C72-09CF0A24F01A75AC&component=toolkit.article&method=full\\_html](http://www.msf.org/msfinternational/invoke.cfm?objectid=DC075067-E018-0C72-09CF0A24F01A75AC&component=toolkit.article&method=full_html)

**Australia.** An Australian court has jailed an HIV-positive man for 12 years for having unprotected sex with two European tourists. See BBC 1 Dec

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4487610.stm>

**Canada.** An HIV-positive woman from Newfoundland has pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated assault for having sex with a soldier at an Ontario military base. See CBCNews, 28 Nov

[http://www.cbc.ca/nl/story/nf\\_hiv\\_plea\\_20051128.html](http://www.cbc.ca/nl/story/nf_hiv_plea_20051128.html)

**UN.** UNAIDS says there are an estimated 40.3m people are currently living with the virus across the world, with almost 5m newly infected in 2005. See the UNAIDS report, available at:

<http://www.unaids.org/Epi2005/doc/report.html>

**WHO.** The head of the World Health Organisation's HIV/Aids programme has apologised for its failure to meet a global target for the treatment of HIV. BBC 28 Nov

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4476978.stm>

## Human rights

**Myanmar.** News agencies and human rights groups reported that Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of National League for Democracy, will have to face a 12-month extension of her house arrest reports the Korean paper, Ohmy news 27 November.

[http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article\\_view.asp?article\\_class=3&no=232672&rel\\_no=2](http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?article_class=3&no=232672&rel_no=2)

**Rwanda.** A former mayor accused of helping to kill several thousand people during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, has changed his plea from not guilty to guilty. Paul Bisengimana, the former mayor of Gikoro, changed his plea after prosecutors dropped 10 other charges. BBC 18 Nov

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4449154.stm>

## Mental Health

**Thailand.** Thailand needs to establish an independent national committee to advise the government on mental health policy, a research team has said, according to the Bangkok Post (29 November) [http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/29Nov2005\\_news63.php](http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/29Nov2005_news63.php)

**USA/Iraq.** Mental health specialists are addressing combat-related trauma reports the Post-Gazette (28 November). See: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05332/613785.stm>

## Prisoners

Saudi Arabia. A Saudi court has sentenced a teacher to more than three years in prison and 750 lashes for talking to his pupils about his views on a number of current topics, such as Christianity, Judaism and the causes of terrorism. See the Human Rights Watch report (17 November)

<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/11/16/saudia12049.htm>

## Right to health

**Africa.** A number of African gender advocates in both government and civil society have put up spirited fight to have the UN create a Fund to address millennium development goal issues of reproductive health and gender empowerment reports allAfrica.com. See 'Africa's Push for Reproductive Rights Fund Rubs U.S. the Wrong Way'. allAfrica com 3 Nov <http://allafrica.com/stories/200511230743.html>

## Torture

**Mexico.** Some police forces still use torture to extract confessions and information from suspects, but have developed new, more sophisticated ways of doing so that are harder to detect, the country's National Human Rights Commission said. San Diego Union Tribune 22 Nov

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/20051122-1406-mexico-torture.html>

**UK.** Police have been asked to probe claims that the CIA has used UK airports to move terrorist suspects to secret jails in other countries to be tortured. BBC 30 Nov

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4483640.stm>

## Violence against women

**UK.** Five Albanian men have been convicted of sex trafficking offences in the UK reports the BBC 28 Nov  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4287432.stm>

**WHO.** A new international study of domestic violence says it is the most common form of violence against women. See the press release:  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/pr62/en/index.html> and the report:  
[http://www.who.int/entity/gender/violence/who\\_multicountry\\_study/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/entity/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html). See also the BBC report, 24 November:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4465916.stm>

## **Publications**

Dikel TN et al. PTSD in former prisoners of war: prewar, wartime, and postwar factors. *J Trauma Stress.* 2005 Feb;18(1):69-77.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=16281198&query\\_hl=6](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16281198&query_hl=6)

Eckles RE et al. Medical ethics education: where are we? Where should we be going? A review. *Acad Med.* 2005 Dec;80(12):1143-52.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=16306292&query\\_hl=6](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16306292&query_hl=6)

Memoona Hasnain. Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Harm Reduction in Muslim Countries. *Harm Reduction Journal* 2005, 2:23 <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/2/1/23/abstract>

Kramp P, Gabrielsen G. Forensic patients in Denmark, 2000-2004. *Ugeskr Laeger.* 2005 Nov 21;167(47):4469-4472.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=16305768&query\\_hl=3](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16305768&query_hl=3)

Steven Sharfstein. Medical Ethics and the Detainees At Guantanamo Bay. *Psychiatr News* Nov 18 2005  
Vol 40 No 22 <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/40/22/3>

E Wood et al. HIV risks in incarcerated injection-drug users. *The Lancet* 2005; 366:1834-1835  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605677379/fulltext>

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